Senate Budget Committee Minutes
January 22, 2009
3:05 – 4:22 p.m.

Present: Lauren Adamson, Amber Amari, JoAnn Bacon, Dee Baldwin, Chip Barksdale, Fay Borthick, Deron Boyles, Michelle Brattain, Margo Brinton, Jennifer Chiovaro, Douglass Covey, Cheryl Delk, William Downs, Irene Duhaime, Evan Eskridge, Skye Hardesty, Hugh Hudson, Randy Kamphaus, John Kesner, Susan McCombie, Jarry Rackliffe, Mary Ann Romski, Jeff Rupp, Rose Sevcik, Andrew Sumner, Ellen Taylor, Cherian Thachenkary, Katherine Willoughby

Dr. Hugh Hudson welcomed all to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and examine projected budget reduction scenarios for FY 2010 and then make recommendations for FACP’s consideration.

Budget Considerations (Jerry Rackliffe) – Dr. Rackliffe distributed a spreadsheet entitled “Budget Considerations – 10% Cut Scenario / Fiscal Years 2009-2011.” He reviewed the spreadsheet line-by-line, explaining and describing each item and allowing committee members to ask questions for clarification. In order to balance the budget to be presented to the Board of Regents, Georgia State will need to reduce expenditures by $5-6 million. This reduction is the equivalent to a 2% budget cut to all VP Departments and Colleges.

Discussion (Hugh Hudson) – Dr. Hudson requested suggestions for areas to cut and preserve. He also requested input on program elimination and review. The program review and elimination process as conducted five years ago is strongly discouraged. The process should be as open as possible. It was noted that, with such a large expenditure sum to be reduced, a large program would have to be eliminated.

Various strategies were discussed as ways to balance the budget: increasing endowments, cutting jobs, continuing growth of student body. Dr. Hudson noted that extensive community participation will improve the process and help it be conducted as collegially as possible.

Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) Update (Hugh Hudson) – The Governor’s Office is interested in getting data on a plan that would allow TRS-eligible employees who are on other retirement plans to buy back into the system. The Governor’s Office has received an outline from TRS with various scenarios. However, no state expenditures will be made for this transition. The employee would pay the full actuarial cost for this change.

Dr. Hudson reminded committee members to forward any suggestions for balancing the budget to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.