Deans’ Group Minutes 12/12/01


I. Minutes of 11/14/01 were approved without changes. Ron Henry noted he would make appropriate modifications to the GAs information as mentioned in the previous minutes.

II. GSU Foundation Update
Bob McGinnis noted the Investment Committee of the GSU Foundation has been meeting to carefully manage during the current economic trends. He indicated the Foundation intends to maintain the distribution of funds at the same level for the next fiscal year as the current year. For new endowments, the same relative spending rate was maintained. He also noted that reserves had been developed to cover times such as these for established endowments.

Roy Bahl asked what the percentage decline has been. Bob McGinnis said that although total endowments have dropped approximately 10%, but considering the addition of new endowments, he hypothesized that the true decline is approximately 15%. Roy Bahl asked if a unit could elect not to receive a payout and turn funds over into the corpus of the fund. Bob McGinnis verified that this could occur at the request of a unit. Charlene Hurt asked if the corpus could shrink as a result of a payout. Bob McGinnis affirmed this.

Janice Griffith asked about business manager activities concerning accounting for funds. Bob McGinnis instituted this review of practices and the Foundation infrastructure. He noted, for example, the system does not allow for the processing of an encumbrance. Ron Henry asked Bob McGinnis to elaborate on his idea of establishing a representative chairs committee to talk about Foundation issues. Susan Kelley noted that a Deans’ Group representative might be helpful. Janice Griffith agreed with this suggestion. Ron Henry agreed to follow-up.

III. Action Plan Draft 2002
Ron Henry noted the sources of information used to develop the document. He noted that among the action plans in the past, we have not made specific reference to academic programs. However, we do focus on enrollment management. He indicated that a projected increase of 15,000 credit hours, including 2200 new freshman, to targets for the various units. Bill Fritz explained admission standards have not been changed for the next academic year. He showed that the increase in early admission acceptances that are occurring might be indicative of a recent increase in credit hours. Sid Harris asked if plans are being developed to focus on the graduate and professional programs as well as undergraduate goals. Ron Henry indicated these strategies would be examined in the future.

In addition he asked Charles Louis about the status of the data on predictors and measures of graduate program quality. Charles Louis indicated this process is ongoing.

Ron Henry also asked for feedback to a proposed statement indicating that budget allocations for graduate programs would be protected in the declining budget situation. Roy Bahl asked how that statement is interpreted. Ron Henry interpreted this to mean the total monies used to support internal grants and GA funding but may not guarantee specific unit allocation of these funds. Sid Harris noted that perhaps these funds might not be allocated to support weak programs. Roy Bahl stated that he would probably oppose this suggestion especially since program quality may not be appropriately assessed. Susan Kelley noted that these internal grants create a positive impression for the university.
Charlene Hurt asked what other areas of funding would be used to support an area like graduate student support which has been proposed to be protected. Ron Henry noted in general, the areas needing to be protected include those dealing with a balance between quality, student experience, and research. He also noted that specific areas would have to be scrutinized. Robin Morris asked about the cost of 50% insurance coverage for GAs. Ron Henry and Charles Louis felt that the figure would be between $700,000 and $1M for GSU.

Janice Griffith noted that a singular focus on supporting research might prevent the university from taking a balanced approach in the case of deep budget cuts. Charlene Hurt suggested the statement should be amended to reread “efforts will be made to protect” this type of research funding. Roy Bahl noted that, the statement as written would imply one focus or goal of the university is to support research.

Charles Louis suggested a vision for research should be developed and then the strategies should be developed subsequently to this. Sid Harris then suggested would need to assess whether we had the assets available to carry out these strategies. Roy Bahl questioned another statement indicating focus would be placed on terminal master’s programs. Ron Henry indicated that this focus would be centrally located and would differentiate between research degrees and professional degrees. Charles Louis also added that central areas would be responsible for better correlating data collection, electronic theses, determining how competitive doctoral education programs are, etc.

Ron Henry indicated that the language would be amended to reflect the intent of the committee to enhance graduate research programs through central coordination of strategy development, but not to decrease focus on professional programs. He also noted that perhaps this statement is premature until the Enrollment Management Strategic Plan more completely evolves. Bill Fritz suggested the Action Plan might indicate on-going conversation will be occurring regarding this concept rather than the intimation that strategies would be implemented. Ron Colarusso noted faculty draw students and support the development of research, so therefore perhaps the focus might be placed on faculty. He also stressed that programs which will support the emphasis on research need to be identified before on-going university functions, such as faculty recruitment, continue.

IV. Enrollment Updates
Bill Fritz presented Spring 2002 enrollment data. Over 22,000 students have already registered with the new on-line schedule. He predicts 3500 students have yet to register (1100 are new students) and that the credit hour total reach the 268,000 predicted. Today is the last day of Phase 2 of Registration. He indicated the last phase of Registration begins January 4th and asked deans to be cautious in closing sections before this time.

V. Announcements
Ron Henry noted Regents awards for departments and faculty nominations are due to the System in the beginning of January. Harry Dangle is coordinating these. He also reminded the group that P&T review proposals are being processed now through the beginning of January.

Ron Colarusso asked about credit for research for faculty. Charles Louis described the difficulties he has corrected regarding tracking research awards. He also noted the financial software tracks monies to where they are expended. Ron Colarusso noted the issue is about giving credit to the individual faculty, and Charles Louis indicated this occur with the implementation of new software.

Janice Griffith asked if staff personnel assignments to graduation could be examined. She noted functions that not proceed if personnel were at Commencement activities. Susan Kelley asked if other units could also help support the graduation ceremony. Ron Henry noted Erin would plan better in the future.
Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 9:00 to 11:00 am, Room 200, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center

Submitted by Lisa Beck 12/12/01