Members present: Ron Henry (chair), John de Castro, Fenwick Huss, Fred Jacobs, Larry Kelley, Tom Lewis, Carol Whitcomb, André Young.

Members absent: Ahmed Abdelal, Sid Harris.


Minutes of October 15, 1999 were approved.

Child Development Center

Dr. Kaufman presented across-the-board, Child Development Center user fee increases of 5%. She reported high demand for services and the availability of Lanette L. Suttles scholarships for those who could not afford the fees. Dr. de Castro asked how the additional revenues would be used. Dr. Kaufman responded that the increase would be applied to salaries. Dr. Jacobs asked how the fees compared with other downtown facilities of this type. Dr. Kaufman replied that monthly fees for infants were typically $600 downtown compared to $450 for the center. Dr. Crimmins asked if the center paid rent for its space. Dr. Kaufman responded that the university contributed the space. Dr. Jacobs asked why the proposed increase was only 5% given the disparity with other downtown facilities. Dr. Kaufman replied that the proposed fee increase was an estimate of "what would fly." Dr. Kaufman added that if there were additional revenues those funds could be used for training and hiring additional staff and maintenance and repair of the center. She also noted concern with security for the center. Dr. Crimmins commented that the low overhead for the operation reflected the university contribution of space. Dr. Henry asked about FC10 dollars for the center. Dr. Deitz responded FC10 dollars were used exclusively for professional staff salaries with the exception of college end-of-year expenditures for the center. Dr. Crimmins asked about the split of FC10 and fee salaries. Dr. Kaufman replied that the funding split was 50-50. Dr. Jacobs asked about the split of student and staff users. Dr. Kaufman responded that the user split was 60 (students)-40. Dr. Crimmins asked about the number served. Dr. Kaufman cited enrollment of 82 children.

Transportation & Parking

Ms. Murphy presented an increase for the transportation fee from $14 to $16 for fall and spring and from $9 to $11 for summer and changes in parking fees as follows: (1) monthly faculty and staff from $37.50 to $40, (2) monthly M deck from $150 to $160, (3) parking after 4:00 p.m. with budget card from $2.25 to $2, and (4) parking after 4:00 p.m. daily rate from $3 to $2. Ms. Murphy stated the intent of the transportation fee increase was to reverse the growing deficit for transportation and eliminate that deficit by 2010. She added services would also be modified with stadium shuttles not running after 8:00 p.m., but with an accompanying price break for on-campus parking after 4:00 p.m. Dr. Huss cautioned that the evening parking pattern might change with changes in class schedules. Dr. de Castro voiced opposition to separating transportation and parking, given their close relationship and the fact one has a sizeable deficit and the other a sizeable fund balance. He also proposed that the cost of leasing the stadium lots should be under parking instead of transportation. Ms. Murphy responded that the parking fund balance was a reserve for repair and replacement of the temporary decks with those projects currently estimated to be $16M. She added that the original transportation fee request in 1997 had been for $14 which would have averted the deficit situation. Dr. Deitz suggested the magnitude of the fund balance should be based on the annual bond payments rather than total cost of the projects. Mr. Kelley offered to repackage the proposal including deck construction and debt service. Dr. de Castro suggested the proposal separate operating and capital expenses. Mr. Young reported student support for the transportation and parking proposal as presented. Dr. Jacobs asked if there was concern among students not using the shuttle about paying the transportation fee. Ms. Murphy replied that a user only fee was not feasible. Dr. Henry commented that the shuttle was another "common good" issue. Dr. Huss asked if there was a parking deck replacement plan. Dr. Henry responded there was not a formal plan, only an assumption the replacements must happen. Mr. Kelley suggested one plan might be to build two of three decks out of the fund balance and the other with bond funds. Dr. Crimmins observed that the master plan showed other uses for the land currently occupied by the temporary decks. Dr. de Castro urged presentation of a combined spreadsheet for transportation and parking showing a breakdown of capital and operating expenses. It was agreed Mr. Kelley and Ms. Murphy would resubmit the fee request material in this combined format.

Student Activity Fee
Dr. Bryant presented the proposed student activity fee increase from $46 to $52. Dr. Bryant pointed out the fee increase approved by FACP for Fiscal Year 2000 had been denied by the Board of Regents. She explained that as a result the student activity fee fund balance would be eroded to some extent this year in order to cover essential costs. She added that approximately $1M of the total student activity fee budget was for student life personnel salaries which had been switched from FC10 in earlier rounds of redirection. Dr. Bryant stated the increased reliance on student activity fees for salaries had begun to affect program quality as revenue increases, without annual fee hikes, did not match salary and fixed cost increases. She indicated the proposed fee increase had been reviewed by several student groups and recommended by the student-majority Student Activity Fee Committee. Mr. Young reported discussion of the proposal by the Student Government Association which felt the fee should not be raised, but instead expenditures cut. Mr. Young stated concern about student activity fees being wasted by some funded groups. Dr. Henry cited another concern with regard to the impact on part-time student enrollments of not having a graduated fee. Dr. Deitz asked about the difference in use of fees at comparable institutions. Dr. Bryant outlined the current “tiering” model adapted from the funding pattern at Georgia Tech. Dr. de Castro asked for clarification of how the new funds would be used. Dr. Bryant replied that the funds would be used to cover salary increases and to offset reallocations from programming.

Student Center

Dr. Heller presented the Student Center/University Center facilities fee increase from $32 to $35. He indicated the new revenues would be used to cover staff salary increases, to displace lost income from equipment rental charges to student organizations which would no longer be charged, to start an equipment replacement reserve, and to contribute to the building improvement/replacement reserve. Dr. Heller stated the student advisory committee had not yet met to discuss the proposed facilities fee increase, but would meet the following week [confirmation of their endorsement of the fee increase was received by the Provost]. Dr. de Castro suggested the reduction in equipment rental charges could offset some the need for increasing the student activity fee. Dr. Crimmins asked if the university audio services unit provided for the Student Center. Dr. Heller responded the Student Center had its own equipment and personnel for this purpose.

Housing

Dr. Trinklein presented a proposed increase in the housing fee from $2,095 to $2,170 per fall and spring, from $896 to $1,020 for summer, and from $480 to $510 for May. Dr. Trinklein noted the scheduled debt service jump and adjustments in occupancy and operating cost figures in the pro forma. Mr. Kelley added that the relatively small increase in the housing fee was reflective of market conditions. Dr. Deitz asked about current occupancy. Dr. Trinklein stated occupancy was at 1,928 beds with 1,890 beds revenue-producing. Dr. Henry commented that the vacancy rate was only 2.5%. Dr. Henry asked if any rooms were off-line. Dr. Trinklein replied that only one bedroom was off-line, due to a leak. Dr. de Castro asked about the capital expenditures shown on the pro forma. Dr. Trinklein responded that painting and recarpeting were the primary items. Dr. de Castro asked about summer use. Dr. Trinklein responded that conferences and internships accounted for much of the summer traffic. Dr. Huss asked about comparisons with competitors. Dr. Trinklein replied that student apartments in the area, Georgia Tech apartment-style dorms, and those at UGA were considered. Mr. Lewis asked about shuttle operations between the GSU Village and the main campus, in particular for mornings and evenings, as an alternative to MARTA. Dr. Trinklein stated the number of students who could ride on a single bus was the issue. Dr. de Castro asked about the possibility of including summers at the same rate on academic year leases to encourage more year-round occupancy. Dr. Trinklein reacted that students were generally indecisive when it came to making year-long housing arrangements.

Athletics

Mr. Hartwell presented the proposed increase in the athletics fee from $75 to $78 on behalf of Mr. Manning, who was unavailable due to a fund-raising trip. Mr. Hartwell pointed out the need to upgrade the $13 per day meal allowance for full scholarship athletes, the Title IX issue with the budget for women’s softball, and the loss of key staff members to other departments paying higher salaries. Dr. Huss asked about retention/graduation rates. Mr. Hartwell cited athlete graduation rates in the 85-90% range, which is higher than the rest of the student body. Dr. de Castro asked about Senate committee oversight of the fee request and review by student groups. Mr. Hartwell stated the Senate Committee on Athletics had recommended the increase, and the increase had also been presented to the Student Activity Fee Committee. Dr. Deitz commented that Presidential Scholars did not get food allowances. Dr. Henry noted concern on the part of Mr. Manning and the coaches about the choice of foods obtained with the $13 per day allowance. Mr. Hartwell added that the PantherCard would be used as the means of limiting choices during the 5-day week. Dr. Deitz cited the need to balance fee revenue and outside funding with respect to student interest in athletics. Mr. Lewis called attention to the public relations factor of athletics and the favorable reaction in the community to upgrading the men's basketball program.
Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Reduction to Meet Health Plan Costs

Dr. Henry warned of the possibility of a mid-year budget reduction to meet unfunded health plan costs. He stated the university share might be $2.7M. He added that the Board of Regents had made a request to Governor Barnes to cover this overrun with state surplus funds, but if not, this reduction would also affect the base budget for Fiscal Year 2001.

In closing, Dr. Deitz encouraged restraint in recommending any increases in fees to the cost for graduate students taking a single course due to unfavorable competition costwise already with Oglethorpe, Piedmont, and Kennesaw among others.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
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