The Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs held a meeting on April 30, 2001, chaired by John de Castro. The committee discussed various issues, including the election of Senators to serve on the Faculty Advisory Committee (FACP), the introduction of committee chairs, and updates on various committee activities.

1. **Members present**: Paul Alberto, Murray Brown, John de Castro, Bill Evans, Christine Gallant, Philo Hutcheson, Fred Jacobs, Charles Jones, Kurt Keppler, George Rainbolt, Mary Ann Romski, Bob Sattelmeyer, Andrew Sumner, P. C. Tai, Lyn Thaxton, Diane Willen.

2. **Members absent**: Tim Crimmins, Ralph Gilbert, Fenwick Huss, John Newman.

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by John de Castro, chair. Dr. de Castro gave a brief overview of the role of this committee. When originally established, it was envisioned to be a leadership group for the University Senate. This group carries the agenda to the Senate and should be looking at the Senate as a whole and at how issues should be dealt with across committees. Dr. de Castro wants to meet routinely to act as a leadership group; to set the agenda and to guide Senate business. He noted that this committee has no statutory power because it's an ad hoc committee.

The first item of business was the election of the Senators to serve on the FACP. The floor was opened for nominations and Fred Jacobs and John de Castro were nominated. The nominations were closed and Drs. Jacobs and de Castro were elected to serve on FACP for another year.

The next item of business was for the members to introduce themselves and, if serving as a committee chair, indicate this year's pending business. P. C. Tai, who chairs the Planning and Development Committee, began. Dr. Tai stated that the P&D committee has several yearly agenda items: the action plan, the MRRF list and the capital list. He would like to see his committee get these items earlier for consideration. Dr. Tai sees the development of new software systems as an issue that should be discussed by the Senate. There was discussion about the implementation of the new Banner system and possibly having Bill Fritz, head of the Banner Transition Team, to address this group.

Next, Bob Sattelmeyer, chair of Nominations, indicated that the majority of his committee's business was completed. An addendum to the original Nominations report will be on the agenda for the October Senate meeting. He asked if any committee had any committee changes they wanted to make, please let him know. Lyn Thaxton, newly elected member to the Executive Committee, introduced herself. Andy Sumner, chair of Athletics Committee, stated that his committee reviewed the academic performance of the athletes. They will be working to minimize the student athletes' scheduling problems particularly in the Spring. There's also a growing concern with sports agents and NCAA sanctions. Another issue is fun for the athletic programs. John de Castro asked Dr. Sumner to have the Athletics Committee work to help insure that a strategic plan be developed and submitted by the Athletics Department.

Murray Brown, chair of Statutes and Bylaws, discussed the recent approval of some changes to the Statutes and Bylaw George Rainbolt suggested that the committee look at voting rights for visiting faculty. Dr. de Castro indicated that this was an issue for the Committee of Chairs as it cuts across several committees. Another part of this issue is non-tenure track faculty and how to deal with Senate representation for them. Dr. Jacobs noted that the discussion of this issue should center on what the vision for GSU should be 10 years from now.

Christine Gallant, chair of Cultural Diversity, stated the issues her committee would be working on: 1) working with John Peterson as he works to implement the Ethnic Minority Faculty Policy and 2) staff voting rights on the University Senate. Paul Alberto noted that adding any and all groups to the Senate would change the proportions of representation. Included in a discussion of allowing additional groups voting rights should be a re-evaluation of faculty representation. Dr. de Castro would like the Committee of Chairs to look at the whole Senate and reflect on how best it should be organized given the changed environment of the university. Presently, the Senate has some confusing reporting situations because of the way it evolved; it's a patchwork structure.

George Rainbolt, chair of Admissions and Standards, addressed the group next. He sees that this coming year will be an active year for Admissions and Standards. This fall semester will be the first one in which the Regents five year plan goes into effect. There may be some turbulence in the enrollment levels. Another issue is the Freshman Index. Dr. Rainbolt asked for some way that Senate policies be made available to the university community. It was agreed that Mary Nell would add links in the Senate minutes to the various approved policies. Kurt Keppler, co-chair of Student Life and Development, noted that student elections had just ended and that soon there would be an SGA President to co-chair this committee with him. There will be a retreat soon at which student members will be assigned to the various Senate committees. Issues for Student Life and Development this year are:
waiting lists for the student dorms, the opening of the Student Recreation Center, and the revision of Incept. Dr. de Castro stated that an agenda item for the Senate this year is the student discipline and complaint procedures and policies. There was some discussion of this fragmented process. This issue needs to be looked at as a whole.

Diane Willen, chair of Faculty Affairs, gave an overview of that committee’s agenda items for the upcoming Senate year: 1) to look at administrator evaluations and recommend a change in the scale; 2) to look at course evaluations; and 3) amorous relationships and sexual harassment. Charles Jones, a new Executive Committee member, introduced himself. Bill Evans, chair of the IS&T Committee, stated that his committee would be reviewing the how and why of resource allocations within the university in regards to technology.

The chair of the Research Committee, Mary Ann Romski, gave an overview of her committee’s agenda for the year. It will be looking at the changes to the internal grants program made by the VP for Research. The committee will review the outcomes of those changes and will give the VP feedback. The university will be renegotiating the indirect cost rate for sponsored programs. There will be some subtle issues of how those costs are distributed across the university. The committee will continue to work with the VP for Finance and Administration on issues in the Spectrum system and grants. The budget for research at the university will be reviewed. Dr. Romski is also chairing the ad hoc committee on the advancement of women and that committee will be putting together an action plan. She expects that this action plan will come forward in the fall for review and, hopefully, approval. Dr. de Castro addressed one of the issues Dr. Romski mentioned: the distribution of indirect cost recovery dollars to the departments. He stated that this has been a real benefit to the development of the university’s research programs and it must be defended.

Philo Hutcheson, chair of the Library Advisory Committee, listed his committee’s agenda items for the year: 1) creation of a task force to look at the physical structure of the library; and 2) the ongoing issue of the acquisition of periodicals and monographs. Fred Jacobs, returning Executive Committee member, stated that the Senate should look at the big picture when allocating resources, particularly during lean years. We need to look at job satisfaction issues. Paul Alberto, returning Executive Committee member, stated that the Senate should look at faculty benefits. This issue hasn't really been reviewed in about five years.

Dr. de Castro asked the committee if they would be willing to meet monthly. He also would like to schedule an informal retreat at his house sometime during the summer. There being no further business, Dr. de Castro adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant