Faculty Affairs Committee  
Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Members Present: Glen Abney, Barbara Baumstark, Joan Carson, Gayle Christian, Pauline Clance, Nancy Floyd, Bonnie Fritz, Hugh Hudson, Charles Marvin, Ramona Matthews, Marian Meyers, Richard Miller, Charlotte Petrek, Diane Willen

Members Absent: Gerald Gay, Katherine Johnston, Linda McGehee, Frank Mullis, Linda Nelson, John Peterson, Ted Poister, Cherian Thachenkary, Marta White

Diane Willen, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes for the March 21, 2002 meeting were approved.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair
Dr. Willen, who is retiring from the University this summer, called for nominations for chair and vice chair. Bonnie Fritz was unanimously voted in as chair, and Hugh Hudson was unanimously voted in as vice-chair. Bonnie Fritz presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Subcommittees
Evaluation of Administrators—Dr. Willen gave the background of this subcommittee. Fred Jacobs spoke to the subcommittee, asking them to consider drafting separate instruments for each position that is to be evaluated and to reconsider how to go about choosing the people who respond to the survey portion of the evaluation. The goal is that the evaluation will lead to feedback that will change people’s behavior. Joan Carson suggested adding program reviews as an element of this evaluation.

Since this is a large charge, the subcommittee decided to carry it out one evaluation at a time. The most pressing item of business is to work on the instrument for evaluating the VP of Research. This evaluation is coming up in fall 2002.

Advancement of Women—Marian Meyers said she will join this subcommittee. Pauline Clance is concerned that this subcommittee, which is a Senate joint subcommittee that included members from Research and Budget, did not meet this year. Willen said that MaryAnn Romski, who had been chairing the Budget Committee, was at one time going to chair this subcommittee. Fritz said that over the summer she will contact Romski and Don Reitzes, who is chairing the Research Committee. Hugh Hudson recommended visiting the site www.aaup.org for tools that the subcommittee may find useful.

Harassment and Appeals—Marian Meyers asked to be restored as chair to this subcommittee. She said that the subcommittee had been working on a revision of the Sexual Harassment Policy when the Amorous Relations Policy was given to them. The subcommittee focused on the Amorous Relations Policy and was unable to finish its work on the Sexual Harassment Policy. Meyers said that she would like the subcommittee to revisit the Sexual Harassment Policy next year.

Graduate Education—Willen explained that this joint subcommittee, which is expected to be active next year, began from a request in the Provost’s office to deal with issues raised in the Strategic Plan. Hudson said that there has been some apparent interest toward a more centralized model for graduate programs from the current decentralized model at GSU. Mona Matthews asked what purpose such a change would serve. Hudson speculated that some members of the administration believe that GSU should concentrate solely on the excellent graduate programs and discontinue the others. A centralized administration would be in a position to do this. Hudson added that “another model says that” some programs at GSU are still young and evolving, and that cutting these programs before they have a chance to mature could harm the future of the university. Clance expressed concerned over how GRAs, tuition remission, and grants would be affected by this shift. Hudson replied that there have been discussions about whether data put out by the central administration regarding expenditures have failed to appreciate the income that a department gains through the use of GRAs.

New Committees—Willen reported that Kevin Kelly, who works for the VP of Financial Affairs, has requested representation from Faculty Affairs on two new committees. One committee will review the post office and the other will review campus ATM machines. Willen added that someone will need to replace her and Jim Senn on the Bookstore Committee. Willen also reported that the Parking Office has created an appeals board, and they have requested a representative from Faculty Affairs to serve for one hour per month.

Faculty Development—Willen said that this subcommittee primarily worked on the Student Disruptive Behavior Policy this past year. Nancy Floyd suggested that faculty workload be reviewed next year. Hudson added that the Board of Regents has had two hearings on sabbaticals. He recommended that GSU, UGA, and Ga Tech work together through
university senate organizations to push a sabbatical policy. Currently the Board has a Research Leave policy, which requires that sabbaticals be requested. Charles Marvin asked why a sabbatical policy would be better than the current Research Leave policy. Hudson replied that a formal sabbatical policy would provide more structure than the current policy. He added that currently, research leave is an unfunded mandate and the departments must find a way to cover these costs themselves. If sabbaticals become Board policy they are more likely to be considered for budget discussions. Pauline Clance suggested that some focus be put on faculty development. The Committee renamed this the Faculty Development Subcommittee.

Non Tenure Track—Hudson said that the subcommittee is expecting a report from the Provost’s office on September 1, 2002, to determine if the policy has had any effect. He said that the subcommittee will shift its responsibilities to those of “watchdog” now that the policy has been passed.

Strategic Plan—Willen reported that Planning and Development will draft an action plan every year and may ask for representation from Faculty Affairs.

Classroom Facilities—Glen Abney said that this committee is run by Edgar (gave no last name) and also includes Bob Sattelmeyer and representatives from Physical Plant and Security. He said that the increase in false fire alarms on campus should be addressed by this subcommittee.

Alternative Dispute Resolution—Pauline Clance said that Board of Regents policy requires this subcommittee to be active. Mona Matthews said that she would like to be removed from this subcommittee due to commitments to other subcommittees.

Salary Equity—Miller asked if the mission of this subcommittee had been accomplished. Matthews said that there were still salary inequities and that the subcommittee should be reconstituted for next year.

Childcare—Marian Meyers said that there have been problems with long waiting lists at the childcare center. She said there are other issues that this subcommittee could address.

Other Business

Nancy Floyd, Charlotte Petrek, and Richard Miller were not included in the list of new Faculty Affairs Committee Members. They each came to the meeting and requested to be placed back on the Committee. Charlotte Petrek later added that Staff Advisory Council elections are coming up, so it is possible that she may not be on the Council again next year, and therefore may not be on the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Fritz said that she would use a Tuesday-Wednesday model for the fall meetings and vary the time from between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fritz adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.