Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President
Minutes of January 15, 2003

Members Attending: John de Castro, Sid Harris, Ron Henry, Fenwick Huss, Fred Jacobs, Katherine Johnston, Susan Kelley, Kimberly Smith, P.C. Tai

Others Attending: Lauren Adamson, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Steve Kaminshine, Robert Moore, Jerry Rackliffe, Edgar Torbert

The minutes of January 13, 2003 were approved as distributed.

Dr. Henry opened discussion of the revised “Budget Plan for FY2004” to be forwarded to the Board of Regents on January 15. He noted changes in the draft to reflect discussion at the previous meeting.

Ms. Johnston suggested adding a statement that the base budget is already aligned with strategic goals so that internal redirection to meet these goals is not an option.

Dr. de Castro asked about the lack of a statement about the tuition plateau effect. Dr. Henry replied this applied only to Georgia State and Georgia Perimeter, and would not be priority for system funds since all other institutions were already absorbing the non-revenue hours.

Dr. Henry explained that the strategic priorities were structured to reflect state-level priorities for education, nurses, water policy, etc.

Ms. Johnston asked about options in the event the 80% workload funds were not passed through. Dr. Henry stated capping enrollment would be necessary. He indicated such ramifications would be discussed with Board of Regents staff at the Georgia State budget hearing in February. He commented that the budget was already stretched thin, and it would be a disservice to serve even more students with less money. Dr. Harris asked if other institutions in the system were in the same situation. Dr. Henry confirmed this was the case.

Dr. Harris suggested adding sentences in the introduction with bragging points about institutional quality; e.g., national rankings, research grants, diversity. Dr. Henry agreed with making this addition in the form of points of pride based on external measures.

Dr. Henry noted the strategic allocations would come from the 20% workload funds retained by the Board of Regents, and the Georgia State portion based only on workload would be $3.1M. He speculated Georgia State would not get the full $3.1M, but advised Georgia State requests for this funding should be in the range of $3.5M to 4.0M. He cited the need to think strategically and politically in preparing these requests, and to reference program review recommendations. He mentioned several areas such as education, nursing, health insurance for graduate assistants, decision support, Freshman Learning Communities, international initiatives and Georgia State/Atlanta Public Schools partnership.

Dr. de Castro suggested making high enrollment stress on number of faculty as a strategic allocation request. Dr. Henry responded that this need would be viewed by the Board of Regents
as an item for internal allocations from the incremental workload funds generated by higher enrollments. Dr. de Castro then suggested modifying such a request to the need for more tenure track faculty as a research university. Dr. Henry responded that the requests needed to be more in line with the priorities of the Board of Regents, which did not include the institutional goal of becoming a top research university in an urban setting. Dr. Adamson proposed it would be more effective with the Board of Regents to link retention and diversity with the need for tenure track faculty. Dr. Fritz added that the Freshman Learning Communities request could also link in that way to a tenure track faculty request. Dr. Harris echoed the point that retention and diversity would be stronger selling points with the Board of Regents.

Dr. Adamson spoke for moving program review initiatives to the second request, but rewording to indicate these were some of the initiatives from program review, not all, and to state type of initiatives selected. She observed this would be useful in justifying the narrower request to departments not included.

Dr. Harris reiterated the need to align with Board of Regents priorities. Dr. Henry responded that making strengthening of undergraduate programs the first request would clearly be consistent with Board of Regents priorities. Dr. Adamson urged retaining some mention of program review in this request. Ms. Johnston suggested use of term, enhancements, instead of initiatives. Dr. de Castro recommended use of the header, excellence in programs.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about any change in the content of the program review related request due to its repositioning. Dr. Henry stated there should be no change although the amount of funds requested might have to be reduced to stay within the range. Dr. Kaminshine commented on the desirability of balancing credit hour production and quality. Dr. Henry responded that the requested faculty positions also addressed program quality. Dr. Kaminshine suggested addition of RWA positions in the College of Law. Dr. Henry categorized these positions as targets for internal funds freed by strategic allocations from the Board of Regents.

Dr. Henry spoke in favor of moving the health insurance for graduate students request down the list since this item would require co-sponsorship by Georgia, Georgia Tech and the Medical College. Ms. Johnston stated Georgia and Georgia Tech might have already implemented such insurance with their own funds. Dr. de Castro suggested rephrasing the request in terms of the improving the quality of graduate students. Dr. Fritz noted this request could also be tied to retention.

Dr. de Castro asked about the decision support systems request as a priority for the Board of Regents. Dr. Henry replied that the Board of Regents had already demonstrated commitment to DSS by buying time of Dr. Moore. He added that Dr. Papp was a strong advocate of DSS efforts at the system level. Dr. de Castro suggested this request could be moved down the list since the Board of Regents would pick it up in any case.

Dr. Henry observed that the international initiatives request might need to be reduced to stay within the range of total requests. He pointed out that the Board of Regents showed interest in international initiatives, but did not provide funding. Ms. Hurt commented that international initiatives were subtly mentioned in the Board of Regents goals. Dr. de Castro spoke in favor of keeping the request to plant seeds for support of such programs in the future. Dr. Harris agreed the request should stay as an identity issue.
Dr. Colarusso recommended moving the Georgia State/Atlanta Public Schools partnership request higher. Dr. Henry outlined the remaining requests with international initiatives third, Georgia State/Atlanta Public Schools partnership fourth, nursing fifth, health insurance sixth and DSS seventh. Dr. Colarusso commented that the Board of Regents and legislature would not hold international initiatives that high. Dr. Henry replied that the intent was to make a statement about the type of university Georgia State wanted to be.

Dr. Kelley asked about adding to the narrative on nursing. Dr. Henry indicated this would be done, and all of the requests would be balanced in length of presentation. Dr. Tai suggested a linkage to the Cancer Coalition.

Dr. Henry stated there would be an extra meeting called prior to the next scheduled meeting on February 12 in order to review spring semester enrollments and FY2003 budget cuts. He reported spring semester enrollments were robust with students taking more hours, but more above the tuition plateau. Dr. Fritz added that an increase in out-of-state tuition payments might balance the increase in hours above the plateau.

Dr. Henry observed there would be much more clarity in 2-4 weeks about the budget situation. He added that the deans and vice presidents would have FACP budget hearings in February or March.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved January 29, 2003