UNIVERSITY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes
September 27, 2005

Present:  President Carl Patton, Provost Ron Henry, Paul Alberto, Siva Nathan, Dabney Dixon, Carol Winkler

The minutes were reviewed from September 7. After a few minor changes, the minutes were approved. The minutes from April 27 were reviewed and approved.

Dr. Patton reported that he had met with many of our legislative leaders. These meetings focused on salary increases, funding the formula, and the Science Teaching Lab which is No. 7 on the list of major projects. The Governor is reviewing the RPG (Retention-Progression-Graduation) formula for revision. As an incentive, $3 million - $6 million of the formula would be put at risk based upon raising the retention and graduation levels to state and national levels.

Dr. Henry reported that the credit hours were still only just over 300,000. He is analyzing data on Retention, Progression and Graduation for a report due to the Regents Office by November 15. The Committee is focused on putting a limit on Withdrawals. Most of the students who graduate have fewer “Ws” than the students that do not graduate. Some institutions have policies limiting the number of “Ws”; therefore, we will look at pursuing such a policy. The number of “Ds”, “Fs”, and “Ws” has decreased with the introduction of the MILE (Math Interactive Learning Environment). Students who took two courses in a row taught through the MILE did significantly better than students who had not taken classes in the MILE. Beginning with this Fall Semester, all college algebra courses are being taught in the MILE.

The Resolution on Pay and Benefits was forwarded by Faculty Affairs and the Budget Committee. Since there were some concerns about the wording of some of the statements, Dr. Alberto will speak to the Committees about refining the wording. Dr. Winkler thought a bullet should be inserted applauding the President for the work he is currently doing.

The LGBT Campus Attitude Survey Committee Report was submitted by Cultural Diversity. Dr. Henry thought it would be reasonable to set up an Advisory Board, representative of the University, to address some of the recommendations. Dr. Alberto will discuss with representatives of the Report Task Force and the Cultural Diversity Committee the creation of such an Advisory Board. A copy of the LGBT Survey will be distributed to all committee members for an in-depth discussion at the next meeting.

Dr. Alberto presented a copy of the thank you resolution related to Katrina developed by George Rainbolt, Rebecca Stout, Carol Winkler, and Paul Alberto. It was recommended by the Committee for passage at the next Senate meeting.

The Committee agreed to cancel the October 6 Senate meeting and have the next Senate meeting on December 8. Dr. Winkler thought the Katrina Resolution should be seen by the staff in the various offices as soon as possible. Therefore, the Executive Committee passed the resolution
and will bring it before the full Senate at the next meeting.

The Senate Executive Retreat will be Monday, October 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The next Senate Executive Committee meeting will be Monday, November 28 at 10:00 a.m.

The topics decided on for the Executive Committee Retreat were (1) Retention-to Graduation numbers, (2) Registration process, and (3) the Compression Committee report.

Dr. Alberto and Dr. Henry commented on the workshops on WebCT Vista that were held by SCT and the University System. The workshops were attended by students and faculty. The main concern is that there are two versions of Web CT—Campus Edition and Vista. The attempt to switch to WebCT Vista has had multiple issues, but the company, SCT, will no longer support WebCT-CE past December. The University will keep the current version of WebCT-CE running through June 2006.

Dr. Dixon raised the issue again that Dr. Dabney brought up about campus safety and the number of students waiting for the bus along Peachtree Center. Dr. Henry said there is a safety committee in Planning and Development to address this issue. Dr. Patton said that safety precautions will be done on Decatur Street and Piedmont.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 p.m.