Minutes of November 3, 2010

Attendees: Lauren Adamson, J.L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Amber Amari, Joann Bacon, Mark Becker, Chandler Brown, Doug Covey, Irene Duhaime, Kerry Heyward, John Hicks, Fenwick Huss, Andrea Jones, Steve Kaminshine, Randy Kamphaus, Susan Kelley, Cheryl Levick, Tom Lewis, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Robin Morris, Linda Nelson, Risa Palm, Bill Prigge, Jerry Rackliffe, Don Reitizes, Sterling Roth, Nancy Seamans, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker, Katherine Willoughby

Minutes of October 6, 2010 were approved as distributed.

University Strategic Plan

Dr. Alberto reported the three open forums for feedback on the draft University Strategic Plan had generated a number of suggested edits that would be considered by the University Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Alberto stated the committee was on course to have the plan ready for a vote by the University Senate on January 27, 2011. He added that the December 9, 2010, University Senate meeting would likely be canceled.

Senate Budget Committee Reports

Dr. Willoughby reported the Senate Budget Committee had formed three subcommittees to study options for three initiatives: differential mandatory fees for students at off-site centers; out-of-state tuition rates; and a career transition program.

Dr. Duhaime reported the subcommittee on mandatory fees was examining the policies employed by the University of Georgia at its four off-site centers as well as the distribution of students at the GSU off-site centers with respect to those taking selected courses, those enrolled in programs at the centers, etc.

Dr. Prigge reported the subcommittee on out-of-state tuition rates was looking at tuition rates that would cover actual costs versus the current four-times-in-state approach as well as the tuition schemes at peer institutions. Dr. Prigge noted GSU has approximately 2,800 non-resident students, but only 1,000 pay the full out-of-state rate.

Dr. Bacon reported the subcommittee on a career transition program was using the program developed by Columbus State University and approved by the Board of Regents in Spring 2010 as a starting point for its discussions. Dr. Bacon noted great interest among GSU employees in a voluntary plan of this type. She also commented on the possibility of a mentoring program for junior employees utilizing the expertise of 49% rehires from the cadre of those participating in the career transition program.

Dr. Willoughby encouraged Administrative Council members to send comments to the three subcommittee chairs regarding the draft reports.

Dr. Becker commented that the choice of “career transition” rather than “voluntary retirement” as the title of the program was intentional because of the strong trend of baby-boomers not completely retiring, but moving to other endeavors.

Biennial Staff Survey

Ms. Amari reported that the Staff Council was working with the Office of Institutional Research to conduct pilot surveys of staff in May 2011 and May 2013 to assess how staff perceive the workplace environment at GSU.
Presidential Speaking Request Form

Dr. Becker called attention to a new presidential speaking request form available on-line at www.gsu.edu/president.

Elections

Dr. Becker and Mr. Lewis commented on the November 2, 2010, elections. Mr. Lewis stated that newly elected Governor Deal would be working immediately on the FY2012 state budget. Mr. Lewis observed that the defeat of the trauma center amendment signaled very strong public opposition to any proposed increases in taxes and fees.

December Commencement

Dr. Becker announced Mayor Kasim Reed would be the speaker at the December commencement.