Minutes
Faculty Affairs Committee of the Senate Meeting
June 18, 2003

Members present: Glenn Abney, Barb Carroll, Gayle Christian, Nancy Floyd, Gerald Gay, Hugh Hudson, H. Richard Miller, Jean E. Miller, and Cherian Thachenkary


The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Jean and a second by Dick.

This meeting was primarily organizational in nature. Dick requested that attachments be sent to him in text format, as he has trouble opening attachments in Word. Cherian asked the group to please download and make copies of materials attached to the meeting notices, in an effort to reduce Xerox copy production. A small number of the printed attachments will be available at the meetings, and members are asked to bring their own copies.

Cherian reviewed the list of the accomplishments of the previous year.

Jean has volunteered to serve on the Parking and Transportation Committee of Auxiliary Services. Faculty Affairs has been asked to send a representative to a second committee of Auxiliary Services, which is reviewing service contracts up for renewal, such as the travel agency. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please contact Cherian as soon as possible.

The list of subcommittees was reviewed. The membership was asked to review the list of subcommittees and to contact Cherian if the member would like to serve on any committee or to chair any committee. There was a question as to whether or not the Strategic Plan Committee was active. The members present seemed to believe that the following subcommittees were inactive:

- Advancement of Women
- Conflict of Interest
- Intellectual Property
- Graduate Education

There was a question raised as whether or not Childcare & Children in the Classroom Committee had concluded its work. Again, please contact Cherian if you have conflicting information on these committees or if you know of any committees which will need to be formed in this upcoming year.

On-line Evaluation Committee
Glenn reported that Faculty Affairs will need to make a final recommendation to the Senate in the Fall. For Summer only, students are required to either complete an on-line evaluation or to waive participation in the process in order to view their grade for the course. This was done in an attempt to raise the response rate. Glenn remarked that he had heard that in the calculation of response rate, those who declined to participate were to be counted as responding to the survey. In discussion the group believed that the response rate include only those evaluations which have been attempted, and not those which were declined. The following clarification was approved by the group:

The Senate Faculty Affairs Committee seeks to clarify the resolution recently adopted by the Senate in regard to student evaluation of courses during Summer semester, 2003. In proposing a change in the evaluation process, the committee sought to measure effects on the response rate. These effects should be measured by participation in the evaluation process; that students indicate a
preference to decline completion of an evaluation should not be used in the calculation of response rate for on-line evaluation. Cherian volunteered to communicate this clarification to Bill Fritz.

It was asked if faculty involved in the promotion and tenure process had been instructed to opt for pencil and paper evaluations. Hugh believes that this fact was largely communicated, although there was a variance across colleges.

Hugh was also questioned about communication to visiting faculty regarding student evaluations. Hugh responded that the departments have access to the evaluations of visiting faculty as well as all other faculty evaluations.

Barb announced that the Blue Choice HMO has been unsuccessful in its negotiations with Promina. The approximately 900 Blue Choice HMO participants at Georgia State who have primary care physicians in the Promina system will have to select a new primary care physician. Fortunately, Piedmont Hospital and its physicians are not affected, since this group was successful in negotiating with Blue Choice and will remain in the provider network.

Nancy brought up the fact that faculty and staff lost a benefit when they lost the use of the recreation facilities at no charge. The administration feels that, since the rec center is funded by student fees, it would not be appropriate to allow faculty and staff use of the facilities for no charge. It is also pointed out the faculty and staff fees are better than fees charged by gyms in the downtown area. Unless the bondholder of the new student center has some clause that might be prohibitive, we can certainly bring this item up for discussion. Cherian will add the need for a no charge exercise room for faculty and staff on the agenda for the Benefits Committee.

The Chancellor was meeting with the Chief Academic Officers of System schools on the topic of lecturers and senior lecturers. This is why the senior lecturer policy was tabled. There will be another meeting of this group at the end of this month, and we should know the results of the final discussion at the BOR level prior to the first Senate meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00.