Minutes of August 8 were approved with a correction: "Dr. Colarusso announced the College of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences received exclusive FY2006 funding from the Board of Regents Double the Double initiative...."

President’s remarks

Dr. Patton reported on visits to key legislators during the summer to seek their support for salary increases and the science teaching lab capital project, which is 7th on the list of 8 projects proposed for construction funding this coming session. Dr. Patton also announced the bond closing for the Piedmont-Ellis student housing project on September 8. At $168M, this will be the largest bond issue ever for a privately funded student housing project in the US.

Dr. Patton thanked all who had helped to accommodate the influx of students due to Hurricane Katrina.

Master plan update

Dr. Patton thanked Mr. Vakamundi and the other facilities planning staff, who had worked on the master plan update and successful grant proposals for street improvements. He pointed out that the master plan update was in sync with the university strategic plan, marketing plans, branding initiative, etc.

Mr. Vakamundi introduced Mr. Cheek from HOK. Mr. Vakamundi noted that the update emphasized academic and research facilities as well as student housing to meet the goal of being 20% residential by 2015. He added that the update reflected needs based on both quantitative and qualitative analyses of space. Mr. Vakamundi also pointed to linkages to the university strategic plan; e.g., enrollment projections of 32K students in 2010 and 36K students in 2015.

Mr. Cheek presented the PowerPoint overview of the master plan update.

Dr. Patton commented that the Courtland Street bridge replacement project had been given a higher priority by the Department of Transportation.

Dr. Adamson stated she was stunned by the amount of space needed and asked if student housing was included. Mr. Vakamundi replied that approximately ½ of the space was for student housing. Mr. Cheek added that the space-needed numbers were being reorganized from space categories to building types.

Dr. Patton noted the existing master plan was nearly completely realized, and that the updated plan would be likewise accomplished over the course of the next comprehensive campaign. He projected the goal for the next campaign in the range of $0.5 billion. Ms. Peterman announced that the Executive Committee of the GSU Foundation, Inc. had approved $200K for National Merit Scholar scholarships to increase the number of National Merit Scholars from 4 to 20. Dr. Patton pointed out that these students attract other excellent students, and consequently would help raise the quality of the student body overall.

New Members

Dr. Patton welcomed Dr. Carson, Ms. McElroy and Mr. Mildner to membership on the Administrative Council.

School of Health Professions
Dr. Rosenbloom presented the proposal to establish a School of Health Professions by combining the departments of Cardiopulmonary Care Sciences, Nutrition, and Physical Therapy. She noted consolidation had been recommended through academic program review as a means to strengthen small units, to cut costs and to build collaboration among faculty.

Dr. Kaminshine asked if the Institute of Public Health was included. Dr. Henry responded that IPH had not been included. Dr. Adamson asked about inclusion of the School of Nursing. Dr. Rosenbloom replied that the School of Nursing had been endowed as a separate unit. Dr. Henry commented that the proposed organization would result in the College of Health and Human Sciences having three schools, one department and one institute.

Ms. Hurt made a motion to approve the creation of the School of Health Professions. Dr. Winkler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Fritz reported enrollments in the range of 26K students and 300K credit hours for fall semester pending cancellations of registration for failure to pay fees, as required by the state auditors. He estimated the number of students at risk to be 1.2K.

Dr. Patton observed that a silver lining of the problem was that students paying on-time were more committed to finishing their degrees in a timely way. Dr. Fritz added that even with the drop in enrollment from the immediate past years, enrollment would still be higher than before semester conversion.

Dr. Henry cautioned that revenues would be down because of the enrollment drop and the number of students admitted under the special (not paying tuition and fees) provisions for Hurricane Katrina victims. He also noted that the student fee-based organizations would suffer from the fewer number of fee incidents. Dr. Patton added that if the home institutions of the Hurricane Katrina students could not capture their financial aid, then Georgia State would, but Georgia State would not steal from these institutions which were hit so severely by the storm. He noted that these students would have to apply for regular admission in order to continue at Georgia State in the spring semester. Dr. Kaminshine commented that the College of Law anticipated a significant number of Hurricane Katrina students re-enrolling for the spring semester.

Dr. Adamson expressed appreciation for efforts to accommodate Hurricane Katrina students and noted positive press coverage for Georgia State. She urged that a deadline be set for accepting any additional undergraduate students. Dr. Henry replied that September 8 was the cutoff for such admissions. Dr. Fritz added that September 16 was the cutoff for mini-semester II admissions. Dr. Adamson suggested a more liberal policy for graduate students noting special arrangements for displaced graduate students and faculty to use studios and labs at Georgia State.

Dr. Henry pointed out that the average credit hour load had increased from 11.2 to 11.6, which reflected the loss of part-time students mainly. He noted freshmen were up slightly over the previous year, and transfers were up significantly. He pointed to losses among graduate students and returning students, and the implications with respect to the University System initiative to improve retention and graduation rates.

Dr. Winkler asked about the possibility of some Hurricane Katrina students taking class openings ahead of regular Georgia State students who were in process of re-registering. Dr. Fritz answered that he was unaware of this happening, but would check.

Dr. Henry warned that budget cuts would affect all units during FY2006 with the extent to be determined. Mr. Rackliffe reported that summer revenues were $2.5M under budget.

Announcements

Dr. Adamson announced CNN would feature CHARA on its “Explorer” series.

Dr. Patton thanked the SGA for orientation programming for Hurricane Katrina students.