Meeting called to order by Don Reitzes at 3PM.

February 15 minutes approved as to form.

1st order of business commenced with two Center reviews. The 1st review was the critique of the Center for Latin American and Latino/a Studies. After a discussion it was agreed that the following be added to the report, “In sum, it is the assessment of the Senate Research Committee’s Subcommittee on Research Center that the Center for Latin American and Latino/a is not functioning effectively as a Research Center…We strongly recommend that in the Department of Modern and Classical Language’s Action Plan, the Center Director and affiliate faculty address the expectations that a Research Center generates external grant support to enhance affiliate faculty research and scholarship, as well as to develop programs and opportunities to enhance graduate student research activities. Without such plans, the Center should not continue to receive the designation of a Research Center.”

The 2nd Center reviewed was the Center for International Media Education (CIME). After discussion it was agreed that the following be added to the report, “It is the assessment of the Research Center Review Subcommittee that the Center for International Media Education (CIME) has not met the goals and expectations of a Research Center. Therefore, the Subcommittee recommends that in the Department of Communication’s Action Plan, the Center Director and affiliate faculty address the expectations that a Research Center generates external grant support to enhance affiliate faculty research and to develop programs and opportunities to enhance graduate student research activities. Without such plans, the Center should not continue to receive the designation of a Research Center.”

Amy Lederberg was asked to report on the issues raised about the previously approved Postdoctoral Research Appointee Policy. Amy stated all universities have information regarding the hiring of Post Docs and the required procedures, and the need is particularly high for GSU as it is not required to post such positions via the typical HR process, thus the need for clear and consistent process. GSU does not advertise because these are considered training positions. She stated that this issue was thought to have been resolved but quickly found out that the proposed policy details had not been well communicated with faculty, a number who had objections to the appointment procedures and salary requirements as proposed. It appears that the minimum salary proposed of $38,000 for these positions was significantly about what many Post Docs currently receive. The
question was then asked why Post Docs couldn’t be considered Research Scientist. There is no policy which would prohibit reclassifying Post Docs to having other titles. There also is no Federal minimum salary requirements for such positions except in some unique situations. The discussion also pointed out there are problems involving the low pay levels because some graduate students make more than some Post Docs. Dr. Tai stated there are also issues regarding International Students on Visas. The reason HR is involved, and the need for a clear policy, is due to labor laws as well. Tim Bartness requested that Amy insure that advertising of Post Docs is not a requirement.

There are communication issues in this process as well since it was determined that the proposed policy had not been widely distributed, as some of the Deans did not even know about it. It was suggested by Don Edwards that we always include a Preamble to our proposed policies which would explain the context and reason for it. Robin will work with taking such policies to the Dean’s group in the future before they are approved by the Senate Research Committee so as to improve communication and timely feedback. The Senate Research Committee agreed that a working draft should be sent to Dean’s Group and referred back to the Senate Research Committee for finalization before being brought before the University Senate or Administrative Council for approval.

Robin Morris reported that GSU’s Conflict of Interest Policy is being revisited; that the university is looking at drafts from other universities and new NIH guidelines. He reported there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Science Park on March 29 at 10AM. He reported the NRC ratings are also forthcoming this summer.

Amy Lederberg reported on Internal Grants. She stated the award letters have been mailed; funding for the RIGS and Mentoring Grants were not cut; Team Awards were discontinued; RPE – Irene Webber has a final review and her funding will be made permanent, and there was no funding for Scholarly Support awards based on the review committee’s ratings.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.

Next meeting Monday, April 19, 2010 at 3PM – 315 Alumni Hall