Ad Hoc Committee of Chairs
MINUTES
September 17, 2001


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 August 13 minutes. Christine Gallant moved that the last sentence in paragraph four be changed to read: "A clear majority were in favor, one was not, and a few abstained." The minutes were approved with this change.

The next item of business was a discussion of Senate composition. To open the discussion, Dr. de Castro distributed and explained two handouts of possible changes to the Senate's composition. The discussion focused on the possible outcomes of changing the number of faculty that count toward departmental representation. It was observed that when lowering number of faculty allotted toward departmental counts, the additional Senators were primarily added in the Colleges of and Sciences and Business. Bob Sattelmeyer observed that the number of faculty has increased since the Statutes were first approved so the ratio of faculty on the Senate has increased over the years. He stated that proposal one, adding staff members but not increasing the number of faculty allotted, would be the most workable.

Philo Hutcheson suggested that any increase in faculty Senators be elected to at-large slots. It may be that the at-larg slots would go to the larger colleges since they would have more faculty voting. Dr. de Castro stated that he would like to see the focus shift away from the colleges and move toward the departments. After continued discussion, the committee agreed to vote on the various proposals. Dr. de Castro asked for a vote on the first proposal: to add ten staff member the University Senate. The results were: 11 in favor, 3 opposed, no abstentions. The discussion turned to whether or not the committee wanted to increase faculty on the Senate. Several members thought that since an increase in faculty would probably mean an increase in Senators from Arts and Sciences and Business, there was no need to increase faculty. The issue to add faculty died for lack of a motion. Dr. de Castro stated that this recommendation will now be forwarded to Statutes and Bylaws Committee.

Dr. de Castro then opened the floor for suggestions for agenda items for the Executive Committee retreat. A topic that suggested was the way credit hours are allocated in the colleges and departments. Mary Ann Romski introduced the topic of graduate education. She gave some background information on this issue. In the course of that explanation, another possible topic emerged: ad hoc committees appointed by the Provost versus joint committees working within the Senate. There was some discussion about the appropriate procedures for issues outside the Senate to work through the Senate structure.

George Rainbolt suggested the topic of graduate admissions. He suggested that the forms used for graduate applicant standardized and that there be coordination of non-substantive tasks. Dr. de Castro stated that this goes back to Dr. Romski's graduate education issue. She gave some background information on this issue. In the course of that explanation, another possible topic emerged: ad hoc committees appointed by the Provost versus joint committees working within the Senate. There was some discussion about the appropriate procedures for issues outside the Senate to work through the Senate structure.

Kurt Keppler suggested that a possible topic for the retreat would be disruptive students. His office has seen an increase in the number of students sent to his office for disruptive behavior. Several committee members agreed that this is an issue that needs to be discussed. Dr. Keppel described the Code of Conduct process for disciplining these students. The problem is that often this process takes some time and, meanwhile, the disruptive student is allowed to continue in the class, often through the end of the term. Dr. Rainbolt suggested that once a student has had a hearing and been found guilty of disruptive behavior, then the student would be withdrawn from the class. The student could continue to appeal the decision, but could not continue in that particular class. Dr. Rainbolt commented that Georgia State has many different grievance procedures and that some institutions have only one procedure to handle all grievances.

Dr. de Castro stated that there were a couple of items coming up in the next few weeks. Diane Willen distributed a
draft of a faculty absence policy that she received. She has been asked to have the Faculty Affairs Committee comment on it. It is her understanding that it is a policy being developed by a USG-wide committee looking into the issue of faculty sick leave. Many felt that this proposed policy does not fit the academic model and that it was written as if faculty were hourly employees. Next, Bill Evans stated that the IS&T Committee is working on a university-wide mandatory email policy for students. There may be some controversy among students about this policy.

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone,
committee assistant