Dr. Henry summarized the process and results of the review of 22 Areas of Focus II proposals. Dr. Henry commented on the good quality of the proposals overall and the dilemma of having very limited funds to award. He suggested some unsuccessful proposals were in promising areas, which could still be actively pursued with existing or external resources. Dr. Henry stated the reviewers favored inter-disciplinary proposals because of greater impact, although the call for proposals had not specified such.

Dr. Henry reported the “Language and Literacy” proposal was deemed very strong by both groups of reviewers, and Drs. Henry, Morris and Fritz were recommending full funding of $1.6M over three years with $600K in FY2009.

Dr. Henry reported the “Risk and Its Management” proposal addressed an area of rapidly growing interest in which the Department of Risk Management and Insurance had already made good strides and would be partnering with other departments. He noted strong support for the proposal although there were some questions about space requirements, duplication of the Action Plan, and external support. Dr. Henry stated Drs. Henry, Morris and Fritz were recommending partial funding of $1.5M over three years with $400K in FY2009.

Dr. Henry mentioned two other proposals in the over $500K category which received significant support from reviewers: “Shaping Public Policy” and “Violence Prevention”. He indicated reviewers felt that “Shaping Public Policy” should have stronger integration with the departments of Risk Management and Insurance and Political Science. He noted “Violence Prevention” was currently a track in the Urban Health area.

Dr. Henry reported the “Internationalizing the Arts” proposal received strong support from the reviewers. Dr. Henry stated Drs. Henry, Morris and Fritz were recommending funding for 50% of one staff position and $60K support for a total of $91.7K in FY2009.

Dr. Henry pointed out several other smaller proposals, which drew positive reviews, including “Undergraduate Research Academy”, “Science, Technology and Society”, “Nano Sensor Entrepreneurship”, “Metropolitan Studies”, and “Human Rights and Democracy”. Dr. Henry stated that the proposers of “Undergraduate Research Academy” and “Science, Technology and Society” had been asked to work on a combined proposal. He noted “Nano Sensor Entrepreneurship” depended on acquiring a clean room, which would need funding from the Georgia Research Alliance or another source, as well as adding an intellectual property faculty position in the College of Law. Dr. Tai added Georgia Tech might be willing to share use of one of their clean rooms.

Dr. Hudson asked about the impact of the Areas of Focus I in enhancing recognition of Georgia
Dr. Henry replied that updates had been received recently from the first three areas of focus, which would be discussed at a future meeting. He singled out drug design and infectious diseases as one focus in which Georgia State was clearly better known today because of the “Molecular Basis of Disease” initiative. He commented on the potential for greater recognition for “Risk and Its Management” and “Language and Literacy” because of groundwork already laid in those areas. He cited insufficient funds for infrastructure as an on-going challenge and emphasized the importance of external funding to address this challenge.

Dr. Morris reported on a meeting of the vice presidents for research of the research universities in the University System with regents and regents’ staff concerning balancing consideration of access and research. He noted the support issues at Georgia State were shared by the other research universities even if at different levels. He sensed growing awareness and concern among the regents of these issues including the importance of convincing legislators of the role of research in the University System and the need to retain good researchers.

Dr. Tai made a motion to recommend proceeding with the recommendations as presented. Dr. Huss seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved May 7, 2008