University Senate Budget Committee  
Thursday, June 10, 2010  
315 Alumni Hall  
3:30 pm

Members Present: JoAnn Bacon, Tim Bartness (by telephone), Steve Carey, Jennifer Chiovaro, Jeremy Crampton, Julie Dangel, Dabney Dixon, William Downs, Peggy Gallagher, Bruce Pilling, Jerry Rackliffe, Mary Ann Romski, LaLoria Konata for Nan Seamans, Andrew Sumner, Cherian Thachenkary, Jowanna Tillman, Volkan Topalli, Mary Beth Walker, Katherine Willoughby, Maryann Wysor, Alexander Nicholas. Rose Sevcik attempted to call in to the meeting, but was bumped off.

Meeting Minutes

Katherine Willoughby called the meeting to order and asked Jerry Rackliffe to provide an overview of the budget situation, given meetings held on Tuesday and Wednesday of the week by the Board of Regents. Jerry’s review noted that the budget is balanced for this year, but the revenue picture remains unclear. Still, no furloughs are planned at this time for FY 2011. Some members expressed concern regarding the statement in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on June 10th regarding Regents’ approval of all budgets for FY 2011 that acknowledged cuts such as Georgia State’s that “capped some faculty compensation.” Jerry explained that this must refer to the faculty summer pay cap at 9%.

Katherine then asked for member opinion regarding the GSU Budget Guidelines presented by Jerry for review at the FACP meeting on June 16, 2010. It was noted that the guidelines are an outline only with some background regarding the budget development process at the University. The Budget Methodology and Policy section specifically notes that “The FACP will consider the funding priorities suggested by the University Senate Budget Committee in developing their short- and long-range priority recommendations.” Given this, the SBC conversation centered on how best to support FACP and, in particular, to facilitate input from the University community into the budget process. Important components of any new budgetary process that were touched on by the SBC included (1) coordination of short and long term budget priorities; (2) coordination of budget with strategic priorities; (3) development and application of benchmarks and performance measures; and (4) coordination of calendars for maximum input. There was some concern expressed that the University’s ongoing strategic planning process is problematic for the application of a new budget process in FY 2011. Still, members seemed to agree that a thoughtful yet challenging new budgetary development and recommendation process can and should begin, as noted, by the fall 2010 term, accepting that such process might operate a bit differently in this “ad hoc” year. Members determined to meet several more times this summer to further examine these guidelines and to develop ideas for SBC input that can advance a more a multi-year, performance oriented budgeting process. These ideas will be presented at the August, 2010 meeting of FACP.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.