FISCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT
Minutes of June 16, 2010


Others Attending: Lauren Adamson, J.L. Albert, Amber Amari, Matt Gillette, Fenwick Huss, Beth Jones, Robert Moore, Carmen Newton, Tim Renick, Nan Seamans, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker

The minutes of May 19, 2010, were approved.

FY2011 Budget Guidelines

Dr. Rackliffe presented an overview of the draft “FY2011 Budget Guidelines” distributed prior to the meeting. Dr. Rackliffe noted the guidelines tied to the strategic plan at several points during the academic year, although the new strategic plan would not be officially adopted until the end of the fall semester. He suggested an ad hoc approach during 2010-2011 while awaiting the completion of the strategic plan. Dr. Hudson commented that drafts of the strategic plan would be circulating during the fall semester so that everyone would have a good idea of the direction it was taking. Dr. Alberto voiced caution about going too far with the draft versions, but noted the Senate would be approving the strategic plan at its December meeting.

Dr. Willoughby noted the Senate Budget Committee had discussed the draft guidelines and would be meeting several times during the summer to consider strategic planning implications for the budgeting process and establishing benchmarks. Dr. Willoughby commented that the focus would be on what drives the budget from year-to-year and multi-year approaches to budgeting. She added that revenue projections for FY2012 were already signaling difficulties ahead. Dr. Palm asked that Dr. Willoughby present a follow-up report from the Senate Budget Committee at the August meeting of FACP.

Dr. Alberto expressed satisfaction with the timing of the budgeting and strategic planning processes and suggested there might be a conference meeting of some FACP and Strategic Planning Committee members to discuss overlapping matters. Dr. Palm pointed out that the committees had members in common.

Dr. Hudson thanked Dr. Rackliffe for his work in providing the Senate Budget Committee with information about the budget and the budgeting process.

Dr. Rackliffe distributed Schedule A and Schedule B from the FY2011 budget showing budgeted headcount and credit hour enrollments for Summer 2010, Fall 2010, and Spring 2011 as well as budgeted and amended figures of the same for
the preceding year. Dr. Rackliffe also distributed the latest IPort actuals for Summer 2010. He cautioned that year-to-year increases in headcounts and credit hours would appear greater than the induced increases in budget because the FY2011 budget already assumed a certain level of growth beyond the base of the preceding year. He noted that even so, it was encouraging to see the actuals for Summer 2010 running slightly ahead of the budgeted figures and strong indications of success in enrolling new freshmen for Fall 2010.

Dr. Renick confirmed the numbers for new freshmen looked very good. He added that the numbers for transfers were down. Dr. Alberto asked if the transfer shortfall was related to pricing. Dr. Renick answered that there were signs of a pricing effect since Kennesaw State and Clayton State were up in transfers, curiously by almost the exact number Georgia State was down. Dr. Palm pointed out the quality of new freshmen was again up.

Dr. Alberto commented that the multi-year approach to budgeting should entail revisiting the ceiling for the total number of students and addressing the need for a graduate enrollment initiative to maintain a desirable balance between undergraduates and graduate students. Dr. Rackliffe noted this issue might also hinge on the strategic plan. Dr. Hudson asked about the graduate enrollment assumptions in the budget projections presented by Dr. Rackliffe. Dr. Rackliffe replied that the professional and graduate enrollments had been flat-lined in the projections pending development of the graduate enrollment strategy.

Dr. Renick noted growth in graduate enrollments in FY2010 and projected continuation of this trend in FY2011. Dr. Renick indicated the growth had been concentrated to some extent in the GRA-supported programs. He stated that day-to-day figures were available to anyone on the data warehouse site.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert
Approved August 18, 2010