Attendees: Lauren Adamson, J.L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Amber Amari, Mark Becker, Chandler Brown, Doug Covey, Kerry Heyward, DeAnna Hines, Fenwick Huss, Andrea Jones, Steve Kaminshine, Randy Kamphaus, Susan Kelley, Amy Lederberg, Tom Lewis, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Susan Mondello, Risa Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Nancy Seamans, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker

Minutes of November 3, 2010 were approved as distributed.

University Strategic Plan

Dr. Becker expressed appreciation to the Strategic Planning Committee co-chaired by Dr. Alberto and Dr. Barr. Dr. Becker indicated a series of retreats will be scheduled for deans, faculty, staff, etc. to seek input for setting priorities, developing implementation plans, etc.

Legislative Update

Mr. Lewis reported on efforts to inform the 40 new members of the state legislature this session about Georgia State. He noted Georgia State now has 24 alumni in the legislature, including a number in key leadership roles. Mr. Lewis reminded that February 9, 2011, will be “GSU Day” at the capitol with recognition of Georgia State in the respective chambers and space reserved in the hallways for college representatives to distribute information and interact with legislators.

Mr. Lewis characterized legislative efforts this session as all about the budget. He stressed the protection of the mechanism for funding higher education even if the funds are not actually allocated this cycle. Mr. Lewis also commented on likely changes to the HOPE scholarship program. He predicted a cap on award amounts on a percentage basis by type of institution.

Mr. Lewis announced two new Regents, Mr. Griffin and Mr. Willheit, appointed by Governor Perdue and Governor Deal respectively. Mr. Lewis commented that Governor Deal would likely emphasize return on investment (e.g., highly skilled workforce) as an expectation of the University System. Dr. Becker requested a compilation of companies started by Georgia State graduates to share with state officials.

Dr. Kaminshine asked if University System enrollment projections were under review given the budget and HOPE scholarship situations. Dr. Becker answered that no changes in enrollment projections had been made, and added that internal revenue growth opportunities (e.g., enrollment growth, tuition increases) were seen by state officials as a distinction between the University System and other state agencies.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Renick reported on enrollments for Spring Semester 2011 and recruitment for Fall Semester Semester 2011. He reported a record spring enrollment of 30,425 students and 363,474 credit hours as well as a record spring new freshman class of 379. Dr. Renick noted a drop in total spring graduate students, primarily due to fewer non-degree students.

Dr. Renick pointed out the growth in credit hours was slowing. He stated the slowing could be attributed in part to students coming off fixed-for-four tuition rates prior to graduation and suddenly facing accumulated tuition increases of approximately 30%. He reiterated that financial circumstances have a major impact on enrollments at Georgia State. Dr. Becker commented that the end of the fixed-for-four program would mean fewer students facing the accumulated tuition increase shock in future years and eventually none.
Dr. Renick observed that the financial obstacles faced by students coming off fixed-for-four tuition might impact graduation rates. Dr. Walker asked if these students were generally close to graduating. Dr. Renick replied that many are close to graduating and indicated the newly hired graduation counselors will focus on those students.

Dr. Renick reviewed retention rates for cohorts of new freshmen from Fall Semester 2006 through Fall Semester 2009 with respect to housing and Freshman Learning Community participation. He noted the first-year retention for Fall Semester 2009 new freshmen overall was 84.2% and for those in both housing and Freshman Learning Communities 89.6%. He noted similar strong results for students in both housing and Freshman Learning Communities throughout the four years profiled in the report. Dr. Renick pointed out that Honors students do not participate in Freshman Learning Communities so the Freshman Learning Community students have a lower average high school grade point average than those students not in Freshman Learning Communities.

Dr. Renick outlined the results to date for recruitment of Fall Semester 2011 new freshmen and transfers. He pointed out that Georgia State had instituted early admissions in December 2009 so that this was the second cycle with that format. Dr. Renick cited increases year-to-date in number of freshman applicants (8,675 to 8,893), transfer applicants (1,404 to 1,424), admitted freshmen (1,513 to 2,293), and admitted transfers (104 to 164). He noted a small decrease in SAT scores from the prior year (1178 to 1175). [Dr. Renick provided additional information that the SAT scores of the first 1,513 applicants for Fall Semester 2011 averaged 1230 and high school grade point averages and Freshman Index averages were also up compared to those for Fall Semester 2010 applicants.] Dr. Renick stated that SAT averages typically drop 18 points from the admitted pool to the final enrolled pool.

Dr. Becker asked if the results to date indicated an opportunity to “raise the floor” for the Fall Semester 2011 freshman class. Dr. Renick responded that for the first time no students would be admitted with SAT scores below 1000.

Dr. Becker noted over half of the freshman class would be housed. Dr. Covey stated 1,700 beds were reserved for freshmen, and more would likely be accommodated. Dr. Kaminshine asked about reserving some housing for high quality freshmen who make the decision to enroll at Georgia State at a late date. Dr. Covey responded that the total available beds would be approximately 4,000 for Fall Semester 2011, and that demand near the end was usually heaviest for transfers and upper division students. Dr. Becker stated housing must be guaranteed for Honors students who make their enrollment decisions late. Dr. Huss asked if there were Honors floors in the residence halls. Dr. Renick replied that there were Honors floors in the Commons because those students generally preferred apartment-style accommodations.

**Research Update**

Dr. Lederberg reported on sponsored project proposals and awards for July 1-December 31, 2010. She cited FY2011 awards of $29.4 million for 281 successful proposals and 422 proposals for future funding of $63.4 million. She noted the FY2011 awards amounted to an 18% increase to date over the preceding year, while the pending proposals are down 5%. Dr. Lederberg pointed out that the increase in awards was largely due to federal grants. Dr. Becker emphasized the importance of federal grants bringing in indirect cost dollars.

**Announcements**

Dr. Kaminshine announced the Georgia Supreme Court will be in session on campus on March 21, 2011, in the 200-seat Senate Salon of the Student Center.

Dr. Heyward reported on the status of the copyright lawsuit. She stressed the importance of compliance immediately with the checklist requirements established in response to the litigation.
Dr. Adamson suggested that materials not be placed on e-reserve until a checklist was provided. Dr. Heyward indicated this option would be explored with Dr. Seamans.

Dr. Adamson announced faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences were organizing a forum on current events in Egypt to be held February 3, 2011, as well as a forum on the future of Haiti on February 2, 2011.

Mr. Albert announced the Microsoft e-mail migration will occur summer 2011 with on-line training and town meetings to inform users. He stated that moving currently stored e-mail to the new system would require 90 days of continuous processing. Dr. Kamiinshine asked about compatible e-mail applications for cellphones. Mr. Albert replied that such would be available.

Dr. Becker announced Georgia State applications for iPhone, Android, etc. were under development. Ms. Jones stated delivery would be in approximately 8 weeks.