Members present were President Carl Patton, Paul Alberto, John de Castro, Fred Jacobs, Charles Jones, John Newman and Sally Wallace. ACE Fellow, Chris Taylor, was present as a visitor. The minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2002 were approved. President Patton reported that the primary issue with Governor-elect Perdue is money. Recently, Dr. Patton talked with him, along with some of the other University System presidents. He had good things to say about higher education. He also understands that colleges and universities experience higher enrollments when the economy is down. Cuts to the instructional budget will not be made, as we originally planned. The research universities do need to have tuition increased. The Governor-elect advised not to have any capital projects in the budget next year. Dr. Patton stated that this is not necessarily good to do, and had suggested to him that he do away with GSFIC and give these funds to the colleges and universities and let them have control over their own buildings. There is talk about the possibility of no raises next year, but that is still under discussion.

The first item of Senate business was the consideration of various motions from the Committee on Admissions and Standards. The Motion to Revise the Faculty Handbook Regarding Learning Outcomes was approved, as was the Motion to Change Commencement Dates in Academic Calendar, the Motion to Revise the hardship Withdrawal Policy, and the Motion to Remove the 10-week Summer Session. Also approved, the Motion on Taking a Course More Than Twice, with the amendment that each course is used only one time in computing the GPA. The Motion on Undergraduate Final Examinations and End-of-Term Assignments was approved as well. Items of business from the Committee on Research, which were approved, included the Motion to Approve the Intellectual Property Policy, the Resolution on Prohibition of Animals in Buildings Housing Research Animals, and the Division of Indirect Cost Recoveries. The Resolution for Increased Funding for Internal Grants Program and Research Office was given a “do pass” with two changes as follows. Paragraph 7 now reads, “Be it resolved that the budget for the Internal Grants Program be increased beginning in Fiscal Year 2004;” and paragraph 8 now reads, “Be it resolved that the budget for the Office of Research and Awards Administration reflect the growth in external funding.”

From the Committee on Faculty Affairs, the Advancement of Women Policy was to be sent back for clarification: the table on page 2 needs correction; in 1.d. “non-traditional” needs clarification, and it is recommended to strike paragraph D, p.5. Assuming these changes, it received a “do pass” recommendation. The Proposal in Support of Domestic Partners Benefits was to be returned to Committee for clarification. The Committee on Planning and Development Resolution on Traffic Safety was approved, as was the committee on APACE’s Resolution on Writing Across the Curriculum. The Committee on Statutes and Bylaws’ Proposal to Add Staff Members to the University Senate also received a positive vote. The latter will add ten voting staff to the floor of the Senate.