The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Sheryl Gowen, chair.

The first item of business was the approval of the November 24 and December 9, 1999, minutes. Both sets of minutes were approved without amendment.

Dr. Gowen introduced the next item of business: the consideration of the requests sent forward from the Staff Advisory Council. She gave a brief history of a previous proposal sent forward by the council. In March 1996, the president of the SAC requested voting rights on the University Senate for SAC members. Dr. Gowen explained that the Statutes and Bylaws Committee considered the request at that time; however, the decision was made to table the request until the Senate Executive Committee examined the structural organization of the Senate. It was concluded that once the Executive Committee made its recommendation, then the Statutes and Bylaws Committee would be in a better position to reconsider the proposal. The current request is a more elaborate set of proposals which seem to raise many of the same issues. Dr. Gowen opened the floor for a general discussion of these requests.

Dr. Willoughby asked whether this new request should be sent to the Executive Committee. Dr. Gowen explained that the Executive Committee at that time did not act on the request. There were changes in the chair's position and in the committee membership and this earlier request may have gotten misplaced in the transition.

Ms. McGovern was asked, as the SAC representative on this committee, to talk about this request. Ms. McGovern explained that the SAC feels that since the Senate is a University Senate and not a Faculty Senate, the SAC members should have the same privileges and representation on the Senate that the faculty have. Dr. Crimmins stated that there should be some discussion of the structure of governance at Georgia State. We have a University Senate with a set of defined responsibilities; we have a Staff Council with a set of defined responsibilities; and we have a Student Government Association with a set of defined responsibilities. There are communication links between the University Senate and the SGA and, when the Staff Council was established, similar communication links were put in place by having SAC representatives sit on many of the Senate committees. He feels that the larger issue is defining the purview of these three different groups.

Dr. Crimmins suggested that the Statutes and Bylaws Committee develop a brief "statement of principle" on the appropriate interaction between the University Senate and the SAC and between the University Senate and the SGA. This committee could draft a document that the Executive Committee could review for adoption. Then, Statutes and Bylaws could consider various proposals for membership. This "statement of principle" would help with institutional memory.

Dr. McWilliams commented that faculty is the only group on campus that does not have a separate forum. He suggested that maybe the answer is to have a faculty senate and then have a university group where all three of these groups come together. He said that if the issue is equity, then the faculty do not have an equal voice. Dr. Crimmins disagreed and stated that there are two models of university governance: one that uses a faculty senate and one that uses a university senate. He distinguished between the two, saying that in a university senate, the faculty have more leverage. This model requires more consensus building. Dr. McWilliams stated that he appreciated Dr. Crimmins' explanation as he had only had previous experience with a faculty senate.

Dr. Crimmins stated that the Staff Council, in his view, has a specific purview: climate and working conditions. In his opinion, the Staff Council is a forum for these issues for the staff rather than a separate representative body that needs representation on the Senate. Within this focus of campus working conditions, there are important, decision-making committees where the Staff Council should be, and are, represented: FACP, Budget, and CBSAC. There was discussion about the faculty not having a forum for their own deliberation and about how in the past there used to be general faculty meetings at the university level. Dr. Crimmins mentioned that the faculty forums at GSU are divided by
Ms. McGovern stated that, speaking as a staff member, and not as a Staff Council representative, the Staff Council could be addressing other issues and could try to be more effective on issues that affect staff. Dr. Willoughby stated that faculty and staff have different perspectives about how to accomplish things. Dr. Crimmins reiterated that the Staff Council does have a presence on decision-making committees and it has an opportunity to speak with President Patton each month. Presently, the Staff Council has everything in place to get issues where they need to be in order to get a response. Dr. Crimmins stated that he would be willing to speak to the Staff Council about this. Ms. McGovern stated that she would make a recommendation to the president of Staff Council, Carol Whitcomb, to have Dr. Crimmins as a speaker.

Dr. Gowen will appoint a subcommittee to work on crafting this "statement of principle" for Executive Committee review. The following will serve on the subcommittee: Dr. McWilliams, Ms. McGovern, and Dr. Gowen. Dr. Gowen stated that she will respond to the Staff Council's request by sending a letter to Ms. Whitcomb. The committee decided to reschedule the March meeting since the current meeting time was during the Spring break. The committee's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 3 at 11:00 a.m. in 732 Park Place Building.** Dr. Valeri-Gold, chair of the Senate Committee on Cultural Diversity, did not have the materials ready for presentation at today's meeting (see item 3 on the agenda). This item will be postponed until the March meeting.

There being no further business, Dr. Gowen adjourned the committee at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone
Committee assistant