Attendees: Greg Abt, Lauren Adamson, Paul Alberto, Mark Becker, Chandler Brown, David Caudill, Doug Covey, Dabney Dixon, Mary Finn, Jim Flowers, Kerry Heyward, John Hicks, Bart Hildreth, DeAnna Hines, Fenwick Huss, Randy Kamphaus, Susan Kelley, Cheryl Levick, Tom Lewis, Susan Mondello, Robin Morris, Rita Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, Mike Raderstorf, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Jeff Rupp, Connie Sampson, Robert Sattelmeyer, Nancy Seamans, Edgar Torbert

Minutes of August 5, 2009 were approved as distributed.

Dr. Becker welcomed Dr. Palm to her first meeting of the Administrative Council.

Fraud awareness & prevention

Ms. Mondello presented a PowerPoint presentation on fraud awareness and prevention with the focus on white collar crime. Ms. Mondello emphasized three key internal controls in place at Georgia State to lessen the opportunities for committing fraud: (1) having two knowledgeable people verify every transaction; (2) reviewing expenditures monthly; and (3) segregating duties. Ms. Mondello also emphasized each department is responsible for due diligence in preventing fraud. She reminded that University Auditing and Advisory Services has established a fraud hot-line for employees and others to report suspicious activities.

Pandemic Task Force

Mr. Raderstorf reported on the latest developments regarding the H1N1 flu in Georgia. He noted Georgia was one of the hardest hit states to date with outbreaks at several USG institutions. Mr. Raderstorf indicated Georgia State had approximately 160 cases reported. He warned the major outbreak would likely occur during the normal December-February flu season. He added that a publicity campaign would be launched to encourage faculty, staff and students to get vaccinated for both the seasonal flu and H1N1, with the H1N1 vaccine to be ready in mid-October. Mr. Raderstorf pointed out priority for H1N1 vaccinations would be given to pregnant women, persons with certain underlying medical conditions, and young children.

Mr. Raderstorf explained the Pandemic Task Force had identified trigger points for drastic changes in operating procedures due to the flu. Mr. Raderstorf listed these trigger points: a 30% absentee rate, a surge in residence hall flu cases, a confirmed case resulting in death or ICU-type hospitalization of healthy people, health department report of mutation to a more lethal form of H1N1, and a majority of neighboring institutions changing practices. He announced a letter would be sent to all residential students and their parents about H1N1 preparedness. He added that the virtual emergency operations center was up and running. Mr. Raderstorf stated any official statements about the number of H1N1 cases on campus would be issued by University Relations.

Campus safety & security

Ms. Sampson presented a PowerPoint presentation on campus safety and security. She noted thefts were the top crime problem on campus with carelessness on the part of students and employees being a major contributing factor. Ms. Sampson pointed out assaults such as the attacks on and around the campus of Georgia Tech in recent months had not occurred at Georgia State until the incident at Courtland and John Wesley Dobbs on September 7. Ms. Sampson pointed to high visibility of police and security guards as a strong deterrent to those crimes, especially in the student housing area.

Dr. Becker asked about cooperative efforts with the Atlanta Police Department. Ms. Sampson replied that APD provided intelligence concerning these criminals, but was limited in personnel to deploy. She cited their objective of locking up criminals, but the counterproductive reality of quick releases from jail, which was demoralizing. Dr. Becker commented that random surges of massive force had been effective in other large cities. Ms. Sampson responded discussions of this tactic were on-going at meetings of the local law enforcement agencies.
Mr. Abt asked about car break-ins. Ms. Sampson answered that only 5% or fewer of the thefts reported were car break-ins. Mr. Abt noted discussion in a Student Government Association meeting about the problem of quick releases from jail contributing to the on-going crime issues.

Ms. Levick voiced concern about aggressive homeless persons, particularly in the Woodruff Park area frequented by students going to and from Aderhold Learning Center. Ms. Sampson emphasized that persons should not give money to panhandlers, which only serves to encourage the activity, but rather make contributions to non-profit groups providing assistance to the homeless. She added that the aggressive persons in Woodruff Park were professional beggars, and that aggressive panhandling is a crime. Ms. Sampson reiterated that quick release from jail for those arrested for aggressive panhandling aggravated the problem.

Dr. Alberto asked about a prohibition on use of personal pepper spray canisters, when threatened by aggressive panhandlers. Ms. Sampson cautioned such action could make the panhandlers even more aggressive, and wind could cause the spray to blow back toward the user. She advised calling the police instead.

Dr. Adamson recommended a concerted campaign to urge people not to give to the panhandlers. She suggested signage citing alternative ways to help the homeless. Dr. Morris added educating students not to give directly to panhandlers was also necessary. Dr. Reitzes pointed out most of the homeless downtown were not panhandlers, and care should be taken not to label them as such.

Mr. Abt observed students run a gauntlet through panhandlers in and around Woodruff Park, but noted it is a public park. Ms. Sampson commented police can only take action when a crime is committed, and must be careful about crossing that line. Mr. Raderstorf asked about the criminal trespass on Georgia State property violations. Ms. Sampson replied a first violation resulted in a warning for two years.

Dr. Becker noted Dr. Crimmins had presented a plan for improving conditions in Woodruff Park to Administrative Council in April with the emphasis on programming.

Mount Wilson fire

Dr. Morris reported all Georgia State personnel and the $20M investment in the CHARA array were apparently safe following a serious wildfire on the east slope of Mount Wilson. He noted enormous firefighting resources dedicated to stopping the fire from spreading to CHARA and other facilities on the mountain top. Dr. Becker thanked Mr. Lewis and Mr. Flowers for their work with key members of Congress to obtain federal assistance, in particular with airborne assets. Dr. Adamson added thanks and noted readiness for such emergencies as a result of state and federal efforts. Mr. Lewis commented that a recent trip to Mount Wilson with key Georgia legislators had raised awareness and appreciation of CHARA.

CAA Blood Drive

Ms. Levick announced the annual Colonial Athletic Conference Blood Drive would be September 22 in the Sports Arena. She cited the goal of improving the third place finish Georgia State obtained in prior years.

Enrollment report

Dr. Renick distributed summaries of enrollments for Fall Semester 2009 showing records in virtually all aspects. He pointed out the growth had not been accomplished by merely opening the flood gates with only 200 more freshman and 300 more transfers, but more importantly by dramatic multi-year improvements in retention. He highlighted the increase in freshman-to-sophomore retention from 28.2% for the 2002 cohort to 62.2% for the 2007 cohort, with an increase of 13 percentage points just from the 2006 to 2007 cohorts. He noted in particular the positive impact of the Freshman Learning Communities program. Dr. Becker thanked all who had played roles in this success story.

Dr. Hildreth suggested embarking on a national advertising campaign to call attention to all the positive developments happening at Georgia State. Dr. Becker replied some funds had been budgeted for that purpose, but Georgia State must proceed cautiously given opposition in the legislature to advertising campaigns, especially during the budget crisis.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about the on-going impact of the sophomore retention success. Dr. Renick responded the 6-year
graduation rate would begin to climb more steeply, which would be an even more important indicator of retention and progression success.

Dr. Becker committed people downtown were taking notice of the obvious increase in the number of students.

**Announcements**

Ms. Hines handed out the first edition of the revamped *GSU Magazine*, and noted changes in distribution after this issue.