ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
October 6, 2010

Attendees: Lauren Adamson, J.L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Amber Amari, Gwen Benson, Linda Brown-Wright (ACE Fellow), Doug Covey, Kerry Heyward, John Hicks, DeAnna Hines, Fenwick Huss, Andrea Jones, Susan Kelley, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Robin Morris, Linda Nelson, Risa Palm (presiding), Jerry Rackliffe, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Nancy Seamans, Bruce Spratt, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker

Minutes of September 8, 2010 were approved as distributed.

Relocation and Moving Expense Policy for Employees

Dr. Heyward presented the revised Relocation and Moving Expense Policy for Employees. Dr. Heyward pointed out the addition to the original version of the policy of a reimbursement cap of 1/12 salary for 12-month employees and 1/9 salary for 9-month employees. She indicated such caps were consistent with the policies at other USG institutions. Dr. Heyward reminded that adoption of the policy would allow relocation and moving expenses to paid from state funds and that procedures for making use of the new policy were under development.

Dr. Reitzes made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Dr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Diversity Strategic Plan

Ms. Nelson presented an overview of the Diversity Strategic Plan under development for submission to the Board of Regents.

Dr. Adamson observed the selected quote by Dr. Becker in the presentation did not mention persons with disabilities. Ms. Amari questioned the lack of attention to LBGTQ student concerns. Ms. Nelson responded that LBGTQ student initiatives such as Safe Zones could be added to the document.

NRC Doctoral Programs Report

Dr. Lyons presented an overview of the NRC Doctoral Programs Report.

Dr. Palm commented that interpretations of the report were becoming clearer with successive rounds of explanations, and that the real value was in the identification of the key data elements of program quality that should be monitored internally on a continuing basis. Dr. Adamson suggested that collecting the GSU data for 2010 would be helpful in seeing how recent program developments had changed the comparisons with norms set forth in the NRC report. Dr. Morris cautioned that other institutions had also moved beyond the NRC report data so that the targets were not fixed. He noted in particular institutions targeting Nobel laureates and other award winners for immediate impact. Dr. Palm pointed to the benefit of collecting similar data for other GSU disciplines not included in the NRC report such as business and law.

Dr. Huss asked how researchers graduated were measured. Dr. Morris answered that NRC used graduates hired in academic positions as the proxy for this measure.

Dr. Reitzes asked if the “R” ratings referred to reputation. Dr. Palm replied that the “R” referred to the way the variables were weighted in the regression analysis.

University Strategic Plan Update
Dr. Alberto reported progress toward completion of the University Strategic Plan for approval by the University Senate on January 27, 2011. Dr. Alberto noted the addition of a fifth goal to focus on professional and graduate education and the expansion of the internationalization goal to include leveraging existing international endeavors linked to assisting emerging nations. Dr. Alberto announced a draft document for broader distribution would be available of the week of October 11-14, 2010. He also announced a motion to create an Honors College would be brought to the University Senate on October 7, 2010, in anticipation of its inclusion in the University Strategic Plan.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Renick distributed enrollment reports for Fall Semester 2010 showing record enrollments of 31,539 students and 380,721 credit hours. Dr. Renick indicated that census data was still under review with the possibility of slight gains beyond the figures quoted.

Dr. Renick highlighted records for quality of the enrolled freshman class including average Freshman Index of 2778, average high school GPA of 3.36, average SAT of 1103, and average ACT of 24. He also noted sharp gains in number of male and Asian freshmen.

Dr. Renick pointed out on-going improvement in retention and progression of freshmen to sophomores, but a drop in graduation rate stemmed from retention problems with the class admitted Fall Semester 2004. Dr. Palm noted there were interventions planned to graduate as many of the remaining members of this class as possible. Dr. Renick cited examples of efforts to improve graduation rates including dedicated graduation counselors for 5th and 6th year students, mid-semester reports from faculty teaching freshmen, and mandatory advisement for freshmen.

Events Update

Ms. Hines announced Southeastern Open Air Preachers Association members will appear on campus the week of October 4-8, 2010. Dr. Covey indicated student affairs personnel would again use the occasion as an opportunity for freedom of speech education.

Ms. Hines announced the deteriorating painting of whales on the parking deck wall between Courtland Street and Central Avenue would be painted over by GBA, and that Georgia State would be given the opportunity to use the wall for displays of art. Ms. Hines stated that an RFP would be issued for artwork to be applied as a wrap on the wall.

Ms. Hines announced dedication events for the Confucius Institute will be on October 15, 2010.

Ms. Hines announced tailgate events for each of the remaining home football games.

Ms. Hines announced SimpsonScarborough will make a presentation of the findings of their branding research for Georgia State on November 3, 2010, immediately following the Administrative Council meeting.

Ms. Hines announced the opening of the Waffle House restaurant at the Petit Science Center will be on October 27, 2010.

Dr. Palm introduced Dr. Brown-Wright, ACE Fellow from the University of Kentucky, who will be at Georgia State throughout the academic year.

Dr. Palm announced searches for Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (co-chairs Drs. Kaminshine and Romski), Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (chair Dr. Lyons), Dean of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing (co-chairs Drs. Kelley and Morris), Associate Provost for International Affairs (chair Dr. Huss), and Dean of the Honors College (chair TBA).
Dr. Palm noted the official opening of the MILE at the Commons on September 30, with an impromptu performance by the Georgia State Marching Band as the Homecoming parade departed from the Commons.