Members Attending:

Cleon Arrington, John de Castro, Bill Decatur, Sam Deitz, Sherry Gaines, Tameka Harper, Ramona Hasan, Ron Henry (chair), Fred Jacobs

Members Absent:

Charles Marvin

Others Attending:

Jerry Rackliffe, Edgar Torbert (secretary)

The minutes of December 12 were approved as distributed.

Fees

Dr. Deitz suggested setting a cap on total fee increases before discussing individual fees. Dr. Henry questioned what to include within the cap, e.g., the technology fee. Dr. Decatur voiced doubt the Regents would approve a new technology fee, but spoke in favor of submitting the proposal just in case.

Dr. de Castro made a motion to recommend the technology fee at $36 per semester. Dr. Gaines seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Deitz suggested consideration of a percentage cap on fee increases, excluding the technology fee. Mr. Rackliffe stated the semester equivalent of all current fees as $213. Dr. Deitz suggested a 5% cap or $11. There was general agreement to begin discussion of individual fees with this cap in mind.

Dr. de Castro communicated the recommendation of the Senate Budget Committee that fee increases not be approved to cover one-time costs.

Health Services

Dr. Decatur pointed out an increase of $1 in the health services fee would more than cover the projected salary and fringe benefit increases for staff. Dr. Deitz reiterated concern about building both contingency and reserve accounts in the proposed budget.

Ms. Harper stated other institutions used resident interns to stretch personnel dollars. She also stated students she had surveyed did not see a need for additional hours of an on-campus psychiatrist. Dr. de Castro voiced support for the additional hours in order to be able to deal with crisis situations requiring prescription of drugs. Dr. Deitz questioned the large increase in budgeted supplies between FY98 and FY99.

Dr. Jacobs observed the fee proposal process was flawed in that there was no accounting for how
efficiently and effectively funds from the current fees were being used. Dr. Gaines added that the lack of data on patients was more than just a budget presentation issue. Dr. Deitz echoed the comments of Dr. Jacobs regarding the need for effectiveness-efficiency audits. Dr. Henry responded administrative and support unit assessments would provide this kind of information, but only on a five-year cycle.

Dr. Deitz made a motion to recommend increasing the health services fee by $1 [from $15 per semester (currently $10 per quarter) to $16 per semester]. Dr. Jacobs seconded the motion. Ms. Harper expressed opposition to any increase. The motion passed with one nay vote.

**Athletic Fee**

Dr. Henry pointed out the athletic fee proposal was complicated by a projected FY98 budget deficit of approximately $600K due to an unrealistic fund raising goal. He characterized the issue as to how much should the athletic fee mitigate the corresponding fund raising requirements in future years.

Ms. Harper noted significant improvement in the men's basketball program for which she found student support, but noted concern among some students that other areas of athletics had not improved as well. She voiced support for raising the athletic fee, but not for the amount requested. She also expressed opposition to increasing scholarships.

Dr. Deitz noted the proposal assumed a 6% increase in tuition and fees in projecting the cost of scholarships, which could now be downsized to 3%. Dr. de Castro expressed dismay at the current deficit and the three-year projections showing reduced fund raising requirements in future years. He consequently voiced serious doubts about all of the figures presented in the proposal.

Dr. Henry pointed out a question about the Title IX (gender equity) requirement for scholarships. He noted a publication from NCAA indicating OCR said the percentage of scholarship dollars for female athletes had to match the percentage of athletes who are female, rather than the percentage of all students who are female. He added that in this case GSU was already in compliance with a higher percentage of scholarship dollars going to female athletes.

Mr. Rackliffe indicated the projected shortfall of $599K for FY98 had been determined after careful analysis of expenditure history for athletics. He noted a discrepancy in the expectation of the Athletics Department that the GSU Foundation would provide $500K, $300K and $300K in three consecutive years versus $500K over three years.

Dr. Decatur noted the fund raising goal had been increased by $500K for FY98, but even so fund raising efforts in previous years had not met the $150K base on which the increase was to be made. Dr. Deitz expressed reservation about asking students to "bail out" the Athletics Department and administration. Dr. Decatur stated the objective was not to have students bail out the current deficit, but rather to reduce the fund raising requirements in future years. He added the lack of fund raising history necessitated a period of "friend raising" as the men's basketball program became successful and developed a following. He noted Dr. McGinnis had already found positive impact on the capital campaign.

Dr. Deitz questioned the proposal to add three new vans. He suggested a broader ownership of the university van fleet. Dr. Decatur indicated options for van operations were under consideration, including outsourcing. Dr. de Castro advised against funding the drug testing program, since it had
not been mandated by the NCAA nor costed in any detail.

Dr. Henry suggested a $5 fee increase package as follows: (1) $1 to be designated for reducing the fund raising requirement in FY99; and (2) $4 to fund (a) ½ of the NCAA Division I inflationary adjustment, (b) ½ of the requested tuition scholarship increase as noted above, (c) media upgrade package as presented, (d) 1/3 of the van package, and (4) personnel increases as presented.

Dr. Deitz made a motion to recommend the $5 fee increase package above. Dr. Arrington seconded the motion.

Dr. de Castro questioned the competency of the Athletics Department in budgetary matters. Dr. Henry noted the recent hiring of its first budget manager. Dr. Decatur added that the problem was fund raising. He pointed out the majority of funds were for salaries and scholarships with very limited operating budgets for the teams. Dr. Deitz observed that in most institutions athletic scholarships were paid through fund raising rather than student fees.

Dr. Gaines moved tabling the athletic fee motion in order also to review the student/university center fee in the context of the $11 cap. The motion to table passed.

Student/University Center Fee

Mr. Rackliffe commented that identifying student/university center continuing costs from FY98 to FY99 was complicated due to the start-up mode of operation in FY98. He added the fee proposal assumed full FC10 funding of OMP (additional $142K).

Dr. Deitz noted on-going questions about the level of staffing. Dr. Decatur indicated it was still unclear from the materials submitted how many positions were new or had already been filled. Dr. de Castro questioned the need to build the reserve with a $6 fee initially and suggested a phase-in approach. Dr. Decatur stated the OMP issue would be considered along with other requests for new FC10 funding, but spoke in favor of quality care for the new facility. Ms. Harper reported no reaction from students to the fee proposal.

Dr. Decatur made a motion to recommend increasing the student/university center fee by $6 [from $25.50 per semester (currently $17 per quarter) to $31.50 per semester] with $0.50 designated for the reserve fund. Dr. de Castro objected to this increase as too high, with particular objection to the number of staff positions. Dr. Decatur withdrew his motion.

Dr. Deitz made a motion to recommend increasing the student/university center fee by $5 [from $25.50 per semester (currently $17 per quarter) to $30.50 per semester] with $0.50 designated for the reserve fund. Ms. Hasan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Athletic Fee (Continued)

Dr. Arrington asked for clarification of the tabled motion to increase the athletic fee by $5 with regard to the $1 portion to reduce the fund raising requirement. Mr. Rackliffe suggested the motion be amended to specify at least $1 would be applied to reducing the fund raising requirement in FY99 and that the $1 portion would be rescinded when fund raising reached the levels originally proposed. This amendment was accepted. The amended motion passed with two nay votes.

Recreation Center Fee
Dr. de Castro made a motion to suspend collection of the recreation center facilities fee in FY99 in the event the Regents did not approve the project during FY98. Dr. Deitz seconded the motion. Dr. Decatur commented on plans to use the fund balance to add additional levels to "M" deck rather than pursue more expensive parking as part of the recreation center construction. The motion passed.

**Other Issues**

Dr. Decatur pointed out additional issues to be considered, including the summer and Maymester fee rates and differentiation between part-time and full-time fee rates, if any. Dr. Henry noted the normal summer rate is 2/3 the semester rate. Dr. de Castro suggested further consideration of which fees are time-based.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert  
Approved January 16, 1998