Minutes of the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
August 26, 1998

PRESENT: Martha Abbott-Shim, Lauren Adamson, Marsha Clarkson, Barbara Green, Juane Heflin, Julie Hotchkiss, Phyllis Johnson, Bill Kinyon, Ed Lai, Ernie Larkins, Didi Manns, Mona Matthews, Gabor Patonay, David Pavesic, Jim Senn, Roger Weed, and Diane Willen.

ABSENT: Richard Deane, Bill Decatur, Bernadette Hartfield, Richard Miller, and Charles Rutheiser.

ALSO ATTENDING: Valerie Fennell, Mary King, and Jim Bohanan.

Approval of Previous Minutes
Chair Gabor Patonay opened the meeting by asking for any corrections to the minutes of May 18. On a motion by Roger Weed, seconded by Ernie Larkins, the minutes were approved as presented.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
Gabor Patonay advised that under the Board of Regents policy for alternative dispute resolution the university is required to have a policy committee made up of faculty, staff and students to oversee the operation of the alternative dispute program at the university. The purpose of the alternative dispute resolution program is to provide an informal way to address disputes rather than the more formal procedures of affirmative action or mediation. Carol Winkler, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee has asked the Faculty Affairs Committee for 4 members to serve on the committee. After discussion and a request for volunteers, Bernadette Hartfield, Ed Lai, Phyllis Johnson and Mona Matthews agreed to serve on the committee.

Faculty Ombudsperson
Gabor Patonay introduced Valerie Fennell, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Geography, who will serve as the faculty ombudsperson on a half-time basis effective with the start of the fall term. She explained the duties of the faculty ombudsperson as she saw them and asked for the support and guidance of the committee. She agreed to attend the faculty affairs committee meetings when issues related to the position were to be discussed. She also provided information about the administrative arrangements of the office operations and agreed to provide committee members with a copy of the faculty ombudsperson job description.

Faculty Workload Policy
Marsha Clarkson reviewed the change in the workload policy document approved at the May 18 committee meeting. This change in draft workload.dt6 added the words per academic year, in line 25 to read Because Georgia State University is one of the system research universities, a 4-course teaching load or equivalent per academic year is a reasonable goal for faculty involved in significant research/creative and service activities within the constraints of the university's budget. She presented an additional change that was recommended by Provost Ron Henry. In draft workload.dt8, line 31, the suggestion was made to change 10 courses to 8 courses. The sentence would then read, Faculty members whose activity is primarily teaching may expect a course load of up to 8 courses or equivalent per academic year. After discussion, on a motion by Roger Weed, seconded by Julie Hotchkiss, the committee unanimously approved the recommended change.
Child Care
Committee member Bernadette Hartfield sent a memorandum outlining the changes taking place in the Child Development Center for the fall term. She advised that information from the new director, Marsha Kaufman, indicated that spaces for the state Pre-K program had to be on a first come-first served basis and open to the general public. Other than the Pre-K program, other available spaces are only available to GSU students, faculty and staff. Students are no longer given priority in enrolling their children over faculty and staff. She indicated that the director is willing to attend a committee meeting to discuss the new policies of the center.

Evaluation of Administrators
Gabor Patonay advised that Cleon Arrington, Bill Decatur, and Jim Scott are the administrators who will be formally evaluated this academic year. He also encouraged the committee to think about the type of questions that can be included for the staff component of the evaluation questionnaire. The committee must approve a questionnaire soon in order to meet the formal evaluation schedule.

Employee Benefits
Barbara Green advised the committee that there would be some changes in health insurance providers when the new rates go into effect in January. She indicated that additional information will be available during the open enrollment period.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8 at 12 noon.

James Bohanan
Recorder