Senate Budget Committee Minutes  
March 20, 2008  
3:00 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

Present: Dee Baldwin, Hiram Barksdale, Deron Boyles, Faye Borthick, Margo Brinton, Douglass Covey, Cheryl Delk, William Downs, Irene Duhaime, Peggy Gallagher, Lynda Goodfellow, Hugh Hudson, Charlene Hurt, Beth Jones, Randy Kamphaus, La Loria Konata, Tom Lewis, Susan McCombie, John Medlock, Linda Nelson, Jerry Rackliffe, Debbie Rupp, Jeff Rupp, Andrew Sumner, Maryann Wysor

Legislative Update (Dr. Tom Lewis): Dr. Lewis updated the committee on several items of note: 1) $65 million has been approved for MRR. 2) The Alpharetta Campus building has been funded for $11.8 million. 3) A 2.5 percent merit raise is currently expected. 4) The bill on carry-over is progressing well. 5) The university is addressing the Guns on Campus Bill. 6) The legislature is considering lowering the senior citizen age to 60. 7) A bill to abolish the Board of Regents has been tabled. 8) The Optional Retirement Bill does not allow movement between optional retirement to the Teachers Retirement System. 9) The intellectual diversity bill is not moving forward. 10) The university health insurance program has not been merged with the state system. 11) The possibility of eliminating post-retirement health insurance for new hires is being discussed. This would greatly impact the ability to recruit, and studies are being conducted on this topic.

Report on budget process (FACP) (Dr. Jerry Rackliffe): FY 2008 is going well. There are some concerns regarding mid-year cuts for FY 2009. A contingency budget of approximately $10 million has already been planned. This will allow for numerous one-time projects. Generally it appears that the university will continue to grow out of budget cuts.

Report on budget process (FACP) (Dr. Hugh Hudson): A full VP explanation of the funding is available. FACP will recommend priorities to the President; however, all requests probably will not be honored. FACP meetings are open and those interested can attend and speak to issues.

Report on HR progress (Linda Nelson): A 360 evaluation has been conducted of Ms. Nelson’s area, including a performance evaluation of all staff in classification and compensation. Major projects are also underway where a team of experts look at processes, identify processes to overhaul, and complete the overhaul in one week. Creating classification SOP was the first project. The office has also completed a successful implementation of the new applicant tracking system. 12,000 applications have been submitted and 250 positions filled. The time for HR processing has been reduced from three months to three days. Additionally, the office has contracted with Choice Point, and background checks are run within 72 hours. The office is now addressing grant-funded positions.

Payroll and Benefits (Beth Jones): 1000 electronic PAF forms have been used. Beginning in July, payroll will be consolidated to once a month. Semi-monthly employees will move to bi-weekly pay. They are revising the website and have changed the flex-spending vendor.

Report on MRRF-ADA Subcommittee (Dr. Deron Boyles): The committee has negotiated and met intent. Recommendations have been forwarded to the executive committee. Two DIC representatives have been sent to MRRF.

Discussion of the presidential search and concerns about campus-wide participation were noted.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.