Committee on Academic Programs
February 20, 2007

Present: Paul Alberto, Faye Borthick, Margo Brinton, Joan Carson, Dean Dabney, Harry Dangel, Irene Duhaime, Shelby Frost, MaryAnne Gaunt, Cecilia Grindel, Richard Lakes, Valerie Miller, Bruce Pilling, Cora Presley, George Pullman, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Mary Shoffner, Tammy Sugarman, Sara Weigle, Jim Wolk

Guests: MaryAnn Romski, Mary Finn, Charles Jones, Peter Lindsay, Marti Singer

Call to Order
The Chair, Tim Renick, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. in Room 718, General Classroom Building

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the January 16 meeting were approved as amended. The January 20 meeting was called to order at 3:00 and ended at 3:45. Richard Lakes reported he attended. Dr. Renick advised the Committee members to make sure they sign the attendance roll to ensure attendance is correctly captured in the minutes.

Proposed Policies for Graduate Programs
CAP considered and unanimously approved the proposal from the Graduate Council for graduate program policies to bring the University into conformity with SACS guidelines. The proposal will go forward for consideration at the March Senate meeting.

- **Minimum credit hours for all degrees.** Degree programs at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level will be based on at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent. [Addresses SACS requirement 2.7.1]

- **Coursework taken on a non-credit basis.** Academic credit for course work taken on a noncredit basis will only be awarded where there is documentation that the noncredit course work is equivalent to a designated credit experience. All non-credit hours are subject to unit/college level approval. [Addresses SACS requirement 3.4.8.]

- **Maximum transfer hours.** In order to earn a graduate degree at Georgia State University, students must earn the majority of their graduate program credit hours from Georgia State University. All transfer hours are subject to unit/college level approval. [Addresses SACS requirement 3.6.3.]

Rationale:
These three graduate policies serve to bring the university into accordance with the following SACS requirements:

- **2.7.1:** “The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level.”

- **3.4.8:** “The institution awards academic credit for course work taken on a noncredit basis only when there is documentation that the noncredit course work is equivalent to a designated credit experience.”
3.6.3: “The majority of credits towards a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction by the institution awarding the degree.”

Consideration of the M.A. in African American Studies
The Graduate Council moved the approval of a proposal to establish an M.A. in African American Studies. Dr. Charles Jones, chair of African American Studies, discussed the need for the degree program. The objectives of the M.A. degree in African-American Studies include: (1) to promote an intercultural perspective by providing an opportunity to pursue graduate studies in the scholarly investigation of people of African descent; (2) to promote interdisciplinary inquiry; (3) to enhance faculty and student diversity at Georgia State University; and (4) to establish Georgia State University among the premier institutions in the region and nation for academic preparation in African-American Studies. Addendums to the proposal were distributed by Dr. Jones which included a section on the graduate admission process and supporting letters from other institutions.

Valerie Miller and Joan Carson raised questions about whether there was a plan in place for assessing student outcomes. It was determined that Dr. Jones would work with CAP and Joan Carson to develop more specific assessment procedures before the proposal was sent to the Board of Regents. After further discussion, Richard Lakes moved to approve the proposal contingent on the assessment plan being added. The motion was seconded. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Update on QEP
As a part of the reaccreditation process, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires that each institution develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). A joint subcommittee of CAP and Admissions and Standards is considering a proposal that will focus Georgia State’s QEP on improving the critical thinking skills of our students within their majors as demonstrated by their writing. A draft of the proposal to add a CTW requirement was circulated by Dr. Renick and a discussion ensued. No vote was taken as the subcommittee working on the proposal was only seeking general feedback from CAP at this juncture.

Committee Updates
Subcommittee updates were offered from the Graduate Council by Dean Dabney, The Gen Ed Assessment Committee by Marti Singer, the Undergraduate Council by Sara Weigle, and APRC by Jim Wolk.

The next scheduled meeting is March 20, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.