University Senate Budget Committee  
Thursday, October 21, 2010  
718 General Classroom Building  
3:00 pm

Members Present: JoAnn Bacon, Chip Barksdale, Tim Bartness, Steve Carey, Douglass Covey, Jeremy Crampton, Hugh Hudson, Bill Prigge, Jerry Rackliffe, Lesley Reid, Sarah Steiner, Cherian Thachenkary, Jowanna Tillman, Volkan Topalli, Katherine Willoughby, Yongsheng Xu

Meeting minutes

Katherine Willoughby called the meeting to order. The minutes from the August 2010 meeting were approved. Katherine briefed the SBC on the BOR action items from the October meeting which are attached to these minutes. At this meeting, the BOR received presentations about (1) student retention, progression, and graduation; (2) childhood obesity in Georgia; and (3) the Dependent Verification Audit Final Report that noted achieved savings of approximately $6.7 million as a result of more than 3,300 ineligible dependents being dropped from USG insurance coverage. Other action items resulting from this meeting included: (1) deferring a decision about adding engineering programs at the University of Georgia and Georgia Southern University; (2) a recommended 10% reduction plan for fiscal 2012; and (3) tightening admissions and verification policies regarding undocumented students.

Jerry Rackcliffe provided an update on FACP and GSU budget generally, noting that Georgia State revenues are up and there remains no expectation that employees will have to take furlough days this fiscal year. He also provided a benefits update on behalf of Beth Jones and distributed a printed brochure regarding benefit changes and enrollment dates. The open enrollment period runs Monday, October 25th – Friday, November 19th. One highlighted changes includes a $50 per month tobacco surcharge for those employees using tobacco products. Tobacco users will need to self-identify in ADP and will be eligible to have the surcharge removed upon completion of a tobacco cessation program.

JoAnn Bacon, Chair of the SBC Sub-Committee on Career Transition, reported that the committee has met five times and is continuing to research program possibilities. It has been verified with the GSU Legal Department that Georgia State can implement such a program. Also, the committee confirmed that another USG institution currently has a similar program already in place. JoAnn emphasized that the draft report does not differentiate between employees with either the TRS and ORP plans. The Career Transition Program, as modeled in the draft, will require currently tenured faculty to give up their tenure and become year-to-year contract employees. Employees who choose to participate in this program can work a maximum of .49 FTE. Jerry added that the University intends to provide employees as much time as possible to review their options regarding this plan before making a decision on such transition.
Bill Prigge, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Out-of-State Tuition, reported that GSU currently has six different tuition levels. And, the GSU out-of-state tuition rates are higher, on average, than those of our bordering states. There are approximately 1,003 students who are currently paying the full cost of out-of-state tuition. Bill noted that there were 600 students whose status changed at some point during the academic year, and this category of student needs further review. Draft report findings suggest that GSU could lower out-of-state tuition rates in order to be more competitive with other states for top students. The report will be presented at the next Administrative Council meeting which will be on Wednesday, November 3rd.

The Sub-Committee on Mandatory Fees and Off-Site Centers did not make a report.

Katherine noted that sub-committee draft reports, if available, were due to her by Friday, October 29th. She will package them together and submit them electronically to all SBC members for review and at the same time send them to the Administrative Council prior to their meeting Wednesday, November 3, 2010 in 315 Dahlberg Hall, beginning at 9:00 am. Sub-Committee Chairs are invited to the Administrative Council meeting on November 3rd to answer any questions members might have about the draft reports.

Linda Nelson, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Opportunity Development/Diversity Education Planning (ODDEP), presented the GSU Diversity Strategic Plan. This is a five-year plan presenting the intended outcome for GSU to become a national model for diversity in higher education. Linda stated that it was important that the University’s diversity plan be linked to the goals in the 2CI plan. The plan addresses goals and some broad strategies for increasing diversity among GSU faculty, students, and staff.

In other business, SBC discussed the 2C1 program and ways to increase GSU doctoral student enrollment effectively. Jerry presented a self-funding model for advancing doctoral student numbers over a six to seven year period. The University could market this support in the form of “Second Century Fellows”. Jerry also provided enrollment numbers for doctoral students for Georgia State, Georgia Tech, UGA, and Georgia Southern from fall 2005 to fall 2009. Tech has the largest number of PhD students, followed by UGA, then Georgia State, and Georgia Southern.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.