The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by the chair, Diane Willen.

The first item of business was the approval of the October 18, 1999 minutes. The minutes were approved without correction.

Subcommittee Reports:

Bernadette Hartfield reported for the Alternative Dispute Resolution subcommittee by giving background information on the Board of Regents' mandate. The mandate includes education and training on issues related to conflict resolution. The subcommittee has received training from the Center on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at GSU. The subcommittee also sponsored a visit from Dr. Wyatt Anderson, Dean of the College Arts & Sciences, University of Georgia, who spoke to the Administrative Council about conflict resolution at UGA.

Reporting for the Benefits subcommittee, Dick Miller summarized a HR survey that compared employee benefits at GSU with other institutions. The survey identified GSU as having two areas of discrepancy in relation to other universities: basic life and disability insurance. Dr. Miller noted that the subcommittee is in the process of bringing forward a proposal to increase both basic life and disability benefits. He reported that there is a shortfall in the insurance pool funding from the BOR which may cause insurance premiums to rise. The subcommittee is also bringing forward a proposal to provide limited benefits to domestic partners. Dr. Miller discussed the motivation and cost behind the policy. A draft copy of the proposal was distributed to solicit feedback from FacAffairs before submitting a formal proposal.

During subsequent discussion of the Benefits' draft proposal, Dave Pavesic asked if male and females who cohabit at will should be considered domestic partners. Dr. Miller noted that the issue is addressed briefly in the proposal but needs further clarification. Gabor Patonay asked a question related to the number of faculty members affected by this policy. Dr. Miller stated that the number may be small but could not be determined until the policy is adopted and people start registering for the benefits.

During further questions, Marian Meyers raised the issue of insurance premiums going up and the possibility of having another open enrollment period. Discussion centered around the BOR contact with insurance providers and the fact that historically there has only been one enrollment period per year.

Dick Miller also reported for the Mentoring of Graduate Students subcommittee and distributed proposed guidelines for the graduate student and faculty advisor relationship. The subcommittee would like to solicit comments and guidance from FacAffairs. James Senn asked the committee to define the relationship between the graduate student and faculty member. Valerie Fennell noted that the guidelines should address the students' rights and responsibilities, not just the faculty's rights. James Senn also stated that if graduate research assistants are included in the guidelines, the text needs to be changed to reflect this fact. Phyllis Johnson asked if this proposal were restricted to graduate students. Dr. Miller stated that the policy only includes graduate students.

Juane Heflin reported for the Conflict of Interest subcommittee. A final report was distributed to the committee that included two versions of policy. A motion was made to adopt Version 1, the longer policy statement. Dr. Heflin discussed the virtues of each draft, including the value of a longer centralized versus a shorter, decentralized policy. Version 1 was defeated. The subcommittee then put forward an alternative motion, to adopt Version 2 with the provision that, until such time as each college/unit delineates specific procedures, Version 1 of the policy will be in effect. Jim Send moved to amend the wording of the alternative motion by dropping the provision, but this motion was defeated. A motion was then made to adopt the alternative motion as originally presented. The motion was passed by the committee and will be forwarded to the Executive Committee. Dr. Bhada voiced the appreciation of the Faculty Affairs Committee for the efforts of the subcommittee.
Myra Carmon reported on Parking and Transportation issues. Issues include increasing student transportation and parking fees. Discussion also focused on the increase in parking fees for faculty and staff. These fees have increased considerably in the last ten years. Diane Willen will try to meet with Larry Kelley to discuss issues related to parking and auxiliary services.

Diane Willen reported that various committees continue to meet about the bookstore. Discussions have centered on making the book adoption process more efficient. Dr. Willen also noted that the Classroom Facilities Committee has initiated a survey via the web to solicit input from the faculty on the worst classrooms.

The Committee agreed to cancel its November 26th meeting although subcommittees will continue to meet. The next meeting of the full committee was tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2000.

There being no further business, Dr. Willen adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Gary Longstreet
Committee Assistant