Members Attending: Greg Abt, Paul Alberto, Pam Barr, David Caudill, Hugh Hudson, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, Risa Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, P.C. Tai

Others Attending: Lauren Adamson, Beth Jones, Ralph Kahlan, Robert Moore, Bill Prigge, Tim Renick, Nan Seamans, Tammy Sugarman, Edgar Torbert

The minutes of February 17, 18, 25 & March 1, 2010, were approved.

Budget update

Dr. Rackliffe reported no additional information available about the current FY2010 budget and any budget reductions beyond those already imposed for FY2010.

Dr. Rackliffe stated the differences between the Senate and House versions of the FY2011 budget had not been resolved. He predicted the cut would be of a magnitude that could be covered roughly in thirds by (1) continuation of the 4.3% cut taken during FY2010, (2) the Georgia State share of new workload dollars generated through the workload formula for the University System, and (3) increased tuition revenue due to higher enrollments and a tuition rate hike.

Dr. Rackliffe announced revenues beyond budget for FY2010 would be used to expand Classroom South by 19 classrooms, including 4 seminar rooms and 3 computer classrooms. He noted these additions would help to offset the loss of classrooms when Sparks Hall is demolished. He added that FACP had already allocated FY2011 strategic growth funds to the colleges and enrollment services to deal with enrollment growth, and FY2011 funds had been pre-allocated to fund the first round of the Second Century Initiative.

Dr. Rackliffe called attention to the challenge of helping students on capped Pell grants address rising tuition costs. He noted the impact for students who are dependent on both HOPE Scholarship and Pell support. Dr. Rackliffe suggested allocating funds to student assistantships in order to overcome the prohibition on use of state funds for scholarships.

Dr. Morris asked if there could be enough jobs to take care of all 1,578 freshmen and sophomores on Pell grants. Dr. Rackliffe answered that not all would actually accept campus employment, so the program would not need to be designed on the basis of 100% participation. Dr. Alberto asked if internships could be treated as student assistantships. Dr. Rackliffe replied internships were an option so long as the students perform documented work. Dr. Palm commented that working with faculty would be a very positive educational experience for these students with implications for retention and graduation rates.

Mr. Abt commented that having more student assistantship opportunities would be well received by the student body, but cautioned many students already work off-campus with very limited hours available for on-campus work as well.

Dr. Morris commented that the impact of student assistantship income on the amount of Pell grant
dollars for which students could be eligible would be a matter to consider. Dr. Renick indicated Work Study payments did not penalize Pell students.

Dr. Hudson stated the heritage preservation program in the Department of History could use student assistants. Dr. Tai observed increasing pay rates for students already employed was another option. Dr. Hudson suggested student assistants could be used to help departments sponsoring conferences. Dr. Morris suggested extending the conference support concept to a student ambassadors program. Dr. Tai added campus safety as a potential area for student assistants. Mr. Caudill asked about using student assistants in parking. Dr. Rackliffe responded state-funded student assistants cannot be used in auxiliary services under present rules, but there was the possibility of asking for an exception.

Dr. Hudson noted discussion by the Board of Regents of need-based student support.

Dr. Rackliffe requested comments on repeating the two-week winter break of 2009 in 2010. Dr. Alberto stated he understood this was already approved for 2010. Dr. Tai raised the issue of grant deadlines requiring some employees to work during the one week of required vacation for a two-week break. Dr. Morris replied certain employees would be on call to assist with those grants. Dr. Hudson asked if shortening the semester by a week might permit a three-week winter break. Dr. Rackliffe expressed concern that many employees would not be able to accumulate enough days for a two-week mandated vacation. Mr. Abt asked about the impact of the two-week break on operations of student housing and the recreation center. Dr. Rackliffe responded that the recreation center would close, but student housing would have at least one facility open to accommodate athletes.

Dr. Rackliffe indicated the out-of-state tuition model would also be under review in light of the changing portion of overall costs covered by state tax dollars. He projected eventual uncoupling of the 4-to-1 out-of-state to in-state tuition charges. He pointed out state appropriation dollars and tuition revenue dollars were now nearly equal. Dr. Rackliffe stated the goal of being able to set our own rates to cover the full cost of instruction, but warned a wholesale change at this point would be very costly. Dr. Kaminshine commented on the impact of the high out-of-state tuition rates on College of Law admissions. Dr. Renick reported out-of-state applications were up 40% last year, but the yield was down presumably in part due to costs.

Dr. Palm asked about the latest word on furloughs for FY2011. Dr. Rackliffe replied that furloughs would probably not be necessary from a financial standpoint, but there were also political considerations that might come into play. He noted the state budget would be based on a 4% increase in annual revenues, and that furloughs might be a means of addressing a shortfall in those projections should it occur.

Dr. Barr asked about any restrictions on travel as a result of the budget situation. Dr. Rackliffe answered that voluntary reductions in travel expenditures had resulted in significant savings in FY2010, but he was unaware of any plans for mandated restrictions.

Dr. Morris asked about the FY2011 stimulus funds. Dr. Rackliffe replied stimulus funds would be shifted to FY2010 with a resulting reduction in the FY2011 amount to $3M.