Meeting called to order at 3:10 p.m.

1. Funding of New Research Building

Dr. Henry addressed the Senate Research Committee on the funding supporting the construction of a proposed Research Building to house natural, health, and human science research endeavors. Three years ago it seemed possible that the university could use indirect cost recovery to cover a significant amount of the cost of constructing a new Research Building. He also noted that the dollar amount that was being investigated was not what was in the GSU system at that time, but included proposed increased amounts due to increases in students and faculty. At that time, it appeared to be possible to build this building with little financial cost to the overall university. Dr. Henry informed the Committee that this idea came to a crashing halt due to the transition from the quarter to the semester system. Because of this transition, credit hours generation has not yet recovered (though we are on the road to recovery). He informed the Senate Research Committee that a recovery in the financial system must occur before the Research Building could be built. Right now, that delay seems to be at least one to two years (2001 or 2002).

Dr. Romski stressed to the Provost that the Senate Research Committee supports the concept of the Research Building and is completely supportive of the building delay. She invited questions and concerns from the Committee. One concern that the committee has had is related to the use of indirect cost recovery. Committee members pointed out that most departments rely on the Indirect Cost Recovery for operational purposes and the committee feels that in this time of financial constraint, it would not be appropriate to use departmental indirect costs for this purpose. Dr. Henry responded that at this point we are talking about the university's share of indirect cost recovery and that it would not be the sole source of support for constructing the building. Other possible sources for funding the building could be monies from the University's Fund Raising Campaign. Committee members suggested other alternative sources for funding including private giving, renegotiating the indirect cost rate, and an improved internal budget. The Provost stressed again that right now the funding strategy for building the Research Building has to be rethought given the university's financial situation. Hopefully, this transition period from semester conversion won't last much longer. He pointed out that if enrollment in the university does not recover, this would mean smaller departments; thus, forcing departments to be even more dependent on indirect costs. Right now, he noted, overall university enrollment is down by approximately 40,000 and there has been 10% decrease in credit hours being taken. Dr. Henry did report that Georgia State had a record number of freshmen enrolling this year, and a record number of sophomores as well. He noted that the numbers of students in the masters' programs, seniors and juniors is down because of the rush among students to graduate before the quarter/semester conversion; it may be a year of two before Georgia State University's enrollment is fully recovered from the conversion.

Dr. Henry informed the Senate Research Committee that traditionally the University System of Georgia builds the buildings at the colleges and universities. However, he explained, that GSU is only one of thirty-four schools in the University System of Georgia and there is only $100 million allocated annually to the construction of buildings. The Board of Regents' limit is five slots at $20 million each for school wanting new building. Georgia State is on the list, but it will be a year or two or even more before GSU could receive those funds. Dr. Henry also told the committee that other issues, such as the Governor's Audit on Higher Education, was another area of concern for Georgia State.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is February 21, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. in 741 General Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,