Committee of Chairs
Minutes
February 16, 2005

Present: Paul Alberto, Dean Dabney, Marty Fraser, Bill Fritz, Hugh Hudson, Charles Marvin, Richard Miller, Cora Presley, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Debbie Rupp, P. C. Tai, and Carol Winkler.
Absent: Sam Cox, Dave Pavesic, George Pullman, George Rainbolt, Rebecca Stout, and Laurie Tis.
Guest: Amy Lederberg.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Paul Alberto, at 11:34 a.m. Dr. Alberto called on Marti Singer, chair of Statutes and Bylaws, to update the committee on the Senate self-study. Dr. Singer distributed packets containing all the information that Statutes and Bylaws has so far on the self-study. She gave a general overview of the materials and asked the chairs to review what is listed as the recommended changes to their committees’ duties. If no changes are needed, she needs to know that as well. All changes need to be submitted by March 25 so that the committee can approve all the recommended changes at its March 28 meeting. Changes to committee memberships will be addressed during the next Senate year.

The chair turned the floor over to Hugh Hudson, chair of the Budget Committee. Dr. Hudson gave a summary of the Budget Committee’s current role and its relationship to FACP. It has been suggested that Budget’s role change so that any item approved by FACP for referral to the President must be reviewed by Budget for comment before it goes to Dr. Patton. Timelines would need to be adjusted. There was some discussion about how quickly decisions have to be made about the budget. It was agreed that a greater public discussion of the budget would be a positive thing.

There was a discussion about the way the process of evaluating academic programs was handled last year when programs needed to be cut. Many on campus are wary of this year’s process. This year’s process should be more transparent and reputable since the Senate will be more involved in the process. There was a brief discussion on the Board of Regents’ program review process. The BOR is supposed to be looking at program duplication across all USG institutions. The BOR will be looking specifically at program duplication at the Atlanta area institutions.

Carol Winkler stated that the President and Provost should be outspoken about their support for the revised academic program process that APACE will be using for program evaluation. Without the administration’s clear support of this transparent process, fear and uncertainty will be strong within the university community. Some faculty and staff are looking for new positions at other institutions out of fear that their departments will be impacted by the impending budget cuts.

Since there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone
Committee assistant