Minutes of August 5, 2009

Attendees: Lauren Adamson, J. L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Jeannie Barrett, Mark Becker, Chandler Brown, David Caudill, Doug Covey, Dabney Dixon, Mary Finn, Jim Flowers, Ron Henry, John Hicks, Bart Hildreth, DeAnna Hines, Fenwick Huss, Susan Kelley, Cheryl Levick, Tom Lewis, Nancy Peterman, Bill Prigge, Mike Raderstorf, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Robert Sattelmeyer, Nancy Seamans, Edgar Torbert, Bryan Williams

Minutes of July 1, 2009 were approved as distributed.

Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Dr. Henry made a motion to approve the Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs as presented by Dr. Heyward at the July 1, 2009 meeting. Dr. Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pandemic Task Force

Mr. Raderstorf presented an overview of the establishment of the campus Pandemic Task Force and planning underway to deal with the expected return of a more virulent version of AH1N1 flu this fall. Mr. Raderstorf pointed out the lengthy time to receive results from lab tests would necessitate treating everyone with flu symptoms as though they have AH1N1 flu. He noted the advice at this time was to stay away from school or work for seven days at the onset of flu symptoms. He added that the current requirement of a note from a physician for more than five consecutive days of sick leave might temporarily be modified to accommodate the seven-day advice.

Mr. Raderstorf emphasized the need for education of the campus community concerning AH1N1 flu and institutional responses to the AH1N1 threat. He commented that the Pandemic Task Force was representative of all of the support units, which have roles in this effort, and the task force would develop its own thresholds for taking action if the flu became more virulent prior to an official announcement to that effect from CDC.

Mr. Raderstorf noted progress being made in developing a vaccine for AH1N1. He added that the AH1N1 vaccine would entail two shots per person and would not supplant the regular flu vaccine. He pointed out the limited availability of the vaccine initially, which would necessitate targeting populations in order to stall the flu until the vaccine is available for all in December, 2009-January, 2010. Mr. Raderstorf pointed to the importance of being vaccinated for the regular flu as soon as possible in order to know a subsequent flu episode is most likely AH1N1 flu. Dr. Kelley stated the willingness of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing to help with the campus vaccination program.

Mr. Hicks asked about AH1N1 implications for Study Abroad students. Dr. Becker replied the university would need to assist students with AH1N1-related issues such as potential quarantines for air travelers arriving in China. He noted international students coming to Georgia State could also require special assistance.

Dr. Alberto requested guidance for faculty concerning AH1N1 such as how to deal with students, who come to class exhibiting flu symptoms. He suggested faculty point out the university web site about the AH1N1 threat on the first day of classes.

Ms. Levick asked about any symptoms specific to AH1N1. Mr. Raderstorf responded the initial symptoms were not different from regular flu, but later acute respiratory distress was the key indicator.

Dr. Dixon asked about vaccinations for faculty and staff on campus. Mr. Raderstorf replied vaccinations for the regular flu would be available through the University Health Clinic, but availability of the AH1N1 vaccinations was not yet known.

Dr. Adamson asked if anyone who had AH1N1 flu in the spring season would be at risk for a recurrence in the fall season. Mr. Raderstorf indicated it was a one-time illness.

Dr. Adamson asked about the possibility of limiting travel as a deterrent to the spread of AH1N1. Mr. Raderstorf answered that CDC guidance would be followed. He noted there were no restrictions at present outside of China. Ms.
Levick asked if wearing face masks was a reasonable precaution when traveling. Mr. Raderstorf replied the CDC was recommending face masks only for those infected. He added that commercially available face masks were inadequate because of the extremely small size of the virus.

**Freshman Residence Hall**

Dr. Covey reported on the opening of the new Freshman Residence Hall, the first community living architecture at Georgia State designed for traditional students. He noted the new facility featured the first dining hall with a meal plan, which was required for all residents, and did not have individual cooking facilities for students on the residential floors. Dr. Covey commented that the evolving cluster of student housing had given rise to the term “Edgewood area” among students for the set of dormitories. He added that about 700 students remained on a waiting list for housing, which pointed to the need for additional projects of this type.

Dr. Covey announced the first move-ins for the Freshman Residence Hall would happen on August 10 and the ribbon cutting on August 12. Dr. Becker congratulated Drs. Covey and Rackliffe and their staffs for completion of the project on time.

Ms. Hines asked about access to the dining hall for non-students. Dr. Covey replied there would be a walk-up, cash sales option open to others. Dr. Adamson suggested a “students take faculty to lunch” program. Dr. Covey replied the residence hall student assistants would each be inviting two faculty per semester to join them for lunch with Housing paying for those meals. Dr. Adamson asked about an area in the dining room, which could be set aside for student-faculty lunches. Dr. Covey responded there was a glass walled section, which would work for such purposes.

Mr. Caudill asked about traffic and parking considerations for the move-in days. Dr. Covey replied move-ins would be scheduled on a staggered basis floor by floor with police on hand to reserve the normal curbside lane for parking and to direct traffic. He added that the driveway around the back of the building would be utilized to ease congestion.

Dr. Sattelmeyer asked about plans to expand student housing in particular for freshmen. Dr. Covey responded talks were underway with several developers, but market conditions would determine how those initiatives proceeded. He added that future expansions would include dining support in the manner of the Freshman Residence Hall. He noted the new dining hall could accommodate a total of 700 meal plan students, which would cover the special interest housing units next door, scheduled to open next year.

**Football**

Ms. Levick reported on preparations for the start-up of football. She announced 75 players would arrive on August 11, 2009 along with 200 family members for a welcoming event, and the first practice would be held on August 14, 2009. Ms. Levick noted construction of the football practice facility was just beginning, and the team would use the NFL-YET facility on Hill Street in the interim period. She also noted temporary use of the old Aquatics Building as a weight room and locker facility, and use of Robinson College of Business classrooms in Classroom South for team meetings during morning hours. Ms. Levick thanked Dr. Huss for the use of the classrooms and the entire university community for assistance in starting up the program.

Ms. Levick pointed out the increase in athletes from 225 to 300 presented challenges in sports medicine, academic assistance, compliance, etc. in order to maintain support for all sports. She announced there will be a special event in the Student Center on September 2, 2009 to celebrate the one-year countdown to the first kickoff. Ms. Levick indicated the new version of Pounce would be introduced at this event. Ms. Hines announced Coach Curry will appear at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on September 23, 2009. Dr. Becker congratulated Dr. Adamson on hiring the director for the new marching band.

**Enrollment Report**

Dr. Renick distributed handouts showing admissions and registration data for Fall Semester 2009. He highlighted the 21% increase in undergraduate applications, which far surpassed USG competitor institutions with increases of approximately 5%. He pointed out the increase in selectivity from 57% to 51% acceptances. He noted applicants on the wait list had already been notified their admission would be postponed until Spring Semester 2010. Dr. Renick noted transfers were also up by 20%. He added that over 1,000 students had registered in the previous week, and most
graduate students were still to register.

Dr. Becker praised the admissions effort and spoke to the importance of the wait list strategy, which he predicted would yield substantial mid-year results in future years as he had seen at the University of South Carolina. He noted in January 2011 and beyond, the mid-year enrollees would appreciably offset the students graduating in December and narrow the gap between fall and spring enrollments. Dr. Renick responded that many would enroll at Georgia Perimeter, but Georgia State could expect them to transfer in later. Dr. Henry added that students on the wait list did not qualify on the first try.

President’s Remarks/Budget Outlook

Dr. Becker announced the Board of Regents meeting on August 11-12, 2009, would provide answers about the FY2010 budget cuts. Dr. Becker stated an email would go to faculty and staff on August 10, 2009, advising of impending word from the Board of Regents regarding furloughs and other budgetary actions. Dr. Becker added that following the Board of Regents meeting there would be another email to faculty and staff outlining the impacts on Georgia State and town hall meetings to answer questions.

Dr. Becker noted each USG institution had submitted plans for 4-6-8% budget cuts, but which plan would be implemented by the Board of Regents was unknown. He commented that furloughs would be a part of whichever plan was implemented, but again the specifics were unknown. He added that mid-year increases in student fees and changes in employee benefits were not on the table for this round of cuts. He cautioned further cuts were likely given the economic trends.

Dr. Becker emphasized the budget message must be: Georgia State is looking to the future in dealing with budget cuts and not lessening the quality of the education it delivers.

Ron Henry’s Retirement

Dr. Becker pointed out this was the final Administrative Council meeting for Dr. Henry, and expressed appreciation for his outstanding leadership as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for 15 years and for the tremendous strides realized by Georgia State during his tenure.