Transportation Fee

Dr. Scott reported the Mandatory Student Fee Committee had voted 13-2 in support of increasing the Transportation Fee from $22 to $32 in order to balance the cost of the MARTA discount card program.

Dr. Jacobs asked about the interactive effect on parking revenues, etc. Ms. Johnston responded that a new parking plan would be submitted in January 2003, which would address this issue. She reminded that FACP had endorsed a 10-year parking plan two years ago, but that changes had occurred which required a revisit sooner than originally proposed. She cited those changes as the greater level of participation in the MARTA discount card program than anticipated, the reduction in the student discount granted by MARTA, the drop in demand for central campus parking, and the postponement of deck replacements.

Dr. Jacobs asked if the drop in demand for central campus parking added to the deficit shown for the MARTA and stadium shuttle. Ms. Johnston replied that enrollment and parking rate increases were offsetting factors.

Dr. Tai asked if the Transportation Fee increase would affect all students or only users. Ms. Johnston answered that this was a universal fee, and that students who did not use MARTA or the stadium shuttle still benefited from parking rates, which would be higher without those alternatives. Dr. Scott added that the Mandatory Student Fee Committee had discussed this point at length. She noted not every student used the Recreation Center, yet all paid the Recreation Fee.

Mr. Rackliffe commented that according to the figures provided by Auxiliary Services, approximately 50% of the student body used either MARTA or the stadium shuttle. Ms. Smith observed that MARTA and the stadium shuttle shortened the lines for students parking in “M” deck and other decks.

Dr. de Castro asked how the deficits for Transportation were covered. Ms. Johnston replied that funds were transferred from Parking, but this did not allow replacement of the temporary decks.

Dr. Huss commended the Mandatory Student Fee Committee for thinking of the Transportation Fee as a campus access issue, and urged similar consideration by FACP.
Ms. Johnston made a motion to recommend increasing the Transportation Fee from $22 to $32. Dr. Huss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Robinson College of Business Tuition and Fees

Dr. Harris made a motion to recommend increasing the Executive MBA fee from $45,500 to $50,500 for the Class of 2005. Dr. Jacobs seconded the motion.

Dr. Jacobs questioned the smallness of the increase. Dr. Huss responded that pricing elasticity was still being sorted out. Dr. Harris added that the lower price was an edge to a certain extent in recruiting students. He noted that the proposed pricing would position the program third or fourth in the market.

Dr. Jacobs asked if students or corporations typically paid the fees. Dr. Henry replied that corporations typically paid for students in the Executive MBA program.

Dr. de Castro asked if the program revenues matched program expenditures. Dr. Harris answered that the net was primarily a function of the cost of the international travel component of the program, and varied from year to year. He indicated in some years the college cleared approximately $100K.

The motion passed.

Dr. Harris made a motion to recommend establishing a Global Partners MBA fee of $35,000 effective FY2004. Dr. Huss seconded the motion.

Dr. Huss explained the Global Partners MBA program would be in concert with universities in Paris and Rio de Janeiro, but comprised of Georgia State courses taught by Board of Regents approved professors. He pointed out the pricing included extensive travel including trips to Washington, DC and China as well as Europe and South America, but excluded housing.

Dr. Henry asked about prospects for recruiting 33 students for the program. Dr. Huss replied that the program would be comparable to a successful program at South Carolina, and that while information was just leaking out, there had been a good initial response. Dr. Jacobs asked about the anticipated mix of students. Dr. Huss responded that the vision was 1/3 USA, 1/3 European Union, and 1/3 rest of the world. He added that the program would not be a joint degree program, but the other universities would likely award certificates.

The motion passed.

Dr. Henry pointed out that the Board of Regents had allowed differential tuition charges for certain graduate and professional programs with the stipulation that the additional revenues flow back to those programs.

Dr. Harris introduced a request to increase the differential tuition for MBA students. He indicated the additional funds would be targeted for improvements of student services with more skills-based training and orientation.
Ms. Smith asked if the training would be in the form of a class. Dr. Harris replied that mini-seminars, possibly two per semester, would be used.

Dr. Huss commented that in benchmarking against top programs, in-class instruction rated very high, but the out-of-class experience needed improvements.

Dr. Tai asked about the number of students in MBA programs. Dr. Harris responded that there are 1,600-1,700 students. He pointed to the need for full-time staff to work with these students on such matters as off-campus programming relating to team-building and development of leadership skills.

Dr. Harris made a motion to recommend increasing the MBA tuition from $155 to $158 per credit hour for in-state students and from $620 to $631 for out-of-state students. Dr. Huss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Housing Fees**

Dr. Scott introduced proposed increases for Housing. She noted the increases were primarily related to safety measures at the GSU Village recommended in a recent audit report. Dr. Trinklein elaborated that the increases would also cover a $100K Internet usage charge and repairs and replacements such as painting, carpeting, appliances, and mattresses.

Dr. Jacobs questioned the Internet usage charge. Dr. Trinklein answered that this was a new charge, which would be paid to ISAT for support of network connections at the GSU Village. Dr. Henry commented that ISAT needed to add staff to service these connections and since Housing was an auxiliary service the charges should not be against state funds.

Dr. de Castro asked if the payment to ISAT would allow a corresponding reduction in state funds. Dr. Huss asked if there had been problems with Internet service at the GSU Village. Dr. Trinklein responded that some on-site troubleshooting had been done by students working for Housing. Dr. Henry noted the GSU Village had added 2,000 network connections to the workload for ISAT.

Dr. Kaminshine asked if the Student Technology Fee might be a fund source for network support. Dr. Henry replied that it would not be appropriate for an auxiliary service and since the access was for individual students in their rooms. He observed that Student Technology Fee funds could possibly be used at the GSU Village for a PC lab since this would be an open facility.

Dr. Tai asked if the proposal pertained to the Lofts. Dr. Henry answered that this was strictly for the GSU Village.

Dr. Jacobs questioned whether occupancy was being maximized based on figures of 1,833 filled versus 1,951 available. Dr. Trinklein explained that the traffic pattern of students exiting and entering during the course of the year, coupled with smoking preferences and student classification (undergraduate, graduate) made it difficult to improve on these numbers. Dr. Scott injected that the numbers represented a yearly average of occupancy. Dr. Jacobs pointed out that adding 88 students would have the same effect as the proposed increase in fees.
Dr. Huss asked about payment schedules. Dr. Trinklein responded that returning students confirm in March and new students in May, with a non-refundable payment of $450. She indicated a good number of students forfeit this amount as they elect to enroll elsewhere or pursue other housing.

Dr. Huss asked about the waiting list situation. Dr. Trinklein answered that the same smoking preference and student classification issues applied to drawing down the waiting list. Dr. Huss commented that demand and upfront payments would suggest occupancy rates should be higher. Dr. Trinklein pointed out that at this juncture in the fall semester vacancies were being held for students arriving spring semester and so could not be filled in the interim from the waiting list.

Ms. Smith made a motion to recommend changing Housing fees as follows: AY semester from $2,340 to $2,440, summer from $1,116 to $1,444, and May from $648 to $532. Ms. Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Counseling Center Test Fees**

Dr. Scott presented the proposed increases in test fees and establishment of other test fees for the Counseling Center. She explained the Miller Analogies Test cost to the university had increased; the frequency of administrations of the Georgia and US history and constitution exams had increased, the CLEP exam had changed from specific testing dates to computer-based walk-in administration; independent studies/distance learning exams were more costly for staff and fee had not increased in 12 years; Counseling Center client tests as part of diagnostic process demanded staff and GRA time and fee had not increased in 10 years; and COMPASS entrance exam for non-traditional students should be charged comparably to SAT for regular students.

Ms. Smith asked about the equivalence of the Georgia and US history and constitution exams to taking the courses satisfying these requirements. Dr. Scott answered that the exams were taken in lieu of the courses. Ms. Smith asked if the students passing the exam received course credit. Dr. Scott replied that the exam met the requirement, but did not carry credit hours. Dr. Jacobs voiced concern about the lack of knowledge of US history among students in his classes. He spoke in favor of raising the fee for the Georgia and US history and constitution exams to $50 in order to encourage students to take the corresponding courses. Dr. de Castro pointed out some of the students lacking this knowledge may have taken the courses.

Dr. Tai questioned the need for a fee increase after converting to computer-based tests. Dr. Scott responded that individual appointments consumed more staff resources than group administration of the tests.

Dr. Kelley made a motion to recommend the following: (a) increase Miller Analogies Test fee from $55 to $65; (b) establish Georgia and US history and constitution exam fee of $15; (c) increase CLEP fee from $12 to $20; (d) increase independent studies and distance learning testing fee from $10 to $15; (e) increase Counseling Center client testing fee from $10 to $15; and (f) establish COMPASS fee of $25. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Student Activity Fee Fund Balance Proposal**
Dr. Scott introduced a proposal to expend $351,069 of the Student Activity Fee fund balance on equipment and furnishings for the student media groups (Signal, WRAS, GSTV, CineFest, Rampway) moving back in the renovated University Center. She explained the fund balance was used for major one-time projects (e.g., Panthersville and Indian Creek upgrades) and as a rainy day fund (e.g., repair of lightning damage to WRAS tower). Dr. Scott indicated the Student Activity Fee Committee had endorsed the proposal after extensive discussions.

Dr. de Castro asked if the list of requested equipment items had been reviewed externally. Dr. Scott answered that the original requests had been much higher, and that the media group advisers had worked with the groups to cull the list considerably. Dr. Trinklein confirmed that the Media (funding) Council had examined the requests. She added that WRAS had an engineer who helped with their request, and GSTV had a Communication professor who worked with them. She asserted that the requested equipment was not a "dream list" developed by the students alone. Dr. Scott explained that Dr. Trinklein was working with this issue in her added role as Interim Director of Student Life and Leadership.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about the impact of funding this proposal on requests from student organizations for mid-year supplemental funds. Mr. Rackliffe responded that the fund sources were separate with the proposal for the fund balance being against prior year surpluses versus mid-year extra funds realized through higher enrollments than budgeted.

Dr. de Castro made a motion to recommend the expenditure of $351,069 of the Student Activity Fee fund balance as proposed. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed.

International Student/Scholar Compliance or International Education Fee

Dr. Henry called for general discussion of a proposed $50 International Student/Scholar Compliance Fee and an alternative approach to establish a $4 International Education Fee for all students. He noted the proposal had arisen following September 11 terrorism concerns and the federal SEVIS mandate to track all international students and scholars on a weekly basis. He reported the Deans’ Group had looked at a $50 fee to be assessed all international students and scholars, but discussion led to consideration of a universal fee which would also fund Study Abroad scholarships. Dr. Henry reminded that the Board of Regents had established a goal of 4% participation in Study Abroad.

Mr. Hicks echoed these points and cited the need for additional staff to comply with the reporting requirements. He reiterated the mandate to reach 4% participation in Study Abroad by 2007 and characterized this goal as low for an internationally competitive institution. He urged a holistic approach to the fee issue citing the enrichment of the whole campus by the presence of international students and students who have been on Study Abroad. Mr. Hicks pointed out the International Programs Office staff was small to take on the 4% goal, and the colleges also were short on staff to develop and manage Study Abroad programs. He noted surveys of students graduating from high school showed high interest in Study Abroad.

Dr. Jacobs asked about current funding for Study Abroad students. Mr. Hicks answered that the university matches $15K provided by the Board of Regents, but Board of Regents support will cease after this year. Dr. Jacobs asked about marginal costs for Study Abroad students (versus
regular campus enrollment). Ms. Walker replied that students could get need-based financial aid in addition to the Board of Regents scholarship, but not all costs were covered. She indicated some students pay $3K-4K. She noted another issue was the loss of income for students who would ordinarily be working as well as enrolled on-campus. Dr. Jacobs asked about the cost of a semester in London as an example. Ms. Walker gave a range of $8K-12K.

Dr. de Castro asked about the rationale for the universal fee. Dr. Hicks responded that the entire campus community benefits from the presence of international students and from interaction with students who go on Study Abroad. Dr. Huss reiterated the positive effect of having international students and Study Abroad students in classes and the resulting encouragement of other students to participate. Dr. Hicks stated that other institutions have implemented universal fees, the first being the University of Texas. Dr. Adamson commented that it would be unfriendly to international students to charge them exclusively. Ms. Smith spoke in favor of the universal fee with the observation that the fee would cause more students to take a look at Study Abroad opportunities. Dr. Harris observed the fee would make Georgia State competitive with Georgia Tech and Georgia.

Dr. Huss asked about the possibility of seeking approval of the universal fee for FY2004. Dr. Henry pointed out that the fee proposals would be due to the Board of Regents on December 18, and the Mandatory Student Fee Committee had already completed its work for this year. Dr. Torbert suggested that the Mandatory Student Fee Committee could meet in conjunction with the Student Activity Fee Committee on which there were many of the same students and which was set to meet November 22. Dr. de Castro observed it was a good year to introduce the International Education Fee since the overall fee increase was modest. Dr. Henry agreed to forward the recommendation to Dr. Scott regarding the November 22 meeting.

Budget Update

Dr. Henry announced the presentation of FY2004 requests to the Board of Regents would be January 15. He explained these requests would be against the 15% of workload funds to be held for strategic allocations (with 80% of workload funds to the institutions generating the credit hours). He also announced the modified 3% budget cut ($2.1M) for FY2003 had been revised to 5% of the total budget ($8.1M) due to continuing shortfalls in state revenues.

Mr. Lewis advised that Governor Perdue had brought Mr. Huckaby from Georgia to OPB to provide interim direction of that office. Mr. Lewis noted that further cuts were inevitable, but had been postponed until after the election. Ms. Johnston asked if the cuts had been applied by OPB to the Board of Regents or directly to Georgia State. Dr. Henry answered that the cuts were to the Board of Regents, but would be passed on to the institutions because the Board of Regents had exhausted its flexibility. Dr. de Castro asked about the rationale for the change in how the cuts were computed. Dr. Henry replied that OPB was now dealing with a $1B deficit. He added that the rainy day fund was only $900K and could not be exhausted for this purpose. Mr. Lewis commented that there were usually over-corrections with transition between administrations.

The meeting scheduled for November 20 was canceled. The next meeting will be December 4.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
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