Dr. Becker introduced Mr. Eskridge, the new president of the Student Government Association.

Minutes of December 3 were approved.

Dr. Becker announced Parker Executive Search would assist with the search for a new athletic director and Mr. Curry would serve as interim athletic director until the vacancy was filled. Dr. Becker indicated the search committee would be formed immediately in order to proceed toward completion of the search in early spring.

Dr. Becker outlined plans to get to know Georgia State quickly through an active listening program. He distributed a list of six questions to be addressed in a series of interviews with individual members of the Administrative Council during the next 4-6 weeks. He cited objectives of assembling a narrative of what the university tells about itself and learning the culture of the university through this process. He announced a retreat would be scheduled in March to follow up the interviews.

Dr. Henry asked Dr. Becker to comment on his expectations regarding written communications to his office. Dr. Becker stated his strong preference for executive summaries not exceeding one page, front and back, rather than lengthy documents.

Dr. Sattelmeyer asked about the state budget situation. Dr. Rackliffe replied no updates had been received since the last Administrative Council meeting. Dr. Becker added the USG presidents and the Board of Regents would be having meetings the next week at which there might be additional information. Dr. Rackliffe noted the $100 temporary fee was successfully implemented for spring semester. Dr. Renick reported only 300 students had failed to pay the fee on time, but they were not immediately dropped.

Dr. Becker noted general concern about the impact of the worsening economy on spring semester enrollments, particularly at private institutions. Dr. Renick responded that enrollment figures the preceding week were scary, but they had rebounded prior to the drop date, with over 27K students enrolled for over 325K credit hours. He pointed to a record average course load for spring semesters of 12 credit hours, which followed the same record for fall semesters in the fall.

Dr. Renick reported freshman applications for fall semester were running well ahead of last year with 550 more admits to date. He cited more aggressive processing of applications and encouraging early applications as reasons for the increase.

Dr. Covey announced the Student Government Association will sponsor an event in the Student Center to watch the presidential inauguration on January 20 in the same manner as the viewing of the election.

Dr. Adamson announced continuation of the forum series sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences in concert with other colleges on the economy, Middle East war, etc. She noted good attendance and active exchange by both faculty and students at the previous events.

Mr. Eskridge announced the Georgia State SGA would host the presidents of the other USG SGAs for a meeting with Chancellor Davis on February 6. Mr. Eskridge reported on SGA involvement in discussions about an academic forgiveness policy, which is under consideration by the University Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards.

Dr. Henry reported the Board of Regents would vote in February on USG adoption of the plus/minus grading system piloted by Georgia State and the University of Georgia, including the “A+” provision presented by Georgia State. Dr.
Henry added that separate calculations without the plus/minus differentials were still required for scholarship eligibility reporting purposes.

Mr. Flowers announced a scaled down version of the annual legislative event at the capitol on January 13, with only vice presidents and deans representing Georgia State and only members of the General Assembly invited. He cited sensitivity to the economic situation in reducing the scale of the event and a cost savings of 75%. Mr. Flowers reported on other efforts to promote Georgia State among legislators and capitol staff, including establishment of a Capitol Hill alumni club. He noted 42 members of the General Assembly are Georgia State alumni.

Dr. Becker commented on his positive conversation with Governor Perdue during the interview process for the presidency with regard to the role of higher education in economic and population growth and not balancing the state budget on the back of higher education.