ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
April 8, 2009

Attendees: Greg Abt, Lauren Adamson, J.L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Mark Becker, David Caudill, Doug Covey, Tim Crimmins, Dabney Dixon, Evan Eskridge, Jim Flowers, Ron Henry, Kenny Heyward, Deanna Hines, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminsshine, Randy Kamphaus, Susan Kelley, Cheryl Levick, Nancy Peterman, Jerry Rackliffe, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Nancy Seamans, Robert Sattelmeyer, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker

Dr. Becker introduced new members: Mr. Abt (incoming president of SGA), Mr. Caudill (president of Staff Council), and Ms. Levick (athletics director).

Minutes of March 4 were approved as distributed.

Woodruff Park Study

Dr. Crimmins presented an executive summary of the Woodruff Park Study, which examined issues relating to the downtown Atlanta homeless population and challenges of increasing use of the Woodruff and Hurt Parks by students. Dr. Crimmins stated the homeless population was in the range of 200-300 and drawn to downtown primarily because of the availability of services for them. He noted Central Atlanta Progress (CAP) was addressing the presence of the homeless in Woodruff Park through a “solution by dilution” plan, which involves programming and building a restaurant and coffee shop in the park. He pointed to the need for Georgia State to participate actively as the campus expands around the parks.

Dr. Crimmins urged Georgia State to join CAP in a partnership to make Woodruff Park a gathering place for students, faculty, and staff. Toward this objective, he recommended alerting the university community to the availability of free wireless access in the park and moving student activities from the Library Plaza to Woodruff Park. Dr. Crimmins also urged development of a similar plan for Hurt Park with wireless access, student programming, and attention to the residential student population in the vicinity. Dr. Crimmins also spoke to engaging the homeless, as an inevitable part of the urban landscape, by developing service learning opportunities for students to work with them through existing community agencies.

Dr. Crimmins summarized the recommendations of the study: (1) bring students, faculty and staff the parks through programming; and (2) help the homeless.

Dr. Becker commented the recommendations of the study were clearly in sync with the intentions of CAP and commended programming as the highest priority. He also commented on the political dimensions of the recommendation to engage the homeless with respect to city government and various advocacy and service agencies.

Mr. Abt cited a concern of some students that greater engagement with the homeless will draw more homeless people to downtown. Dr. Crimmins responded Atlanta is the real attraction because of climate and other factors, and that engagement would not mean adding services to those already in existence.

Dr. Seamans called attention to problems with homeless persons taking shelter in the Library during 99 hours of weekly operation and being a disruption to the study/research environment.

Dr. Adamson observed the importance of drawing the academic community to a broad range of issues of the city, not only the homeless. Dr. Adamson also noted the possibility of a sculpture garden with works by students and faculty in one of the parks.

Dr. Becker commented pushing programming to Woodruff Park would be better than Hurt Park because of the number of people drawn there. Dr. Crimmins responded he and Dr. Covey had discussed this aspect of the study recommendations. He noted the challenge of moving to either park from a well known gathering place. Dr. Crimmins acknowledged Hurt Park was a greater challenge, but pointed to the opening of the Freshman Residence Hall as an opportunity to use Hurt Park for recreation, etc.
Dr. Covey stated there would be a concerted effort to infuse the university presence in the parks. He noted this would involve changing the perceived value of spaces among students. He reminded Recreation had attempted to program in Woodruff Park previously, but with limited success. Dr. Covey pointed to the need for establishing a cooperative relationship with city government in order to overcome obstacles such as the month long notice for permits to stage events in Woodruff Park. He projected greater opportunities for success when the SunTrust Building is occupied by Georgia State.

Dr. Sattelmeyer observed obtaining a critical mass of students, faculty, and staff in the parks to dilute the presence of the homeless would depend on daily programming rather than occasional. He also commented the parks afforded green spaces, which were otherwise extremely limited on the campus.

Dr. Becker pointed out homeless were of various kinds, including transients passing through, “permanent” homeless who do not want a permanent residence, and homeless who want a residence. Dr. Crimmins added some panhandlers have apartments or homes and simply come into the city to beg.

Dr. Kamphaus expressed concern about students frequently receiving verbal abuse from homeless persons. Dr. Alberto commented on abuse of women and the mentally ill in particular. Dr. Becker noted this and other issues with respect to the MARTA Five Points Station vicinity. Dr. Kamphaus asked how the dilution approach would work with so many different subpopulations. Dr. Crimmins replied the approach worked in Bryant Park in New York City. Dr. Becker added a multi-pronged approach was essential to success. Dr. Alberto cautioned Bryant Park was not a good comparison for Woodruff Park because Bryant Park is an on-going retail and exhibition space. Dr. Becker agreed Washington Square Park surrounded by NYU was a better comparison. Dr. Alberto suggested inviting someone from NYU to advise regarding our efforts.

Dr. Crimmins noted continuing endeavors by CAP to monitor male-female ratios in Woodruff Park, etc. and to bring elements of Washington Square and Bryant Parks to Woodruff Park such as the restaurant and coffee house. Dr. Crimmins offered to share his presentation of the Woodruff Park Study with other groups on campus.

Dr. Becker noted a study of panhandling had found Downtown and Midtown were very similar, and Buckhead was not too different regarding panhandling. He remarked the issues discussed here were whole city issues.

### Out-of-State Waiver Policy

Dr. Renick presented a proposed out-of-state waiver policy, which he indicated would bring accountability to what had evolved in granting waivers ad hoc with more than 80 persons authorized to grant them. He explained the Board of Regents allows the number of waivers to be up to 2% of FTE student count, exclusive of waivers for graduate assistants and certain other categories. He reminded waivers carry a value of approximately $15K. Dr. Renick noted rapid growth in the number of waivers in recent years, for example Fulbright Scholar waivers. He noted the proposed policy distinguished between academic waivers and athletics waivers, which are subject to NCAA regulations. He pointed out the introduction of an application and assignment process along with a contract to be signed by the student recipient with a fixed duration for the waiver.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about standards to be applied for athletic waivers. Ms. Levick replied standards could be enacted within the NCAA guidelines, and that allotments of waivers were made across the range of sports. She noted the addition of football and lacrosse would require additional waivers.

Dr. Torbert noted Academic Common Market waivers as an example of waivers not limited by the 2% Board of Regents rule. Dr. Adamson suggested adding a sentence to the proposed policy about types of waivers not subject to the 2% cap.

Dr. Henry made a motion to adopt the proposed policy with the addition suggested by Dr. Adamson. Dr. Alberto seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### Legislative Report

Mr. Flowers reported inclusion of the Science Teaching Laboratory Building buildout and recreation field projects in the budget approved by the legislature and sent to the Governor for signature by mid-May. He and Dr. Rackliffe pointed to
funding of the workload driven funding formula as the most important accomplishment from the University System standpoint. Mr. Flowers noted legislation concerning stem cell research and management of University System construction did not pass, and inquiries concerning reserve funds, indirect costs, etc. did not result in legislation.

Dr. Becker thanked Mr. Flowers and Mr. Lewis for terrific jobs in representing the best interests of the university. Mr. Flowers in turn acknowledged the efforts of many others on campus. Dr. Becker also noted the rise of Georgia State alumni in key legislative roles and the contributions of Georgia State faculty, who provide information in response to requests from committees and individual legislators.

Budget Report

Dr. Rackliflle reported the University System budget cut for FY2010 will be 17% or $317M, with restoration of 5% (of the base appropriation) by federal stimulus funds for two years. He projected the Georgia State share of enrollment growth funds generated for the University System by the funding formula in the range of $6M. Dr. Rackliffe predicted the net cut for Georgia State would be 4% of the base budget with another 3.7% to be converted to federal stimulus funds. He advised budget cuts of this magnitude would necessitate cuts in positions, services, travel, supplies, equipment, etc.

President's Remarks

Dr. Becker commented on receipt of a disabilities initiatives report from the Senate Executive Committee and other input on disabilities matters from student leaders. Dr. Becker stated a task force would be formed to make recommendations. He emphasized the importance of supervisors understanding accommodation laws and university efforts to meet ADA accessibility regulations.

Announcements

Mr. Eskridge announced an SGA initiative to enhance campus spirit through a “hoodie swap” for up to 1,000 students wearing non-Georgia State hoodies. He indicated goals would be to increase student attendance at basketball games next season and to increase public visibility of Georgia State students on and off campus by having them wear Georgia State hoodies. Mr. Eskridge added SGA would work with the Athletics Department and University Relations to design the hoodies and implement the swap. Mr. Abt noted support for a project of this type by the incoming SGA administration and the possibility of doing the same with tee shirts.

Dr. Adamson announced the celebration of the centennial birthday of Eudora Welty on April 13.

Ms. Hines announced the “State of the University” address by Dr. Becker on April 15.

Dr. Alberto announced the search committee for provost was requesting vice presidents, deans, etc. to submit nominations by May 9.