MINUTES
FISCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PRESIDENT (FACP)
March 6, 1998

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

Members Absent: Tameka Harper, Charles Marvin

Others Attending: Roy Bahl, Tim Crimmins, Jerry Rackliffe, Paula Stephan, Edgar Torbert (secretary)

The minutes of February 20 were approved as distributed.

School of Policy Studies
Dr. Bahl presented an overview of the FY99 budget requests from the School of Policy Studies. He highlighted the requests for faculty positions to enhance instruction, research, and interdisciplinary studies and to inform debate on policy issues in the state legislature and community.

Dr. Deitz asked about relative priorities among the requests. Dr. Bahl emphasized the requests for faculty positions in policy analysis information management, health economics and polling/evaluation. Dr. Deitz also asked about the proposed salary levels for the faculty positions. Dr. Bahl noted a jump in salaries in economics this year and stated salaries in economics were generally higher than in public administration and urban studies.

Dr. de Castro asked for clarification of the unfunded position for which a budget request had been made. Dr. Bahl responded the position had been covered at one half from the Fiscal Research Center and the second half from other budget lines in the school. Dr. Henry added the position had been created prior to establishment of the School of Policy Studies, but had not transferred from the College of Business Administration. He pointed out without line budgeting it was difficult to track such transactions.

Dr. de Castro inquired about the status of joint faculty appointments between the School of Policy Studies and other units. Dr. Bahl reported progress with social work, nursing, education, and law in filling joint appointments, and developing efforts with the College of Business Administration. Dr. Gaines commented on discussion with social work and nursing regarding the health economist position.

Dr. de Castro asked about growth in credit hour production. Dr. Stephan replied credit hours in economics rose 25% in one year which could lead to progress-toward-degree issues, and the number of new MPA students doubled. She added the joint MPA/JD program grew from zero to 28 students, and initiation of the undergraduate policy track in the semester curriculum would further increase enrollments.

Dr. Henry inquired about the number of applicants for the joint PhD program in public policy with Georgia Tech. Dr. Stephan responded 14 applications had been received to date. She pointed out the one-year lag in semester conversion at Georgia Tech had had a negative impact on the number of applications.
Dr. Crimmins asked about the number of credit hours produced by the School of Policy Studies for the College of Business Administration. Dr. Stephan indicated the tally was 1,800 credit hours. Dr. Henry commented this could be viewed in the faculty teaching duties report available online. Dr. Deitz commended not double counting these hours.

Dr. Bahl cited an approximate balance between percentage of faculty and percentage of credit hours produced, but a much higher percentage of the external dollars generated.

Dr. Jacobs asked for clarification of policy analysis information management. Dr. Bahl indicated the focus would be on how to use panel, survey, and case study data to make policy decisions, with a real-life laboratory tie-in to the classroom.

Finance and Administration
Dr. Decatur introduced the FY99 budget requests from Finance and Administration. Dr. Deitz asked which of the requests would Dr. Decatur consider critical needs. Dr. Decatur emphasized the requests for regulatory-contractual compliance, safety, and library security. He added that the preventive maintenance request would alleviate further compounding of deferred maintenance, and the energy conservation request was actually to use utility savings already realized to retrofit lighting in Sparks Hall, with resulting utility savings as well.

Dr. Deitz asked about the possibility of expending indirect cost dollars for the safety items associated with labs in the College of Arts and Sciences (e.g., fume hood testing supplies). Dr. Decatur replied this would be counter to current Senate policies regarding allocation of indirect cost funds.

Dr. Jacobs inquired about the anticipated starting date for the library security measures. Dr. Decatur responded if funded, the security guards would begin work July 1, and the turnstiles would be installed as contingency funds for that purpose came available. He added that a survey of other institutions indicated library security guards are widely used. Dr. Jacobs suggested the turnstiles should be installed first to see if this one-time expense measure would solve the security problems. He also suggested students could be employed as security guards. Dr. Decatur replied training costs in view of high turnover of students in such jobs would be a problem, and observed students were generally not interested in this kind of work. Dr. de Castro asked about the nature of the existing security problem. Dr. Henry referred to the weekly police reports of problems in the library.

Dr. Crimmins recommended changing statement FA1 of the Finance and Administration goals for FY98-FY99 to replace the word "exceptional" in the expression "exceptional customer service". Dr. Jacobs suggested wording to the effect, "exceed expectations".

Dr. de Castro asked if the Commerce Building OMP request would be covered directly by formula funding from USGa. Dr. Decatur responded the request was included so it would not "fall through the cracks". Dr. Henry asked if the entire amount requested would be needed in FY99. Dr. Decatur replied it would be better to set aside the funds and make use of the one-time savings.

Dr. Henry noted the request for computer network support and the question of the mix of central support versus division-based support. Mr. Rackliffe responded the request was related to software conversion and positions funded this year by contingency funds. Dr. Decatur added the division had borne all the redirection it could afford at this point and diversion of staff to PeopleSoft had resulted in substantial backfill needs. Dr. Henry also pointed out that computer personnel in Finance and Administration had been moved to Information Systems and Technology at the time of
its formation, and that ISAT did not have adequate workstation support staff to cover the additional positions. Dr. Decatur noted the need for programmers to work on Finance and Administration specific software.

Dr. de Castro inquired if the energy conservation requests were one-time items. Dr. Decatur responded there was a long list of projects beyond the lighting retrofits in Sparks Hall. Dr. de Castro suggested the request could then be rephrased as an on-going HVAC and electrical upgrades fund. Dr. Jacobs asked about heat controls for classrooms by sector. Dr. Decatur responded there is not a central control for the entire campus, but only for the core buildings. He noted the buildings acquired in recent years had their own systems, and that the major complaint were with seasonal system conversions which had to be done manually. Dr. Crimmins reminded that semester conversion would require some adjustment of HVAC control schedules.

Dr. de Castro questioned increasing funds for the post office contract given performance. Ms. Hasan noted improved service. Dr. Decatur indicated data was collected quarterly on reliability of service.

Gerontology Center
Dr. Henry presented a FY99 budget request from Gerontology Center for a post-doctoral research fellow, which he noted the deans' advisory board for the center had recommended. Dr. de Castro asked about the location of the proposed position. Dr. Henry indicated the position would be in the center to assist with development of grant proposals. Dr. Deitz added the person would work with faculty in the participating colleges. Dr. Crimmins raised the issue of space for the new person. Dr. de Castro suggested the position be reclassified as a staff position.

International Programs
Dr. Henry presented the FY99 budget requests from International Programs. He highlighted the upgrade of the vacant director position to enhance efforts to obtain external funding for international programs, which he pointed out was recommended by FACP last year, but was removed in the final allocation. Dr. Crimmins called attention to a related recommendation from the International Subcommittee of the Senate APACE Committee to increase funds available for international initiative grants to $150K. Dr. de Castro asked if this position could be expected to yield a payback. Dr. Henry replied this was the case at other institutions. Dr. de Castro inquired if the position would concentrate on international activities in the School of Policy Studies. Dr. Henry responded the scope would be university-wide.

Center for Teaching and Learning
Dr. Henry presented the FY99 budget request from the Center for Teaching and Learning for funding of a new faculty workshop.

Affirmative Action
Dr. Henry presented the FY99 budget requests from Affirmative Action. He highlighted the upgrade of the Administrative Assistant position to AA/EEO Specialist to expedite processing by eliminating a level of review.

Women's Place
Dr. Henry presented the FY99 budget requests for establishment of the Women's Place. He noted such centers were collectively funded by vice presidential areas at other institutions, and that space would be provided in the student center. Ms. Hasan commented on the need for the Women's Place and the campuswide benefits.
Maymester
Dr. Deitz inquired about funding for Maymester faculty. Dr. Henry responded funds would have to be set aside for this purpose, and he would discuss the matter with the Deans' Group. Dr. Decatur pointed out the Board of Regents had directed Maymester should be self-supporting from tuition. Dr. Deitz suggested a one course limit for faculty at 10% of nine-month salary. Dr. Crimmins asked if payments could somehow be delayed until the next fiscal year. Dr. Decatur responded the auditors would not allow this.

How to Proceed?
Dr. de Castro asked how FACP would proceed toward decisions on the budget requests. Dr. Henry responded it was difficult to proceed without an idea of what the amount of new funds would be. He asked Mr. Rackliffe about revenue projections. Mr. Rackliffe indicated he had prepared projections, but did not have the essential information about trade-off of state appropriations for internal revenues. Dr. Deitz observed flat-lining of revenues might be optimistic given the uncertainties of semester conversion. Dr. de Castro suggested categorizing items to be funded as of July 1 versus January 1, to provide a cushion. Dr. Henry stated FACP would meet March 26 or 27 to continue these discussions.

Senate Budget Committee Funding Priorities
Dr. de Castro presented a memo outlining budget priorities recommended by the Senate Budget Committee. Dr. Crimmins commented on the need for benchmarks. Dr. Henry stated strategic focus would be the main driver.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved March 27, 1998

Please send questions or comments to Mary Nell Stone