Budget Senate Budget Committee
Minutes for March 22, 2007

Meeting started at 3:00pm
Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm

Attendees: Maryann Wysor, LaLoria Konata, Peggy Gallagher, A. Faye Borthick, Margo Brinton, Deron Boyles, Bruce Pilling, Chip Barksdale, Dean Dabney, Bala Ramesh, Douglas Covey, Jerry Rackcliffe, Cherian Thachenkary, Tanya Anderson

Cherian Thachenkary sat in as chair while Hugh Hudson was absent. He began the meeting by opening the floor to Vice President Jerry Rackliffe. Jerry Rackliffe started with an overview of a spreadsheet that was emailed out to all committee members on the day before; FY 2008 New Funding Requests. (spreadsheet attached).

Jerry Rackliffe explained a new approach this year by looking at the budget as “three buckets of money”: growth, quality and research. We have already shared the growth model where we show GSU growing from 26,179 students to 33,041 over the next 10 years; has since been amended to add transfer students. In order to fund growth, we have to fund growth: tenure track faculty, instructors, space, instructional support, etc. For next year, we will have about $1.5 million to give out.

The Board of Regents has not decided what tuition will be next year. Committees have said we can carry some funds forward. Once we get those numbers, we will be able to determine how much of this money will actually be for FY 2008 purposes or for funds during FY 2009/2010/2011. At this time, if he could predict, Jerry Rackliffe believes we will have about $3 – 3.5 million range for funding, being able to fund 25% to 50% of the funding requests. Allocations are expected in May.

Cherian Thachenkary then opened the floor by Cherian Thachenkary for questions and answers to Jerry Rackliffe's overview for the spreadsheet and other budget issues. Some questions followed seeking clarification on availability of raise pool and funding for salary compression. Questions were also raised concerning lack of detailed breakdown of RCB funding request. Rackliffe responded by saying RCB request is for faculty positions and the college generally decides on the mix of positions.

There were no members present representing the Office of Public External Affairs, so no current updates could be offered on the activities with the legislature.

Cherian Thachenkary read off two recent bills in the legislature up for votes dealing with potential improvements in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) of Georgia. He also gave an update, via a conversation with Hugh Hudson, in regards where we are with on efforts to improve ORP funding and options. and TRS. Currently, progress is delayed due to wording on proposals. Being a fiscal bill, we will have to wait another year to see any possible legislative action.

Cherian Thachenkary also gave a updates on activities from other the H. R. Ssub-Ccommittee, chaired by Bill Downs. An on-line survey is currently underway, and the committee has held public forums with the university-wide community on H. R. issues and concerns. Committee Report is expected by end of April.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.