University Senate Budget Committee
Minutes
October 23, 1997

Attendance:

Ahmed Abdelal, Reid Christenberry, John de Castro, Paula Dressel, Anne Emanuel, Janice Griffith, Sidney Harris, Ramona Hasan, Hugh Hudson, Jayant Kale, Amy Lederberg, Tom Lewis, Fred Massey, Al McWilliams, Janet Perry, Jerry Rackliffe, Anthony Roberts for Sherry Gaines, Carolyn Robison, Paula Stephan, Edgar Torbert, Bill Waugh, Katherine Willoughby.

Absent:


The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by the Chair, John de Castro.

1. Approval of Minutes

The second line of section IV of the September minutes should be changed to read "There may be an initial decline in credit hours, but they should return to normal levels in about one year." The third sentence should also be changed to read "in order to maintain faculty workload at reasonable levels, we may need the increase the number of GTAs and PTIs." With these two changes, the minutes were approved as distributed.

2. FY 97 Budget Status

As a result of student fees being higher than budgeted, an increase in indirect costs, and a savings in the Fringe Benefits and Utilities, Rents, and Insurance lines, there is a projected excess of $1,287,000 for FY 98. It is expected that these funds will be used for new software, adjusting unmet demand in the Departments of English, Mathematics and History, and to provide a bridge loan to offset an unanticipated shortfall of funds for the new Eminent Scholar in Biology. This later issue resulted from a difficulty with the timing of a Georgia Research Alliance funding allocation.

It was pointed out that Auxiliary Services is operating at a $500,000 deficit, most of which comes from transportation and housing construction. It was suggested that State funds are being used to fund certain aspects of the Auxiliary Services such as the Police for the dorms. It was suggested that since the dorms are now profitable, that these funds be redirected from the Auxiliary Services budget.

Since one of the six colleges, Health Sciences, saw a drop in enrollment of roughly five percent, there was some question whether this drop indicated a temporary aberration or a more permanent problem. The College was asked to look into this and provide a report at the next Budget Committee meeting. A request was made to have a percent-change indicator placed next to enrollment figures on the Fiscal Year Enrollment Comparison report.

3. Semester Conversion - Graduate Student Compensation
The Budget Committee discussed the budgetary implications of semester conversion and unanimously passed the following motions:

1. Georgia State University should coordinate with the other University System research universities to encourage the Board of Regents to consider the financial impact of semester conversion on research universities and should identify for the Board of Regents what those needs might be.

2. Georgia State University should urge the Board of Regents to identify semester conversion costs as a redirection priority. The chair of the Senate Budget Committee and the Provost should carry the suggestions forward to the Board of Regents.

3. For graduate student support under the semester system, The University should set as its goal to:
   a. Raise the level of support for GTAs, GLAs, and GRAs, to the following amounts per semester:
      Level III from the current $2000 to $3000
      Level II from the current $1200 to $1800
      Level I from the current $600 to $900
   b. Give priority in allocating new funds for graduate student support to those students enrolled in Doctoral Programs.
   c. Support graduate student with a combination of GTA, GLA, and GRA appointments to the desired total compensation level.
   d. GRAs should be compensated at the new suggested levels ($900, $1,800, and $3,000) for ten hours/week/semester.
   e. It is recognized that it may not be possible to accomplish this in one year. However, this support for graduate students should be made a very high priority in allocating new monies.

4. Budget priority should be given to funding new faculty positions to support programs toward the goal of reducing faculty teaching load to the national norm among research universities of four courses per academic year for those faculty engaged in research activity.

The Budget Committee discussed the budgetary implications of the FY99 redirection and the recommendations produced by the Dean's group and unanimously passed the following motion:

1. With respect to redirection priorities, the University Senate Budget Committee recommends that consideration be given to protecting student credit hour generation in concert with the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the University Senate Budget Committee supports the recommendation of the Deans group that the determination of redirection targets should be based on the following priorities:
   a. Non-academic cost centers in support areas - consideration should be given to those areas with higher costs than comparable institutions and to those less effective/efficient or central to the Strategic Plan.
   b. Shift cost from state funds to auxiliary units where revenues exceed projections.
   c. In academic units, consider enrollment trends and research productivity when assigning targets for redirection.
   d. If the technology fee passes, certain issues of what should be covered by that fee...
Having run twenty minutes over the scheduled meeting time, the Committee adjourned at 2:50.

Cynthia Lane
Committee Assistant

Please send questions or comments to Mary Nell Stone