PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 1997

Members present: Lauren Adamson, Cleon Arrington, Missy Cody, Tim Crimmins, William Decatur, Ronald Henry, Julie Hotchkiss, Charlene Hurt, Philo Hutcheson, Sarah Mosely, Ellwood Oakley, Chris Paton, George Rainbolt, Mary Ann Romski, Brenda Smith, Vijay Vaishnavi, Bill Waugh, Carol Whitcomb, Judy Wold


The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by committee chair Tim Crimmins. Dr. Crimmins distributed an agenda for the meeting that included the following: 1) Approval of Minutes; 2) 1998 Action Plan; 3) Classroom Update; 4) Suburban Campus Update; 5) Master Plan Update; 6) Other Items. As the first order of business, the committee approved the minutes for the October 20, 1997 meeting.

1998 Action Plan: Approved Unanimously

Dr. Crimmins stated that the principle item of business for the meeting was the review, consideration, and approval of the 1998 Action Plan for the University Strategic Plan. He provided an overview of the four items related to the Action Plan: the Narrative, the Status Report for the 1997 Action Plan, Recommendations/Suggestions from the SACS Steering Committee, and drafts of nine tables (1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 are complete; 4, 7, 8 still need modification).

The group initially focused on the Narrative and Status Report. Dr. Crimmins noted that the three-page Narrative is a general summary of the tabular data in the Status Report and is not all encompassing. Committee members had questions or comments about the data included in several section of the Status Report.

Programs: It was suggested that figures relating to unmet demand be captured under the Programs category. Several members noted that various avenues were available for resolving the University's unmet demand problem, including creating temporary non-tenure-track positions and raising admission standards, and that unmet demand alone should not be the sole triggering mechanism for program changes.

The committee discussed the $200,000 allocated for the Writing Across the Curriculum program in FY 98, as indicated in the Status Report. Dr. Henry stated that because the program would begin in full force only after the semester system was in place in Fall 1998, part of the FY 98 WAC funding has been used for lecturer positions.

Faculty / Staff: Dr. George Rainbolt asked if there were future plans to compare faculty workload data across colleges. Dr. Henry responded that there were no such plans currently but that improvements in the quality of university data should be greatly facilitated by the recent hiring of a data warehouse coordinator and the anticipated hiring of an Institutional Research director. The committee later agreed that the lack of available data in some areas should be noted in the Action Plan Narrative.
Students: The committee discussed the possibility of using a student survey to gauge scheduling preferences. Dr. Lauren Adamson suggested that a survey could also provide information needed to improve student advisement services.

Identity: Dr. William Decatur informed the group that a large-scale signage plan had been developed that would eventually come before the committee. Drs. Decatur and Henry were impressed with the plan. Dr. Decatur also stated that maintenance of GSU street flags had been greatly improved by the purchase of a lift truck by the physical plant.

After discussions came to a close, Dr. Crimmins made separate motions that the committee approve the Action Plan Narrative and the Status Report. Both motions carried.

Classroom Update

Dr. Henry provided the committee with news on the planned classroom building in the Fairlie Polar district. After gaining approval for the location of the project, the University has begun negotiating for the purchase of the current property on the site. Dr. Decatur claimed that most of property owners seemed willing to sell. The Board of Regents has also released the architect to begin design work on the building. Because the construction of the building will be state funded, the work will be under the auspices of the GSFIC. Dr. Decatur estimated that the demolition of the current property should begin in roughly one year. It will take 12-14 months to design the classroom building.

Dr. Adamson noted the importance of a high quality design. She suggested that the University could quell much of the controversy surrounding the proposed project by building an appealing building. Dr. Crimmins suggested that the donor who pledges the money necessary to build the facility be asked to give the current target of $5 million and any additional money necessary to make the building architecturally significant. According to Dr. Decatur, President Patton has made it clear to designers that the building must fit well with the character of the area. Dr. Decatur said that the plan is to provide 20,000 square feet of retail space in the building. Dr. Henry thought that this figure might need to be revised downward. Dr. Decatur noted that the University plans to hire a broker to manage the ground floor retail space in the new classroom building.

Suburban Campus

Dr. Henry reported that the Board of Regents had approved in concept the University's plan to build a suburban campus in Alpharetta. Dr. Decatur claimed that questions about the Alpharetta community's level of participation in the project appears to have kept the Board from approving the specifics of the proposal. The Board will take up the matter again at their February meeting.

Other Items

The committee was updated on the Master Plan effort. Following the collection of space surveys for each program, chairs and office representatives have met with consultants working with the Office of Planning and Facilities. All data relating to space needs will be finalized during the week of January 12. Any current inaccuracies in the survey information can be corrected up to this cumulative week. CBSAC will review the data after it is finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35.

Recorded by John Medlock, Committee Assistant
Please send questions or comments to Mary Nell Stone