Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs
MINUTES
October 22, 2001

Members present:  Murray Brown, John de Castro, Bill Evans, Bill Fritz, Christine Gallant, Ralph Gilbert, Fenwick Huss, Fred Jacobs, Charles Jones, George Rainbolt, Mary Ann Romski, Andrew Sumner, Lyn Thaxton, Diane Willen.


The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by John de Castro, chair.  The first item of business was the approval of the September 17 minutes.  The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was a discussion of Senate calendar. Dr. de Castro distributed the proposed changes to the calendar which would move the first meeting of the Senate to the fall and add an additional meeting.  He asked all committee chairs to distribute this to their committees and get feedback for further discussion.

The next item discussed was the appeals, grievances, and complaints procedures.  A handout was distributed by Dr. de Castro that outlined the proposed disruptive behavior policy.  This was modified since the call for the meeting due to feedback received from Kurt Keppler and John Marshall.  This proposal is a way to handle disruptive situations quickly and to allow for due process.  Dr. Willen asked that the current policy in place be added to this handout when an electronic copy is distributed so that those reviewing the changes can see what is currently in place.  Dr. de Castro explained that current policy, as stated in the student handbook, is very ambiguous and vague.  Those wanting to abuse the policy can use the appeal process to their advantage.  The proposed changes would give no advantage to appealing.

There was much discussion on this issue.  George Rainbolt stated that there are several different types of appeal policies at GSU and some conflict with each other.  Ideally, there would be a comprehensive policy in place.  Discussion centered on the definition of disruptive behavior and whether or not our policy should include a legal definition of the term such as "hostile learning environment".  At the end of the discussion, Dr. de Castro asked that each committee chair circulate the proposed policy to their members and send him any feedback.  He will take all the feedback and try to come up with a consensus.  Upon getting a finalized version, he will email the revised version to the group.

The next item was a proposal for an ad hoc committee that would review all the various grievance and appeals procedures.  This proposal would charge this group to review all grievance policies, not just student grievance policies.  Christine Gallant suggested that the Director of the Office of Affirmative Action should sit on this committee.  There will be a student representative as well.  Discussion of the composition of this committee continued.  Dr. de Castro will send it forward to the Executive Committee for that group to create this proposed committee as an "ad hoc" group.

The next item was a discussion of the structure of the Committee of Chairs.  Dr. de Castro explained that a resolution forming a Committee of Chairs was passed by the Senate on May 16, 1991 to organize and oversee the work of the Senate.  The resolution was passed, but it was never formally added to the Senate Bylaws as an official standing committee.  Dr. de Castro distributed a proposal to add the Committee of Chairs as a standing committee and to describe its membership and duties.  The language in this proposal is more specific than the original resolution.  One of the arguments against establishing this committee is that the group is not representative; most chairs are from either the College of Arts and Sciences or the Robinson College of Business.  Dr. de Castro stated that ad hoc appointees could be added.  It was agreed that Dr. de Castro would write a preamble which would include the original resolution and he would pass it to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee for approval.  From there it would go to the Executive Committee and then on to the full Senate for consideration.

Dr. de Castro asked the chairs to talk about items that are being discussed in their committees.  He stated that Statutes and Bylaws has started discussing the notion of electronic meetings and decision making.  For Faculty Affairs the issues coming forward are non-tenure track issues, a sick leave policy, and an amorous relationship policy with a focus on conflict of interest practices.  The NTT policy will be forwarded to the chairs for quick feedback.  Bill Evans reported that IS&T is working on several items:  a policy for email to serve as official notification for students; revising the Faculty Handbook in regards to changes in e-learning; and the elimination of the Panther system.  Ralph Gilbert stated that Student Discipline has dealt with one case recently.  Cultural Diversity is working on how to assist colleges
in developing their guidelines in recruiting minority and under represented faculty.

Bill Fritz stated that an announcement would go out over university email that the Schedule of Classes will now be online only. This will allow for “real-time” information that the printed version did not. Mary Ann Romski reported that the Research Committee is working on a resolution regarding graduate student tuition waivers. This resolution has been endorsed by the Budget Committee and is being reviewed by APACE. A copy will be send electronically to all committee chairs. Another issue being worked on is a policy on intellectual property. This policy is being brought forward by the VP for Research. The VP has asked the Research Committee to set up an ad hoc committee to review the policy and meet with the original group that drafted the policy. A nine member standing committee on intellectual property will be set up by the VP and appointed by the President. The Research Committee feels that there should be at least three Senators on this committee. If not, Research will not support whatever intellectual property policy that would come out of this group. The Vice President for Research is also interested in the issue of graduate education. VP Louis would like to set up a committee that will set and review policies on graduate students. He has asked the chairs of APACE, Faculty Affairs, and Research to provide names of faculty members involved in graduate education (they may or may not be Senators) that could serve on this committee.

Dr. de Castro announced that an agenda item for the December 3 meeting will be how the Senate works. There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant