Minutes of March 2, 2011

Attendees: Lauren Adamson, J.L. Albert, Amber Amari, Mark Becker, Doug Covey, Irene Duhaime, Matt Gillette, Kerry Heyward, Andrea Jones, Steve Kaminshine, Cheryl Levick, Tom Lewis, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Robin Morris, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Jeff Rupp, Tammy Sugarman, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker, Mindy Wertheimer

Minutes of February 2, 2011 were approved as distributed.

Ethics Certification

Dr. Heyward reported on the ethics certification policy and training procedures enacted by the Board of Regents effective March 1, 2011. She noted Georgia State was 100% compliant for current employees, so the procedures would apply mainly to new employees. She added that there was a refresher training provision, but the intervals for such training had not been specified. Dr. Heyward pointed out that failure to complete ethics certification within 30 days of employment would result in dismissal, if not addressed in a subsequent 30-day warning period.

FERPA

Dr. Heyward presented a revised FERPA policy adding photographs to the directory information section of the policy. She noted the relief this change would provide University Relations in use of photographs in publications and presentations. Dr. Renick added that both academic and student life areas would be similarly aided by the change.

Dr. Heyward made a motion to adopt the revised FERPA policy as presented. Ms. Levick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment

Dr. Renick noted that the deadline for applications for Fall Semester 2011 freshmen was March 1, 2011, but indicated the deadline was “soft”. He presented comparisons of the admitted freshmen as of March 1, 2010 and March 1, 2011, showing an increase of 41 admitted applicants, a 2-point drop in average Freshman Index, and a 4-point increase in average SAT, while maintaining the same average high school GPA and average ACT. Dr. Renick also noted a 27% increase in the number of admitted Hispanic students and a 12% increase in the number of admitted applicants qualifying for the Honors Program.

Dr. Renick pointed out that the highly publicized legislative debate regarding proposed changes to the HOPE Scholarship Program had come at a bad time in the admissions cycle. Dr. Becker asked about the message being conveyed by high school guidance counselors about the changes to HOPE. Dr. Renick replied that the Admissions Office would be meeting with an advisory group of high school guidance counselors to learn more about the implications of the changes to HOPE from their perspectives. Dr. Renick added that the HOPE Scholarship program already did not cover all costs of attending college as defined by federal financial aid programs, so that the actual effect was to raise the average uncovered amount from $5K to nearly $8K. Dr. Renick estimated the total loss for all Georgia State students to be in the range of $18M-$20M.

Dr. Renick stated that approximately 300 current Georgia State students would qualify for the proposed Zell Miller Scholarship program for students with at least a 3.7 high school GPA and SAT score of 1200. Dr. Adamson urged intervention with prospective students, who have the 3.7 GPA, but may not retake the SAT if their scores are between 1100 and 1200.
Dr. Becker asked about the rule regarding re-qualifying for HOPE one time, if HOPE eligibility is lost. Dr. Renick replied students can regain HOPE at the 30, 60, and 90 credit hour thresholds, but only once. He indicated that losing HOPE a second time and later achieving at a level of eligibility was very unusual. Mr. Lewis added that the Senate version of the HOPE bill kept the college GPA for retention of the Zell Miller Scholarship at 3.3.

Legislative Report

Mr. Lewis reported the immigration law would require use of eVerify by the University System institutions to establish citizenship status of all students. Dr. Renick noted problems with the eVerify database, and the need to be able to use birth certificates presented by students to override those errors.

Mr. Lewis reported the tuition cap resolution would seek to link tuition increases to the consumer index, but would allow the Board of Regents to request permission from the legislature for higher increases. Dr. Becker commented that other states used the higher education inflation index.

Dr. Rupp asked about the status of workload dollars. Mr. Lewis replied there would be no workload dollars in the FY2012 budget. He added that state revenues are improving, and that the first priority of the administration was to rebuild the reserve. He voiced optimism for a rebound in funding formula dollars in FY2013.

Dr. Becker noted that tobacco dollars for the Georgia Cancer Coalition were eliminated, but that the Georgia Research Alliance might absorb the coalition for future funding cycles. He warned that the future of the Eminent Scholars initiative through GRA was in doubt.

Dr. Kaminshine announced an outstanding ranking for the College of Law at #32 among the top 50 law schools in a national publication.

Dr. Covey announced outstanding ranking for student housing at Georgia State by a national publication with the Commons ranked #4 as a unit and housing #1 overall.