Minutes of April 8 were approved as distributed.

**Budget**

Dr. Becker noted continuing shortfalls in state tax revenues and direction from the Board of Regents to exercise prudence in expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. Dr. Henry stated the capture of the second 1% budget hold-back from the vice presidents, deans, etc. would enable Georgia State to finish the fiscal year without further cuts. Dr. Henry added the Board of Regents was requesting information about outcomes of the RPG, STEM, and nursing initiatives, which have requirements of success for continuation of full funding.

**Center for Human Rights and Democracy**

Dr. Adamson presented a proposal to establish the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in the College of Arts and Sciences with participation by the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies as well. Dr. Adamson indicated the proposed center was an outgrowth of an unfunded area of focus proposal, which was in effect subsequently pursued as a "revise-resubmit" proposal.

Dr. Reati described the proposed center as unique in linking human rights and democracy, while centers at other universities focused on one or the other. Dr. Reati cited the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, the Carter Center, and the Civil Rights Museum as other Atlanta-based entities with which to partner. He noted Georgia State involvements to date in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and Argentina, which were in line with the scope of the proposed center. Dr. Downs pointed to international recognition of a Georgia State photography exhibit on human rights in Argentina and developing partnerships with European universities as indicators of existing momentum for the proposed center. Dr. Downs characterized the center as leading with research, but also engaging in outreach to the community.

Dr. Reitzes asked if the proposed center would be established as a research center subject to review by the University Senate Committee on Research. Dr. Adamson confirmed this was the case and noted external funding opportunities.

Dr. Finn, noting institutes rather than centers could host degree programs, asked if there were aspirations for a degree program as well as the certificate program mentioned in the proposal. Dr. Downs replied a certificate program was the goal, and Dr. Adamson added the interdisciplinary nature of the center would not facilitate establishment of a degree program.

Dr. Seamans reminded library collection development associated with the creation of a new center should not be overlooked.

Dr. Becker asked if the linkage between human rights and democracy was a premise or a research question for the center and if the center would be in an activist mode. Dr. Reati answered that the focus would be research and the definition of the terms, human rights and democracy, was a work in progress. He also noted violations of human rights occur within democracies. Dr. Downs called attention to the five key research themes listed on the first page of the proposal.

Dr. Becker asked if the proposed center might potentially be an issue with establishment of a Confucius Institute at Georgia State. Dr. Adamson responded on the basis of informal explorations with other institutions about Confucius Institutes, there would probably not be an issue. Dr. Adamson added the College of Arts and Sciences had a good history of engagement with people active in the international political sphere, and cited examples such as visiting ambassadors of Argentina and Sri Lanka, the Middle East Institute, and the Center for Latin American and Latino/a
Dr. Henry made a motion to approve the establishment of the Center for Human Rights and Democracy. Dr. Adamson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Dr. Heyward presented a proposed Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs intended to bring together several existing policies in a concise way. Dr. Heyward indicated the proposed policy was in line with similar policies at the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech, and delineated clearly between on-campus and off-campus events. Dr. Heyward called attention to changes in section 2.g (Off-Campus Events with Alcohol, Who May Serve Alcoholic Beverages), namely the deletion of the second sentence in the distributed version and also the deletion of the last two sentences of that section.

Dr. Adamson asked if the policy applied to events hosted at home by a university official such as parties for new or retiring faculty. Drs. Heyward and Barrett replied these were not addressed specifically in the proposed policy, but were in practice ignored. Dr. Becker commented it was unclear where to draw the line between university and private events, and noted the question of when the licensed caterer stipulation would apply to events held at home. Dr. Reitzes asked if use of GSU Foundation funds would be a determining factor. Dr. Becker observed such funding could be grounds for classification as a university event. Ms. Peterman noted the GSU Foundation Board of Trustees audit committee had ruled employees could not drink at foundation events.

Dr. Becker asked if the prohibition of alcoholic beverage sales on university property was state law. Dr. Heyward answered affirmatively, but noted "carve outs" for the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech under application of the "doughnut theory" that state law applies only outward from campus. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Flowers cautioned the legislature had denied approval for alcoholic beverage sales at the Ferst Center at Georgia Tech.

Dr. Becker advised to table the proposed policy pending revision of the section on off-campus events.

Policy Governing the Acquisition and Use of Wireless Telecommunications Equipment and Services

Dr. Heyward presented a proposed Policy Governing the Acquisition and Use of Wireless Telecommunications Equipment and Services in response to an audit finding and IRS ramifications for employees with university-provided cell phones. Dr. Heyward stated the proposed policy conformed to guidelines from the State Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and was similar to policies at the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech. Dr. Heyward noted the policy required justifications on file to show departments provided cell phones for business use only. She also noted reimbursement of employees for business use of their own cell phones was another option.

Mr. Albert commented that restriction to business use only was complicated by incoming personal calls. Dr. Becker pointed out these issues were surfacing at every campus, and some institutions took a different approach by providing a stipend for business-related cell phone expenses. He commented carrying two cell phones was one way to address the matter, although that could be annoying.

Dr. Becker asked about the applicability of the open records law to university-provided cell phones or employee-provided cell phones in the case of stipend payments. Dr. Heyward answered open records would apply to university-provided cell phones and probably to employee-provided cell phones if tied to stipends. Dr. Morris asked if foundation-paid cell phones would also be subject to the open records law. Ms. Peterman responded only individual donation records were protected from open records in the case of the foundation.

Mr. Caudill commented on the difficulty with screening incoming calls for construction project managers with university-provided cell phones, since they frequently receive calls from contractors and subcontractors with unfamiliar names.

Dr. Adamson voiced support for a stipend-based plan, but observed individuals could not get as good a deal on individual cell phones as a college could for multiple cell phones. She suggested exploration of whether individuals could use their stipends to pay back the university for cell phones obtained through a group plan. Mr. Albert noted wide variance in rates, etc. which would complicate calculation of a stipend. Dr. Becker replied stipends were not tied to actual expenditures for cell phones. Dr. Heyward agreed to investigate the stipend option.
Mr. Albert pointed out approximately half of the IS&T staff are on 24-hour call, and consequently have university-provided cell phones. Dr. Finn asked about the impact of a cell phone policy on sponsored projects. Dr. Morris responded that the cell phones were not an allowable expenditure on sponsored projects. Dr. Finn noted some criminal justice students collect data in somewhat dangerous areas, and the project or department is obligated to provide them cell phones for safety purposes.

Mr. Roth commented the finding was from the Board of Regents audit group, which was acting on the dated OPB policy on cell phones for state agencies for which the Board of Regents had sought waivers already. Mr. Roth indicated it was uncertain if or how OPB would revise its policy to meet current patterns of cell phone use.

Dr. Becker stated the employer-provided cell phone was a national issue because of IRS interest in the benefits not accounted for in taxes, and noted the IRS had already been pursuing the matter as income tax evasion. Dr. Heyward added the stipend approach would not relieve the university of the obligation to document cell phone use. Dr. Morris asked if the open records issue extended to email on wireless communication devices. Dr. Becker responded that email resided on servers, so open records requests would lead to access via servers rather than the wireless devices.

Dr. Becker called for a straw vote on switching to a stipend plan. The vote was affirmative. Dr. Heyward will resubmit the proposal with modifications.

**Alternative Work Schedule Guidelines**

Dr. Heyward presented proposed Alternative Work Schedule Guidelines for the period of May 11, 2009 to July 31, 2009, only. Dr. Heyward noted eligibility was limited to employees performing at or above expectations and at the discretion of supervisors. She indicated Human Resources would announce and implement the trial program. Mr. Caudill reported staff enthusiasm for the proposal and asked about consideration of a telecommuting plan. Dr. Becker replied that telecommuting was an unlikely option because of the need for social interaction as a “people business”.

Dr. Becker called for a straw vote on the Alternative Work Schedule Guidelines. The vote was affirmative.

**Closing Two Weeks Between Fall and Spring Semesters**

Dr. Becker announced implementation of the cost-cutting measure to close the university for two weeks between fall and spring semesters with the exception of certain essential functions such as security and animal care. Dr. Becker indicated a FAQ page had been posted on the HR web site in anticipation of questions from employees with insufficient vacation hours accrued to cover the four specified vacation days.

**Commencement**

Ms. Hines reported on the spring semester commencement in the Georgia Dome and the PhD ceremony in the Sports Arena on May 9. Ms. Hines noted the fall semester commencement will be on December 14 due to a Falcons’ home game on December 13, and the PhD ceremony will be in the Rialto on December 14.

Dr. Alberto recommended adjusting the time of the Monday commencement (December 14) to avoid rush hour traffic. Dr. Becker suggested a start time of 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Becker asked about reinstituting individual recognition of graduates, handshakes, etc. Dr. Adamson commented for 99% of graduates it worked well, but there were some rowdy celebrations by families, which drown out the recognition of the graduates following theirs. Dr. Adamson suggested discussing with Dr. Patton the factors in the decision to discontinue individual recognitions. Dr. Sattelmeyer noted the opportunities to recognize achievements of individuals at department or college receptions the week preceding commencement. He added the Georgia Dome provided a more dignified setting than the Sports Arena.

**Announcements**

Dr. Alberto reported on the timetable for the provost search.

Dr. Becker reported on successes of men’s and women’s golf, women’s tennis, track-and-field, baseball and softball and the attainment of a record combined grade point average over 3.0 for the fall semester for all athletes.
Dr. Becker reminded Dr. Patton would be inducted into the J. Mack Robinson College of Business Hall of Fame on May 7.

Mr. Caudill spoke to the need for good communication to employees regarding the alternative work schedule program and other matters.