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

I. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed.

II. FY 97 Budget Status
   Increased student fees and continued savings in the Fringe Benefits and the Utilities, Rents and Insurance lines result in a projected excess of $518,985.

III. NCAA Report
   Speaking on behalf of the Other Budgets subcommittee, Bill Waugh stated that nothing unusual was found in the NCAA report and there were no objections to the department's expenses.

IV. New Fee Requests
   An updated version of the Schedule of Fee Rates distributed with the minutes was available at the meeting. The new version shows the percent change in planned fee increases and, more importantly, reflects a plateau fee structure scheduled to be implemented with semester conversion. The implementation of this structure results in an increase in undergraduate half-time fees of 31%, and in graduate half-time fees of 36%. As a result, the motion was made, seconded and passed that the Budget Committee would support a request from GSU to the Board of Regents seeking a waiver from the plateau structure.

   A second motion, that the Committee recommend approval of the College of Business Administration's request to increase the Executive MBA program fee from $32,500 to $35,000, was made, seconded and passed. It was pointed out that GSU's fees are comparable to competing institutions and that program costs are paid mostly by the company sponsoring the student.

   Other discussion on new fee requests centered around student fees. It was felt that the health fee increase was reasonable ($10/qtr to $15/sem). An increase in the athletics fee will ultimately be used to balance an inequity among scholarship recipients, namely that women...
make up 40% of those athletes on scholarships but constitute 60% of the student body. The athletics fee also supports team efforts ($41.50/qtr to $62.25/sem). There was some question about the department's request for $60,000 to purchase three new vans, as it was generally felt this purchase should be considered a one-time expense. A request was made to ask the department for a copy of their strategic plan. Since the new recreation building has not yet been approved, there is no scheduled increase of the recreation fee. The technology fee, new this year, will be used to replace one-third of our computer equipment every year. The fee was originally planned to cost students $75. Eliminating plans to offer internet access has dropped the charge to $36.

General discussion surrounding the fee increases resulted in the motion being made, seconded and passed to recommend approval of all fee increases as requested, excluding the recreation fee, that being contingent on the understanding that the fee will not be charged if the Governor does not approve the revenue-generating proposal for the recreation center. The motion was amended to withdraw all one-time expenditures from the proposal and phase them in over a three-year period. The motion was further amended to recommend that contingency funds be used to buy the vans requested by the Athletics Department, and to reduce the proposed increase in student fees by the cost of the vans and the Athletics Department's request for computers.

V. Health Sciences Enrollments

At the meeting held in October it was noticed the College of Health Sciences saw a drop in enrollment of approximately 5%. The College was asked to look into this and provide a report at the next Budget Committee meeting. Sherry Gaines distributed copies of the report, but the issue had to be rescheduled for the December meeting as we had already run 20 minutes over schedule.

Also scheduled for the next meeting is discussion of the redirection table from FACP.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Cynthia Lane
Committee Assistant

Please send questions or comments to Mary Nell Stone