Minutes of December 1, 2000 were approved as distributed.

Fee Recommendations

Dr. Henry distributed his set of fee recommendations as a starting point for discussion. Dr. Henry followed the recommendations of the Student Fee Committee (SFC) regarding the student activity fee ($38) and the recreation program fee ($21). He differed from SFC on the athletic fee ($80) and the transportation fee ($17) for which SFC recommended no increases. He followed in spirit the request of SFC that any increases for these fees be designated for scholarships and salaries in the case of the athletics fee and enhanced MARTA student discounts for the transportation fee.

Mr. Edwards asked about the impact of the changes on chances of approval by the Board of Regents of the overall package of fees. Dr. Henry responded that the package resulted in a 6.75% increase which was reasonable given the lack of increases for these fees for FY2001 and that having good pro forma would also strengthen the case.

Dr. Jacobs asked about the elasticity of MARTA pricing and consideration thereof if a large number of people take advantage of the program. Ms. Johnston noted the discount program would be run on a trial basis for six months to gauge response with the reserve to cover costs. She stated pricing would be reviewed on the basis of results for the trial period.

Ms. Johnston distributed two handouts concerning parking deck replacement and leasing issues. She pointed out of 5,489 spaces overall; 3,364 spaces are allocated for student parking, and of these, 1,669 spaces are in temporary decks. Ms. Johnston noted replacement of all temporary spaces would require an increase of $29.23 per month for parking fees and replacement of 1,000 temporary spaces, $20.88 per month. She also referred to peripheral parking in the Master Plan.

Dr. Jacobs asked about analyses of revenue generated per space and the relationship of parking fees to the cost to replace a space. Mr. Rackl!iffe stated current figures showed annual revenue of approximately $600 per space. Ms. Johnston noted need for further study of the issue.

Dr. Jacobs asked about construction of student housing near the campus with its own parking and
how this would affect demand. Dr. Henry replied that only 370 students would be accommodated so the impact on campus parking would be negligible.

Dr. de Castro urged softening the hit from deck replacement costs by building up the fund balance through yearly parking rate increases. He reminded that the pro forma presented to FACP last year had shown yearly increases for this purpose. He observed the pro forma did not show an increase for the transportation fee. Mr. Rackliffe responded an increase was recommended by FACP and requested for FY2001, but was not approved by the Board of Regents.

Dr. Abdelal asked about the proposed use of revenue from a $3 increase in the transportation fee. Dr. Henry replied $160K in new revenue would partially cover the cost of an additional $10 discount for MARTA monthly cards. Dr. Crimmins commented that the Master Plan called for encouraging students to ride MARTA, but there might be a point at which competitiveness for students would be affected if parking options were reduced. Dr. Abdelal added that MARTA was not accessible for most students.

Mr. Edwards stated that of the issues discussed relating to the various fees, students were most vocal about increasing MARTA ridership. Dr. de Castro noted the only fee issue brought to his attention by students was opposition to the transportation fee. He repeated his preference for raising parking fees to finance deck replacement, parking operations, etc. Ms. Johnston voiced concern about penalizing students who do not have MARTA as a viable option. Dr. Henry stated his recommendation regarding the transportation fee reflected his honoring the recommendation of the SFC.

Dr. Huss asked about the level of use of the stadium lots. Dr. Henry replied that the lots were fully used in the fall and spring, and to a lesser extent in the summer. Dr. Huss asked about the possibility of leasing additional spaces at the stadium. Ms. Johnston responded that other satellite locations would be a more likely scenario.

Ms. Williams expressed concern about what would happen if the trial program for $10 MARTA discounts for faculty and staff did not work. Ms. Johnston indicated the parking reserve would be the safety net for this program.

Ms. Williams commented on the athletics fee proposal regarding academic support which she characterized as a service primarily for the men’s basketball team since other student-athletes were generally successful academically. Mr. Edwards replied that academic support was not exclusively for students in academic difficulty and that athletes from all sports benefitted.

Mr. Edwards announced a campaign by the Student Government Association in January 2001 to inform students about how fees are used.

Dr. de Castro noted Athletics had promised to raise more money rather than depend so heavily on the athletics fee, and that basketball success was to be the prelude to fund-raising success. He questioned whether fund raising was being intensified as promised. Dr. Torbert noted other institutions also rely on football revenues to keep athletic fees down. Dr. Henry pointed out that fund-raising success lags somewhat behind basketball success.
Mr. Edwards stated a strategic plan was needed from Athletics before students would support an increase in the athletic fee. Ms. Williams commented on the lack of student interest (attendance) in sports other than basketball. Ms. Johnston observed expenditures for Athletics were a drop-in-the-bucket compared to other institutions, and that money had to be spent to raise money.

Dr. Abdelal stated Athletics did not have support from the university community. Ms. Johnston commented on public awareness of the university as a result of athletic success as evidenced by televised remarks about the university by Dick Vitale. Dr. Henry noted public interest aroused by the basketball victory over the University of Georgia. Dr. Abdelal acknowledged the victory over Georgia was a sign of improvement in the program.

Dr. de Castro reacted that the seeding period should be ending and rewards should be reaped now. Dr. Henry pointed out that Mr. Manning had been on board only two years and that fund raising required longer cultivation. Dr. Huss suggested linking salary increases to fund raising in order to provide a greater incentive for succeeding with those efforts. Dr. Henry noted larger obligations associated with moving to another conference.

Dr. de Castro suggested that since it appeared FACP was split 50-50 on the athletics fee that the increase be halved to $2.50 as a compromise. Dr. Henry responded that $4 was needed in order to cover scholarships and salaries. Dr. Jacobs urged the increase be contingent upon completion of the Athletics strategic plan. Dr. Abdelal voiced support for a $4 increase on the basis of the recent basketball success. Ms. Williams commented that Athletics had many successes in addition to basketball.

Dr. Huss asked about the need for additional academic support personnel. Dr. Henry explained that Carol Cohen was presently split between academic support and women’s sports and that with the move of academic support to space in the gym vacated by Recreation, overseeing both would be difficult. He added that academic support involved a large number of student tutors who required coordination.

Mr. Edwards advised that it would be easier to sell students on the reduced amount of the fee increase.

Dr. de Castro made a motion seconded by Dr. Huss to recommend increasing the athletics fee by $2.50 with the stipulation of completion of the Athletics strategic plan. It was noted the Board of Regents historically round up fee increases to the next full dollar. Drs. de Castro and Huss accepted the modification of the motion to $3. The motion passed.

Ms. Johnston made a motion seconded by Mr. Edwards to recommend increasing the transportation fee by $3 with the stipulation of using the resulting revenues for the MARTA discount card program. The motion passed.

Dr. Henry pointed out the FACP recommendations for the athletics and transportation fees reduced the total fees (with his other recommendations to FACP) to $330. Dr. de Castro urged keeping the overall increase to 5% or less. He recommended accomplishing this objective by reducing the combination of proposed student activity and recreation fees by $4. Dr. Abdelal spoke for protecting the proposed increase in the student activity fee because of its impact on campus.
cultural activities and making up the reduction in the recreation fee by means of user fees. Ms. Williams added the proposed increase in the student activity fee was supported by students and should be similarly supported as in the case of the fee increase recommended by the College of Law students for their dedicated student activity fee.

Dr. Abdelal asked about the graduated fee structure whereby part-time students pay lesser fees. Dr. Henry stated the recommendation from FACP in the prior to two years to request authorization for the graduated fee would be resubmitted to the Board of Regents. Mr. Rackliffe reminded that the graduated fee was structured so that it would be revenue neutral (versus the flat fee structure).

Mr. Edwards noted student support for the graduated fee structure. He also applauded the efforts of Recreation to involve students in development of the program for the new building. He noted higher demand on student activity fees due to new chartered student organizations. Dr. Abdelal added that student activity fees help fund the Honors Day program.

Dr. de Castro made a motion seconded by Dr. Jacobs to recommend holding the total fees to $326 by reducing the requested increases for the student activity and recreation fees by $2 each. The motion failed to pass.

Dr. Abdelal made a motion seconded by Dr. de Castro to recommend a $2 increase for the student activity fee (to $36). The motion passed.

Dr. de Castro made a motion seconded by Dr. Jacobs to recommend reducing the proposed recreation fee by $1 (to $20). The motion passed.

Dr. Abdelal asked if it would be feasible to separate staff and faculty parking rates coupled with a plan for lot assignments. Dr. Henry advised such an approach would be complicated and suggested waiting for the run of the pilot program for MARTA discounts. Dr. Abdelal recommended better advertising of the “S” deck option for staff wishing to pay less for parking.

Dr. de Castro made a motion seconded by Dr. Jacobs to request flexibility to increase monthly parking rates for faculty and staff by $5 after further review by FACP. Dr. Henry noted the necessity of justifying the increase for the Board of Regents. Dr. de Castro replied depreciation/deck replacement could be cited. Dr. Abdelal urged consideration of differential fees by lot. Ms. Williams noted staff complaints about parking fees as compared to those charged by the Georgia Building Authority. Ms. Williams urged consideration of parking fees keyed to salary levels. The motion passed.

Ms. Johnston stated the university would need to act on parking fees in a manner consistent with the master plan and with being a good downtown neighbor as well as doing what is best for the university. Dr. Henry noted a transportation fee for faculty and staff might be considered in the future.

Dr. de Castro raised the issue of recreation user fees for faculty and staff. Ms. Williams commented that faculty and staff were able to pay more than students because they generally make more money than students. Mr. Edwards pointed out students would pay not only the recommended $20 recreation programming fee but also the on-going $53 recreation facility fee.
Dr. de Castro suggested basing faculty and staff user fees on actual cost of operation, which would be $84 according to the recreation fee proposal. Ms. Johnston stated there might be bond implications if the facility were not primarily used by students. Dr. de Castro expressed concern again about the impact on lower paid staff. Dr. Abdelal asked about the rationale for charging recent graduates less than others. Dr. Henry replied this was a concession to their having paid the recreation facility fee prior to its construction.

Dr. de Castro made a motion seconded by Dr. Abdelal to recommend a recreation user fee of $18 per month for faculty, staff and recent graduates and $25 per month for other graduates. Mr. Edwards commented that user fees could be considered later and requested postponement of the vote. It was agreed to postpone action on this matter.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved January 5, 2001