University Senate Budget Committee
Minutes
December 10, 1998

Attendance: Cleon Arrington, David Boykin, John de Castro, Carol Clark for James Scott, Bill Decatur, Martin Fraser, Janice Griffith, Charlene Hurt, Fenwick Huss, Phyllis Johnson, Kurt Keppler, Bill Kinyon, Tom Lewis, Charles Marvin, Al McWilliams, Fran Mullis, Bruce Palmer, Joseph Rabianski, Jerry Rackliffe, Anthony Roberts for Susan Kelly, Edgar Torbert, Alvis Washington, Bill Waugh, Carol Whitcomb

Absent: Ahmed Abdelal, Elliott Albers, Beverly Armento, Roy Bahl, Dan Benardot, Tim Crimmins, Sam Deitz, Chuck Derby, Anne Emanuel, Richard Fendler, Sidney Harris, Ron Henry, Keith Ihlafeldt, Fred Jacobs, Michael Jedel, Timeka Lamback, Mike Morre

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by the Chair, John de Castro

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 12, 1998 meeting were approved with one correction.

II. FY99 Budget Status

The shortfall in the fall semester has left the budget with very little flexibility. To make the current amended budget we need 214,000 credit hours in the spring semester. As of 12/9/98 there were 192,409 credit hours, therefore we will need an additional 21,591 credit hours to make the amended budget. If there are no further enrollments there will be an additional shortfall of $1.5 million.

It was noted by a committee member that there has been a significant decline in the number application, both undergraduate and graduate. There was also a significant decline in the number of graduate students accepted, which fell by 1,500 from last year.

III. FY00 Fee Change Requests

It was brought to the attention of the committee that a portion of the fee increase requests will be used to fund raises in salaries and fringe benefits for staff originally funded by fund code 10 budgets who have been shifted to the individual fee budgets. It was suggested by a committee member that the portion of the increase that would serve this purpose should be approved.

It was noted that fee increase requests must be processed to the Board of regents in early January and that this would be the last chance for the budget committee to discuss the requests.

a) Student Activity Fee

A $5 increase has been requested which will result in a $269,000 increase in revenue. Of that total $107,700 will be used for salaries and fringe benefits. $7,000 will be used for increased costs and services and $154,300 will go directly to the recreations center to compensate for the loss of revenue due to the decrease in enrollments.

There was no discussion regarding this request.

b) Student Facilities

A $2.75 increase was requested. Of this increase $16,700 will go towards salaries and fringe benefits, $14,500 will be used to compensate for the Board of Regent’s rounding
down of the fee approved for last year which produced less revenue than expected, $104,000 will be used to produce an equipment reserve, and $5,600 will be used to offset the deficit due to the enrollment decline.

There was no discussion regarding this request.

c) Transportation

A $4 increase has been requested which will result in a $217,000 increase in revenue. This increase will decrease, but not completely, the current operating deficit.

d) Athletics

A $6.91 increase was requested. $247,500 will be used to compensate for the lost revenue due to the decline in enrollments. The remaining funds will be used to upgrade the computer system, fund scholarship increases, pay for the scholarship subsidy that was previously for by the softball coach, fund salary and fringe benefit increases, and to expand the drug education and testing program.

There was no discussion regarding this request.

e) Other Fees

1. University Housing

FACP has recommended that the housing increase request go forward at a rate of $200 per year. This increase will be used to fund salary and fringe benefit increases for staff and to install phone lines in each room. The students are also in favor of this increase.

2. Parking

The FY00 proposal for fee increases varies upon the lot that one is assigned to and if the space is reserved or not. The above ground lot fee is proposed to increase by $5, the underground lots are proposed to increase by $10, and if you have a reserved space the fee is proposed to increase by $15. The daily rates will remain the same and the fee for the S deck will decrease by $10. The increase in revenue from the fee increases will eventually provide enough revenue for the replacement of the temporary parking decks.

It was suggested that this request be looked at in conjunction with the transportation fee, which is running a deficit and is being subsidized by the Parking fund.

A committee member felt that the premium for the reserved spaces was too low, as those spots could not be used even if the individual was on vacation.

It was suggested that in order for MARTA to be a viable option for students, the daily rates should increase.

It was brought to the attention of the committee that new tax laws will allow the University to deduct parking fees on a pre-tax basis, making the net effect of the increases be an actual decrease.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.