Members Attending: Paul Alberto, Paul Farnham, Ron Henry, Steve Kaminshine (for Fenwick Huss), Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, Jerry Rackliffe, P.C. Tai, Shelly Williams

Others Attending: Lauren Adamson, Randy Kamphaus, Edgar Torbert

The minutes of November 7 were approved.

Dr. Henry distributed copies of the document “Transforming the System, Changing Lives, Strengthening the State” presenting the six goals of the University System of Georgia Strategic Plan 2007. He invited discussion of a draft FY2009 budget request document to be delivered to the University System office on November 16.

Dr. Henry commented that the Chancellor saw the University System strategic plan driving the system for the foreseeable future and that the budget requests from Georgia State needed to be presented in the context of the plan. He added that the budget requests were subject to a 5% of current budget cap ($10M).

Dr. Henry stated that while Georgia State had generated approximately $10M in new workload funds for the University System, a very optimistic prediction of the pass-through workload funds was $6M, and that this was the first budget request from Georgia State. He explained that the University System retained a portion of the new workload funds for strategic allocations for which Georgia State would be applying as the other 34 institutions would also be doing.

Dr. Henry noted the second budget request was for $3.1M in catch-up dollars relative to the differential between state appropriation dollars per FTE student at Georgia State versus the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech. He pointed out that the difference with respect to the University of Georgia amounted to $71M less for Georgia State.

Dr. Henry indicated the third request was $1M for research as a follow-up to the $800K allocated to each of the research universities for FY2008.

Dr. Henry observed that although flexibility in use of new dollars was highly desirable, allocations might be linked to specific areas such as nursing, teacher education, mathematics and science, etc.

Dr. Fritz asked if the $750K request for RPG would be over-and-above the $10M package. Dr. Henry replied that the RPG request was separate and would be for the third year of a three-year cycle. He pointed out that renewal would be dependent upon demonstrating improvement in RPG as a result of the funding. He cautioned that overall figures for RPG had not shown significant improvement, although the funded initiatives had shown benefits for their particular targeted groups of students.

Dr. Tai recommended beefing up the portion of the document dealing with enhancement of the undergraduate student experience. Dr. Henry responded that this shortcoming had been
mentioned in the Deans Group discussion of the document and that community development, Honors programming, advisement, etc. would be added.

Dr. Alberto asked about the annual evaluation of the RPG funded initiatives. Dr. Henry replied that Appendix A contained information from those evaluations. He commented that supplemental instruction was clearly improving grades in the targeted courses as immediate payoffs, but that it was too soon to tell the impact on RPG.

Dr. Fritz commented that improving retention was not a short-term process, and that it was important not to abandon initiatives too soon. He spoke of the need for a second three-cycle of funding for such initiatives in order to see the actual impact on RPG. Dr. Henry added that first-year retention rates had been constant at 80.4% for three consecutive years, and that some other measures showed declines.

Dr. Alberto asked about analyses of those students who leave, such as whether they were transferring elsewhere or quitting altogether. Dr. Henry responded that Georgia State was joining the National Student Clearinghouse in order to track students who transfer outside the University System with the first information to be available shortly.

Dr. Rackliffe asked about initiatives directed at graduation rates specifically. Dr. Henry answered that the Major Matters program in the College of Arts and Sciences was an example of such an initiative. Dr. Rackliffe asked if other institutions were claiming instant success with RPG. Dr. Henry responded they were not.

Dr. Fritz suggested framing the case in terms of pilot studies being done in the first three-year cycle with scaling up to the institutional level to occur in the second three-year cycle.

Dr. Tai suggested residence hall-based advisement as an initiative for future funding.

Dr. Adamson asked about requesting continuation of funding for the Double-the-Double initiative. Dr. Henry replied that this was one of the initiatives in the portion of the workload funds retained by the University System for special allocations. He indicated such items would be discussed with the Board of Regents staff in February.

Dr. Alberto suggested that a request for teacher education funds include increasing the number of PhD graduates in Education in order to expand capacity to prepare teachers, as had been done for Nursing.

Drs. Alberto and Rackliffe expressed appreciation for the work Dr. Henry had done on this budget request document and on those for prior years.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved December 12, 2007