Members present: Ron Henry (chair), Ahmed Abdelal, John de Castro, Jerry Edwards, Sid Harris, Fenwick Huss, Fred Jacobs, Larry Kelley, Tom Lewis, Leslie Williams

Members absent: None

Others present: Jerry Rackliffe, Edgar Torbert

Recommendation(s): Expend end-of-year funds for Instructional Technology ($625K) and Quality Improvement Fund grants ($459K) and flip-flop remainder to FY2001.

Minutes of April 25 were approved as distributed.

Dr. Henry introduced new members for FY01: Leslie Williams, President of the Staff Advisory Council, and Jerry Edwards, President of the Student Government Association.

Senate Research Committee Resolution

Dr. Henry called attention to the Senate Research Committee resolution calling for a 15% or more increase in the Internal Grants Program budget for FY01. He noted the resolution was received after FY01 allocations had been finalized. He added Dr. Crow was proceeding with an evaluation of the Internal Grant Programs, which would be available for the new Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs. He suggested any action on the Senate Research Committee resolution should be deferred until completion of the program evaluation and the arrival of the new vice president. Dr. Harris asked about the status of the vice presidential search. Dr. Henry replied there were two remaining candidates, and the search would conclude shortly.

Dr. de Castro emphasized the importance of the Internal Grant Programs to faculty and urged at least some increase in the budget as a signal of support for faculty research. He added strong leadership in the research office was also essential. Dr. Henry pointed out new funding in the last two years for Faculty Mentoring Grants and Research Team Grants as well as new funding for graduate research assistants over a number of years. Dr. de Castro commented that the grants should not be exclusively for leveraging purposes, but also to assist faculty with publications. Dr. Abdelal suggested contingency funds could be used to supplement the Internal Grant Programs in FY01. Dr. Henry responded availability of contingency funds would be dependent on enrollments and being able to meet prior commitments of contingency funds.

Dr. Abdelal commended the Research Initiation Program as a means of getting new faculty thinking about research right away. Dr. Henry pointed out the deans had supplemented university-level funds for that program.

Dr. Jacobs asked about the timing of the evaluation of the Internal Grant Programs. Dr. Henry answered the evaluation would be completed by the end of October. He observed contingency funds for the Internal Grant Programs could not be determined any earlier due to the funding gap pending the one-time supplemental budget allocation for health insurance. Ms. Williams asked about other uses of contingency funds. Dr. Henry noted mandatory contingency fund commitments and SCT/Banner year-one implementation costs (see below).

Dr. Huss urged that the evaluation of the Internal Grant Programs be reviewed not only by the new Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs, but also appropriate Senate committees (i.e., Research and Budget). Dr. Abdelal echoed this point citing it as a good opportunity for the new vice president to begin working with the major players. Dr. Henry agreed to ask the new vice president to do so.

SCT/Banner

Dr. Henry reported on the upcoming implementation of the SCT/Banner Student Information System software system, which has been adopted by 31 other University System of Georgia institutions. He indicated the consultant firm of Cornelius and Associates had issued a readiness report for the installation and projected costs over a period of three years to be in the range of $11M. He stated Cornelius and Associates had a good track record in guiding implementations of SCT/Banner, in particular at Virginia Tech and the Connecticut State University System. He said the projected cost compared with $15M at Virginia Tech and nearly $16M at Cleveland State (for PeopleSoft). Dr. Henry cited larger server requirements as part of the reason for the higher cost than the PeopleSoft financial systems implementation. He stated some implementation support and training costs could not be deferred.
Dr. Huss asked about infrastructure support for SCT/Banner. Dr. Henry replied that platinum level installation as outlined by Cornelius and Associates would afford “24/7” support from the vendor. Dr. Abdelal asked about development of the budget for the implementation of SCT/Banner. Dr. Henry responded the budget was being developed by Cornelius and Associates, and there would be consultation with the deans.

Dr. de Castro asked about the interfacing capabilities of SCT/Banner with PeopleSoft. Dr. Henry responded that the SCT/Banner SIS and PeopleSoft financial products were not interfaced out-of-the-box, but the University System by adopting the two products was looking to develop interfaces as needed. He added the new version of SCT/Banner would be web-based. He stated the start-up date for SCT/Banner would be Fall Semester 2002, with even earlier implementation of financial aid. Dr. de Castro asked about interfacing with current class-scheduling software. Dr. Henry replied SCT/Banner would interface with Schedule 25.

Dr. de Castro asked about potential savings with the new software. Dr. Henry responded there could be savings eventually, but initially there would have to be dual operation of the legacy and new systems, with backfill. Dr. Abdelal commented that the new system would at least provide improved efficiency. Dr. de Castro asked about the status of campus network upgrades and the potential for freed funds from that project being redirected to SCT/Banner. Dr. Henry replied that FY01 would be the final year of GSUNet2, and those funds ($1M held in the Provost budget) would be available beyond FY01.

Dr. Harris asked if Admissions would be a part of the SCT/Banner system. Dr. Henry replied Admissions would be included, but the Sequitur prospect-tracking system was also being employed.

Dr. de Castro asked about using technology fee dollars for the SCT/Banner implementation. Dr. Henry responded it was unlikely technology fee funds would be applicable. He added that the colleges were working on plans for expending the technology fee revenues, and a new computer lab in the Student Center was also under development.

Dr. de Castro questioned how the SCT/Banner project could be undertaken with the FY01 budget already committed. He urged further discussion in FACP of the funding of the project and voiced concern that mandatory contingency items needed discussion in the context of other needs. Dr. Henry replied the cost was reasonable in part due to a price break available to the University System through June 30, 2000, so that it was essential to move right away. Dr. Abdelal asked about potential savings from Spectrum. Dr. Henry replied that there might be some savings realized after December 2000, as shadow systems are terminated. He added that ISAT had already absorbed a $950K budget cut.

Dr. de Castro summarized that in effect $700K had been committed from FY01 contingency funds for SCT/Banner. Dr. Henry agreed and warned more might be needed. Dr. Abdelal asked if the rate of installation could be slowed. Dr. Henry responded that the installation was segmented in order to permit Fall Semester 2002 start-up. Dr. Jacobs asked if the new system would interface with SmartCards. Dr. Henry responded he was unaware of such support, but would check.

**Contingency/End-of-Year/Flip-Flop Funds**

Mr. Rackliffe distributed a spreadsheet, “Schedule of Library Acquisitions, Fiscal Years 1994-2000,” showing FY00 end-of-year requirements of $900K for Pullen Library and $20K for College of Law Library in order to equal the acquisitions budgets of FY00. He pointed out increases in the two acquisition budgets had been granted approximately every other year.

Mr. Rackliffe distributed a spreadsheet, “Statement of Projected Revenues and Expenditures for FY00, As of April 30, 2000”, showing a deficit of expenditures over revenues of $1.23M.

Mr. Rackliffe distributed the spreadsheet, “Schedule of Contingency Fund Sources & Uses, Fiscal Year 2000”, showing three scenarios based on different levels of fringe benefit savings and indirect cost recoveries. These ranged from a shortfall of $1.02M to an excess of $2.41M. Dr. Abdelal questioned why the fringe benefit savings were down from prior years. Mr. Rackliffe replied this was under investigation and that he suspected still pending chargebacks to agency accounts as well as the additional fringe benefit costs from converting College of Arts and Sciences PTIs to full-time positions with fringe benefits. Mr. Rackliffe also cautioned that in the overall picture of the end-of-year sweep there were uncertain effects of delays in freeing pre-encumbrances and encumbrances within Spectrum.

Dr. Henry asked about the capacity for flip-flopping funds between fiscal years. Mr. Rackliffe estimated a capacity of $2.0M, with $250K already reserved by various departments across the university. Dr. Jacobs asked if the new servers for SCT/Banner might be purchased now for delivery later. Dr. Abdelal asked about reactivating the Quality Improvement Fund and Instructional Technology programs which had been frozen because of the enrollment revenue shortfall and the $3.16M carryforward for health insurance. Dr. Henry responded this could be pursued if purchasing deadlines were not a problem.
Dr. de Castro suggested flip-flopping the Instructional Technology funds in order to spend them more wisely. He spoke in favor of giving the libraries some increase in acquisitions, perhaps $100K. He urged flip-flopping the remainder for discussion later in the summer. Dr. Abdelal suggested using the Instructional Technology funds to purchase PCs for new faculty and to replace old classroom technology. Mr. Kelley spoke in favor of funding other campus infrastructure needs; for example, Art and Humanities Building systems. Dr. de Castro asked when the fringe benefits situation would be clarified. Mr. Rackliffe replied it might take two or more weeks to ascertain the true balance. Dr. Huss suggested buying the Cornelius and Associates contract with end-of-year funds.

Dr. Henry suggested a package of $100K for acquisitions, $459K for Quality Improvement Fund, and $625K for Instructional Technology. Dr. Abdelal disagreed with the inclusion of additional funds for acquisitions citing raised expectations for the future. Dr. Henry reminded there would also be the $5.9M structural deficit to take into account. Dr. de Castro spoke in favor of additional funding for acquisitions because of inflationary costs of serials. Dr. Abdelal responded further study was needed in light of electronic publications. Dr. Henry added that the every-other-year increase pattern would hold acquisitions level this year.

Dr. de Castro made a motion to increase the library acquisition budgets by $100K. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Dr. Huss made motion to recommend expending the excess of any end-of-year funds as follows: $625K for Instructional Technology, $459K for Quality Improvement Funds, and the remainder to be flip-flopped. Dr. Abdelal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Fees for Certificate Programs**

Dr. Henry called attention to a request from the School of Policy Studies to institute $100 fees for certificate program students, which would fund printing of certificates and graduation-related events. He noted this would tie revenues to the programs, which was contrary to general policy. Mr. Rackliffe pointed out the Applied Music fees had been similar in design and were dropped altogether when the revenues were no longer earmarked for the School of Music. Dr. Huss asked if the fees would be collected at the start of the program rather than upon completion. Dr. Henry stated the proposal was to collect at the front end. Mr. Kelley spoke against the proposal in light of many others, which might arise. It was agreed to reject the proposal and to suggest consideration of a graduation fee instead.

**Announcements**

Dr. Henry announced the MMRF allocation to Georgia State had increased by 5.1%, the largest increase among the research universities, which averaged 4.1%.

Dr. Henry presented a brief summary of new funds received for FY01, noting an overall increase of $5.9M.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert

Approved June 16, 2000