Minutes
Faculty Affairs Committee of the Senate Meeting
April 7, 2005

Members present: Pam Barr, Cathy Brack, Harry Dangel, Shelby Frost, Gerald Gay, Cecilia Grindel, Hugh Hudson, Ralph LaRossa, Mona Matthews, Dick Miller, Jerry Rackliffe, and Wayne Reed

Members absent: Glen Abney, Peggy Albers, Ben Baez, Conrad Ciccotello, Valerie Fennell, Nancy Floyd, Emanuela Guano, Amy Helling, Ron Henry, Charles Marvin, Linda Nelson, Dave Pavesic, Charlotte Petrek, Jim Senn, Debra Snell, Tammy Sugarman, Cherian Thachenkary, Marta White and Armenia Williams

Guest: Joan Carson

On a motion by Hugh and a second by Cecilia, the group approved the minutes of the last meeting.

Dick apologized for his not realizing that the NTT Governance Policy had to go to the Executive Committee by April 4th in order to be considered at the next Senate meeting. The NTT Governance Policy, when approved, will have to go to the first Senate meeting of Fall semester.

Mona made a motion to hold discussion of NTT governance until the first meeting in the Fall semester. The group agreed that this issue was too important to be discussed with so many members absent and voted to table the discussion.

Hugh was asked to bring the issue of possibly granting tuition waivers to children of faculty and staff to Faculty Affairs. The group felt that this was a good idea, with a couple of restrictions.

Jerry suggested that HOPE should be the primary funding source, and, if the student lost HOPE, only then would the waiver kick in. Secondly, Hugh suggested that students who are dependent children of faculty/staff would be eligible for the tuition waiver only until the age of 21. Jerry felt that such a benefit would be a useful recruiting tool and would also be well received in light of reduced salary increases. Hugh made a motion that the University produce a study of the feasibility of granting tuition waivers to dependent children of faculty/staff members up to the age of 21 years. The group passed the motion.

Joan Carson reported that once a formal complaint is filed, a person is notified that a charge has been brought against him/her. Dick asked if, at that point, the person being charged may view the “file”, if any supporting document were produced. Joan did not know, but she will find the answer. Hugh asked if the group could assume that no investigation would be conducted before a formal charge were filed, and, if an investigation were launched, could we assume that this would be a violation of Georgia State University policy. Joan agreed that this definitely is a point needing clarification. If an informal resolution is attempted, then both parties need to know that there is an issue that needs resolution. Joan suggested that the boundaries of informal resolution need to be clearly defined. Dick asked about frivolous grievances, those that are brought up again and again, even though the issue has been found to have no merit. Joan reported that this is being dealt with in the new grievance policy. Once the matter has been ruled upon by the President, there may be no further appeal.

The Data Warehouse Users Group, which has representatives from all of the colleges, is recommending that all colleges use the same faculty annual report template. Use of such a universal template was mandated by the Senate several years ago, but was never implemented. Joan, who serves on this group, explained that use of such a template is necessary because:

1. The University must be able to aggregate data on faculty activity such as service, scholarship and instructional activity
2. Faculty data is needed for SACS re-accreditation.
A faculty profile database is proposed. This database would pull in data from the Manage Faculty Events module of PeopleSoft, such as rank and credentials. Data from Banner on courses and number of students would also feed into the faculty profile database, as would information on grant activity from the Grants and Sponsored Programs database. Faculty members would have personal access to their own data. A path would be established to allow faculty to input their own annual report, and with Red Dot, pass the information to the chair and the dean. Faculty could maintain a current CV, which could be customized for grant proposals. Currently, faculty never see this type of data.

The Data Warehouse Users group would like to solicit the input of this group. The proposed template is very close to the type of data in use in Arts and Sciences, but not all of the fields will be relevant to all faculty. A draft template will be circulated for review at the next meeting.