Deans Group Minutes 11/14/01

In attendance: Ahmed Abdelal, Reid Christenberry, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Janice Griffith, Sid Harris, Char Hurt, Susan Kelley, Mike Moore. Also in attendance Kurt Keppler, Bob Moore, Marolyn Wells. Chaired by Ron Henry.

I. Minutes of 10/31/01 were approved.

II. Crisis Committee
Marolyn Wells explained the Crisis Committee has reconsidered and expanded its role in intervening in future such as that of September 11 that may affect the university. She explained that collaborative efforts are being to deliver to faculty a comprehensive list of resources for assistance and referral for students experiencing problems such as those associated terrorism. She asked for input from the deans as to the best mechanism to share this information with their faculty.

Kurt Keppler explained the Student Services crisis plan had previously not addressed events beyond typical student-oriented crises. Susan Kelley suggested the deans share this information with their chairs as well as through an email distribution. Ahmed Abdelal indicated the CAS has taken steps to aid and refer students as well as staff and faculty through this crisis and agreed the steps being taken by Student Services were important. Kurt Keppler indicated he appreciated the support he had received with such students thus far throughout the colleges and schools and acknowledged such considerations will most likely be necessary in the future.

Ahmed Abdelal suggested that in the event of a crisis similar to September 11th, the university did not need to forcibly evacuate. He also noted the public address systems did not work well. Marolyn Wells explained efforts were ongoing to examine procedures for evacuating the University Village and coordination with other state and federal organizations.

III. Graduate Assistantship Appointment Policy
Ron Henry asked for input regarding this policy. He explained that a student couldn’t be hired in any nonexempt capacity (at an hourly rate) if they are also hired as a graduate assistant during the period of the assistantship. Janice Griffith asked if other institutions than the university could hire students in a nonexempt status. Ron Henry said he would ask HR about this problem. Ahmed Abdelal suggested that the policy read that if they are hired as nonexempt they must be hired through student assistant funds (at an hourly rate.) Ron Colarusso asked if combinations of different levels of GRAs could be approved by the dean (not just different levels simultaneously appointed GLAs, GRAs and GTAs.) He suggested the rate of pay will depend upon the range of rates for each discipline and are to be prorated for the summer academic term. Further, with each assistantship appointment, the student is expected to work, on average 10 hours per week. Ahmed Abdelal asked about the maximum number of assistantships a student may receive. Ron Henry suggested the number should be two. Ahmed Abdelal suggested the wording should read that the “suggested” maximum numbers of GAs which should allowed would be two without approval of the dean. Mike Moore asked about the perspective of the chairs should also be solicited before the policy is approved.
Ron Henry asked if separate sections should be dedicated in the policy to annual appointments vs. term appointments. Ahmed Abdelal suggested he has encouraged his college to make annual appointments to reduce paperwork etc. Ron Henry indicated for term appointments the number of credit hours required is six per term, whereas an annual appointment requires nine hours of enrollment. He will leave these sections separate and corresponding changes from the term appointment discussion. Ron Henry indicated he would modify the document, distribute it electronically and share it with HR. He asked that the deans share this information with chairs for

IV. Enrollment Management Strategic Plan
Ron Henry indicated the EM strategic plan is being drafted. Bill Fritz noted enrollment management is difficult considering the large fluctuations in enrollment in the history of the university (1975 – 2001). Ron Henry noted the graduate and professional enrollment should be nearer to 8000 students. Charlene noted maximum numbers should consider the nature of the programs when considering these plans and the characteristics of these graduate students. Ron Henry suggested the research-based graduate programs might be differentiated from others. The group decided they would also like to examine credit hours generation over the 1975 – 2001 period.

The goal for 2006 is to increase the average SAT scores to 1110 for new freshman. Bob Moore asked about the effect this change would have on the current student body with regard to gender, racial and international diversity. Bill Fritz suggested the strategy is to increase quality by focusing on the freshman class. He suggested that to increase quantity GSU should focus on transfer students as well as retention issues. Ron Henry noted this information is reviewed annually, but indicated diversity issues may become a problem. Sid Harris suggested data regarding student satisfaction with UG academic preparation be examined. Ahmed Abdelal indicated he was familiar with a survey he would share with the group. Sid Harris also noted housing may become an issue.

General discussion involved bolstering graduate programs (including masters’ level work and non-degree prog and interdisciplinary programs. In addition, the group talked about goals being developed based on capacity (potential) giving consideration to variables such as budgetary and resource needs as well as disciplinary reputation and recognition. In addition, the location and level of university conversation and decision-making concerning goals and targets was discussed. Finally, the group discussed establishing criteria by which to judge the quality of graduate programs as compared to peer groups. Ron Henry suggested he would update the draft of this strategic plan and take it to Administrative Council. He will wait however for more input from the deans’ group.

Enrollment for Spring 2002 shows that over 17,000 students have registered (2000 new students have yet to register). Students have registered for 194,000 credit hours thus far in Phase One with a projected level of 268,000.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 9:00 to 11:00 am, Room 200, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.

Submitted by Lisa Beck 11/14/01