Minutes of May 2 were approved.

President’s remarks

Dr. Patton reported $4.8M in state funding for upgrading the exhaust stacks on the Natural Science Center. He added that although Governor Perdue vetoed $1M for ADA improvements at the Sports Arena, Georgia State fared better than the most of the rest in the University System in terms of capital project funding.

Dr. Patton gave his annual advice to use vacation time during the summer months.

Experimental Economics Center

Dr. Bahl presented a proposal from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies to establish the Experimental Economics Center. He noted that the center would build on the existing excellent reputation for research productivity and external funding in this area. Dr. Cox added that the center would further enhance integration of research with undergraduate and graduate teaching and bring institutional recognition in addition to recognition for individual faculty involved. He described the NSF-funded creation of EconPort, which provides a virtual laboratory experience on the Internet.

Dr. Reitzes commented there was not a template for research center proposals in contrast to research center reviews. Dr. Henry replied that the proposals were checked informally to see that the elements of research center reviews were covered.

Dr. Bahl made a motion to approve establishment of the Experimental Economics Center. Dr. Huss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Web accessibility policy

Mr. Albert presented the web accessibility policy and accompanying guidelines. He pointed out that the Senate Information Systems and Technology Committee and Legal Affairs had reviewed the proposed policy, and that the policy was similar to one adopted by Georgia Tech. He stated that the objective was to provide the tools for compliance rather than create a burden. He added that the work would be spread over a number of years with no more than 15% of web pages addressed in a single year. He indicated that WebCT Vista was already covered.

Dr. Patton commented on the guideline concerning accessibility while driving to work which seemed scary. Dr. Colarusso noted the guideline pertained more broadly to accessibility via handheld devices. Mr. Albert responded that small devices were generally limited to html content.

Ms. Hurt observed that the library would be unable to provide access to the hundreds of databases to which it subscribes. Mr. Albert answered that Disability Services would be linked for such cases.

Dr. Kaminshine pointed out that the paragraph concerning student technology fee proposals was vague. Mr. Albert replied there was concern about losing flexibility for faculty-originated web pages.

Dr. Adamson commented that some proposals pertained explicitly to ADA accommodations and that these should not be given automatic preference over all other proposals. Mr. Albert replied that ADA compliance was a checkpoint for all stage 1 proposals. Dr. Kaminshine concurred that all proposals should address ADA compliance issues. Dr. Huss
questioned the role of Administrative Council in making a recommendation for funding priorities for the program.

Dr. Patton asked that the document be returned to the Senate Information Systems and Technology Committee for clarification.

Policy advisory group

Dr. Finn presented the revised proposal to establish a policy advisory group. She pointed out that the revised proposal addressed concerns stated at the previous Administrative Council meeting, including a statement of purpose, clarification of advisory role versus making policy, limiting to university level policies, definitions of terms and concepts, membership to reflect university level review only, and more understandable flowcharts.

Ms. Hurt observed that the provision for consultation by the Provost with the Administrative Council regarding appointments to the policy advisory group seemed odd. Dr. Finn replied that this was intended to allay concerns stated at the prior meeting about the representativeness of the group. Dr. Henry recommended removing this provision.

Dr. Huss asked about the faculty-staff mix on the policy advisory group given the academic nature of many policies to be reviewed. Dr. Patton echoed that faculty representation should be predominant in the case of academic policies. Dr. Henry noted the proposed composition included 7 staff and 3 faculty. Dr. Heyward pointed out that the policy advisory group was advisory only, and faculty would still draft academic policies. Dr. Adamson added that the Senate representatives were not necessarily faculty. She suggested a special subcommittee to deal with faculty and academic program policies.

Dr. Heyward reiterated that the primary objective was to establish a university-level library of policies. Dr. Patton pointed out that this was needed in preparation for the upcoming SACS re-accreditation visit. Dr. Henry commented that most universities have policies on policies. Dr. Huss responded that the Senate should have approval of any policies on policies. Dr. Henry replied that this did not mean the Senate should have a role in approval of the proposal to establish the policy advisory group. He pointed to the benefits of faculty, staff and students knowing where to find specific policies and downplayed the importance of the composition of the policy advisory group.

Dr. Adamson suggested a formal policy advisory group was unnecessary, if the Associate Provost was charged to establish the library of policies by working with others on campus as needed to get the job done. She added that an ad hoc approach would facilitate bringing together people with particular expertise for particular issues.

Dr. Patton recommended that Dr. Finn be empowered to launch the effort as proposed for one year and then to see what fine tuning was needed. Dr. Huss made a motion to authorize Dr. Finn to proceed as recommended by Dr. Patton. Dr. Kaminshine seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment and budget updates

Dr. Fritz reported summer credit hours in the range of 113K-115K, likely to settle at 110K after fee reconciliations. He also reported freshman applications up approximately 1K from last year.

Dr. Henry reported $4.8M in funding for the Natural Science Center stacks and $1M in funding denied for ADA improvements in the Sports Arena.

Housing

Dr. Covey presented an outline of the undergraduate housing master plan aimed at increasing residential enrollment to 20% and meeting an increase in the size of the freshman class to 3K. He emphasized that housing existed to support enrollment and retention goals, and pointed out that achieving enrollment targets would depend upon additional housing and a different mix of housing types. He noted the need for a dining hall offering a board plan, especially for freshmen. He announced that Greek housing could open fall 2008 as this project was already in the design phase. He cited possible graduate student housing in the vicinity of the science park complex.

Announcements
Ms. Hurt announced the transformed library would include a Saxby’s Coffee Shop.