Committee of Chairs
Minutes
May 3, 2006

Present: Paul Alberto, Missy Cody, Dean Dabney, Dabney Dixon, Bill Fritz, Christine Gallant, Cecelia Grindel, Val Miller, George Pullman, George Rainbolt, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Debbie Rupp, Marti Singer, and P. C. Tai.

Absent: Hugh Hudson, Siva Nathan, and Laurie Tis.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Paul Alberto, at 12:10 p.m. The first item of business was the approval of the November 16, 2005 minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes.

The next item of business was the election of two senators to serve on FACP. Dr. Alberto opened the floor for nominations. Dr. Tai nominated Paul Alberto, Dr. Dabney nominated Paul Farnham, and in Hugh Hudson’s absence, Dr. Alberto nominated Jeff Rupp. Nominations were closed and there was a brief discussion about the nominees’ qualifications to serve on FACP. Ballots were distributed and completed. The votes were tallied and the results were that Paul Alberto and Paul Farnham were elected to serve on FACP.

The discussion then turned to the Instructional Delivery Plan (IDP). The BOR has asked all units to submit a plan on how the institution would deliver programs that were 50% web-based or more. The plan needs to include how delivery of other campus services would be delivered as well: library, registrar, and other supporting student services. Dr. Alberto anticipates that this item would be given to a joint sub-committee of CAP and IS&T. Once this group develops a plan, Admissions and Standards, and perhaps other committees, will review it.

Another joint sub-committee is being put together: this one from Faculty Affairs and Budget. This group would review issues surrounding Human Resources and its delivery of services and would include Jerry Rackliffe and Beth Jones as members.

Christine Gallant gave a report from the Cultural Diversity Committee. The undergraduate racial climate survey had been conducted during September 2005 and the committee will complete its report on the data from the survey by June 2006. The discussion then turned to the money the Legislature gave GSU for retention. GSU submitted a proposal on how it would spend the money and Dr. Fritz indicated that the money is targeted to what was proposed. The BOR will hold GSU accountable for using the money in the way that it was proposed.

Discussion has been underway regarding commencement. It has been proposed that the summer and fall commencements be eliminated. Starting Spring 2008, commencement will be held only in the spring at the Georgia Dome. Ph.D. candidates will still be recognized and hooded individually. All of the other graduates will be recognized by group. Discussion is ongoing on whether this should be by college, department, major, or some other way. George Rainbolt suggested taking the commencement dates off the academic calendar so that if plans change, the academic calendar doesn’t have to be resubmitted to the Senate for approval. The commencement dates will continue to be cited on the web and on other university materials.

The discussion returned to the topic of the targeted funds given to GSU for retention. Dr. Dixon recommended that the committee working on this get started right away. Dr. Fritz indicated that the retention project would likely be modeled after the Freshman Learning Communities. This has been a successful program. Initiatives being discussed presently are: sophomore connections, peer mentoring, supplemental instruction, and faculty advisement. Reports are available to departments with data about retention rates, grade distribution, and list serves with majors.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 27 at noon. Since there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone
Committee assistant