Minutes of the Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
24 March 1999

Present: Gabor Patonay (Chair), Yezdi Bhada, William Decatur, Marsha Clarkson, Martha Abbott-Shim, Phyllis Johnson, Bernadette Hartfield, Diane Willen, Richard Miller, Lauren Adamson, Marian Meyers, Ramona Matthews, Edith Manns, Barbara Green, Valerie Fennell.

The minutes of the previous meeting (2 March 1999) were approved with no changes.

Gabor Patonay announced that the Evaluation of Administrators document will be voted on at the next Senate meeting.

Two handouts were distributed to Committee members, one from Carol Winkler and one from Hugh Hudson. Dr. Winkler's memorandum expresses the support of the members of the Executive Committee, including the Provost and the President, for the extension of a policy that would permit a candidate's tenure clock to be stopped in the event of the birth/adoption of a child. Dr. Hudson's memorandum describes three motions passed by the Executive Committee that are designed to improve faculty benefits in the areas of health care, retirement, and savings incentives. Discussion of the information in these handouts will be saved for the next meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Edith Manns reported on the progress of the sub-committee that is currently working on a comprehensive benefits policy proposal. Thus far the sub-committee recommends that regarding the domestic partner issue the library and recreation facilities be made available to anyone who fits the definition of domestic partner. Dr. Manns pointed out that to go further than that would interfere with Board of Regents policy. The sub-committee also recommends an increase in retirement/sick leave funding parity and an increase in the number of 403B savings option providers currently allowed by the University.

The next topic of discussion was Advisory Committee membership. Dr. Patonay identified six areas under the direction of Auxiliary Services that require Committee input: Copy Services, Automatic Teller Machines, Pay Telephones, the Bookstore, Food Services, Print Services. Vice-President Decatur will check into the need for this large number of committees. After group discussion, Dr. Decatur suggested that four committees be formed in the following areas: 1) Parking; 2) the Bookstore; 3) Food Services; 4) Copy Services, Automatic Teller Machines, Pay Telephones, and Print Services. Richard Miller volunteered for the Parking Committee and Diane Willen for the Bookstore Committee. Dr. Decatur will notify Dr. Patonay regarding which of these committees require faculty membership.

Committee members agreed that the next meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee will be on Thursday, 15 April, at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Patonay will announce the date of the meeting to the Senate at the meeting on 8 April 1999.

Associate Provost Bhada reported for Ramona Matthews on the progress of the sub-committee that is examining the issues dealing with the Part Time Instructors. Dr. Bhada stated that the group has divided into sub-committees, each of which is working on a separate task. He pointed out that the process will be slow, as the issues are many and emotionally charged, and the sub-committee is eager to work out something that is appropriate to both the University and the Part Time Instructors.

Bernadette Hartfield explained to the group that there is a Board of Regents initiative to educate the community regarding alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and that a goal for 1999 is to take an assessment of ADR at Georgia State in order to identify needs. Valerie Fennell indicated that the ADR process is already in place in many areas of the University.

Minutes prepared by Mary Robbins