Members Attending: Paul Alberto, Paul Farnham, Ron Henry, Fenwick Huss, Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, P.C. Tai, Shelly Williams

Others Attending: Lauren Adamson, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Beth Jones, Mike Metzler, Edgar Torbert

The minutes of January 30, 2008 were approved as presented.

FY2009 budget

Dr. Henry reported on the February 8 meeting of chief academic officers and chief business officers of USGa institutions with USGa staff. He prefaced his remarks with a caution that legislative and Board of Regents approval of FY2009 funding as discussed at the February 8 meeting was yet to come.

Dr. Henry explained that $81.6M in anticipated workload dollars would be split in two major segments with 70% allocated to institutions and 30% for targeted enhancements. He further explained that the 70% for institutions would be 50% directly for workload, 10% strategic allocations, and 5% for performance on RPG (with the 5% difference used to give all institutions workload funds based on their better 12-month snapshot of enrollment).

Dr. Henry estimated Georgia State would receive $5.0M-5.5M from the 70% distribution. He noted that Georgia State had not met its goals for retention and research, but had done well on graduation.

Dr. Henry announced there would be a budget hearing with USGa staff (Drs. Herbst, Ramachandran, and Watts) with only the president, chief academic officer, and chief business officer invited to discuss how new funds would be expended.

Dr. Henry distributed copies of a handout from the February 8 meeting outlining the six goals for USGa targeted enhancements from the 30% distribution and a spreadsheet showing $2.18M potential funding requests from Georgia State among the applicable targets. He emphasized that each request would require specific goals and metrics to be used in evaluating success and determining continuation of funding.

Dr. Henry outlined requests for expanding freshman learning communities (Goal #1), expanding successful advisement pilot models to additional departments (Goal #1), expanding Hispanic enrollments (Goal #2), expanding current research support infrastructure (Goal #3), increase numbers of science/mathematics graduates and teachers (Goal #4), decrease time for financial aid processing (Goal #5), decrease energy usage (Goal #6), and improve emergency preparedness (Goal #6). He added that the Hispanic enrollments initiative might also include African American males. He noted the science/mathematics (STEM) initiative had already been approved, but was dependent upon allocation of funds for STEM overall.
Dr. Kelley asked about the possibility of distance education funding (Goal #2). Dr. Henry replied that the funds were targeted for GeorgiaOnMyLine. Dr. Fritz commented on problems encountered in providing student services for GeorgiaOnMyLine students, who are registered separately by USGa and are consequently not in Georgia State student data bases when they call for assistance. Dr. Metzler added that these problems happened with start-up numbers of students, and would be worse when ramped up. Dr. Fritz reiterated that he was not opposing distance education, but saw the need for improvements in implementation in order to serve students effectively and efficiently.

Dr. Henry pointed to the 50% workload pass-through to institutions generating the additional credit hours as a very positive development. He warned that this scheme was not guaranteed for future years, but voiced hope that a successful year would lead to the same in future years.

Dr. Alberto asked how the 30% funds would be split among the six goals. Dr. Henry replied that this was not discussed, but would likely be determined by the relative merits of the sets of proposals.

Dr. Huss asked about the specific access problem addressed in the Access Institutions section of Goal #2. Dr. Henry answered that USGa was anticipating 100K more students by 2020 with 60% of the increase in the Atlanta metro area. He explained the idea was to funnel more of these students through the Access Institutions (2- and 4-year colleges), which were less expensive to operate. Dr. Huss asked if there was a plan for establishing a feeder pattern through the Access Institutions. Dr. Henry responded that a consultant was working on the plan and would be meeting with the receiving institutions as well. Dr. Fritz commented that there were two counties in the extended Atlanta metro area, which had never had more than two students apply to Georgia State in any given year. He noted these counties also had low percentages of adults with college degrees. Dr. Henry suggested such circumstances would point to greater potential for the nearby Access Institution. Dr. Fritz stated the Clearinghouse would be helpful in determining where the few students from those counties, who went to college actually enrolled.

Dr. Alberto observed that the strategy was to expand on-line offerings and not establish new institutions. He noted mixed reviews from students concerning on-line courses and pedagogical issues. Dr. Henry responded that some institutions such as Maryland and Penn State had very effective on-line instruction, but that blended on-line/in-class courses were generally more effective.

Dr. Adamson recommended using the occasion of meeting with USGa staff to emphasize that changes to the core curriculum be curtailed in order to facilitate impending increases in transfers from feeder institutions.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved March 12, 2008