Deans’ Group Minutes 01/09/02

In attendance: Ahmed Abdelal, Reid Christenberry, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Janice Griffith, Sid Harris, Charlene Hurt, Susan Kelley, Charles Louis, Mike Moore, Robert Moore. Chaired by Ron Henry.

I. Minutes of 12/12/01 were approved.

II. Enrollment
Bill Fritz presented the group with current enrollment figures. As of 1/09/02, enrollment is 25,004, with 267,734 credit hours generated. Average course loads are also increasing. Processing in Admissions is increasing as well as the number of freshman applications/admits for Fall 2002.

III. Budget
Ron Henry reminded the group that budget restrictions were linked to the generation of approximately 261,000 credit hours, which appears to have been surpassed for Spring 2002. The Governor has proposed holding the University System partially harmless for semester conversion and GSU should receive funding through this consideration. GSU is not high enough on the major projects list to have any supported this budget year. In addition, GSU is not on the recommended list for minor projects. The Regents have approved the Wachovia Project.

IV. Action Plan
Ron Henry reviewed the current draft of the Action Plan with amendments based on the 12/12/01 Deans Group meeting and review by the Planning and Development Committee. With respect to graduate and research programs, discussion by P&D concerned the use of the phrase related to protecting these programs. The language has been modified to use the term “should” over the term “must” protect graduate and research programs.

V. Enrollment Management Plan for Graduate Programs
Charles Louis indicated access to centralized data concerning graduate programs and their resources is lacking compared to undergraduate programs. He pointed out electronic theses need to be coordinated across campus one example of a program that favors central management. Ahmed Abdelal suggested management of undergraduate enrollment might not be as centralized as it might appear. Ron Henry agreed, but pointed out centralized programs such as training graduate assistants may be appropriately managed from a central location.

Charles Louis encouraged discussion concerning the incorporation of a Graduate School. Ahmed Abdelal stat opposition to the idea of establishing a Graduate School and indicated his understanding that this proposal also faculty support. Abdelal argued that the current system of administration at Georgia State, suggested the university should first examine what processes should be conducted centrally and then decide on the appropriate structure to meet those desired goals— which leaves the management decisions at the levels of the departments and the colleges— more effective than hierarchal systems at other institutions which manage graduate programs centrally. At the same time, Abdelal stated his support for central warehousing of appropriate data. Mike Moore encouraged discussion concerning accountability as well as management. Ahmed Abdelal pointed to self-study and academic review processes in place at the university. Ron Colarusso supported the collection of data centrally, indicating for instance, the COE needs for reporting to external reviewers is lacking and would be expensive to generate on own. Charlene Hurt suggested that the group look at models of institutions that effectively manage as well centralized data collection. Sid Harris supported the concept of central data collection, emphasizing the need to respond to external requests.

Susan Kelley asked for more information regarding the models of graduate schools among our peers. Charles indicated these schools represent a broad spectrum of profiles. He cited two specific examples of Graduate School functions. First, in the North and Midwest, because of efforts by graduate students to unionize, the Graduate S
tend to encourage and improve conditions for graduate students. Second, a decline in Asian graduate students has been forecast, how should this issue be addressed? Susan Kelley asked how the admissions process is handled with the incorporation of a Graduate School. Charles Louis indicated the processing of applications is handled centrally, but admitting students is based on standards established by colleges and programs.

Ron Henry suggested discussion should be held to establish the measures indicating the qualities of a strong graduate program. He also announced to the group that Joan Carson has recently been appointed Senior Faculty Associate Program Review and this should move forward Academic Program Review. Ahmed Abdelal reminded the group that since 1992 (the date of the most recent NRC review) the university has made enormous strides. Susan Kelley indicated she supported the model of central data collection without emphasis on central management. Charlene Hurt argued that the process of refreshing data could be well managed with a centralized system. Reid Christenberry from his experience, current information to perspective students to access information concerning the admission processes, is best done via the web. He stressed that these types of information (especially on web sites) might be better organized in a centralized manner. Ron Henry concluded that it is clear that the Deans Group does not support the establishment of a Graduate School but supports the development of central data housing after some discussion of appropriate measures.

VI. Charlene Hurt mentioned the fact that the level of serials will be reduced due to budgetary cuts. She indicated she would be meeting with each dean (or his or her designee) concerning the need for various publications.

VII. Website Troubleshooting
Janice Griffith shared with the group that over the break, a hacker corrupted the COL website which resulted in the site being shut down. She proposed that a policy be put in place to deal with the situation should it happen in the future, especially over a break time. Reid Christenberry noted that many servers are not adequately protected from such corruption. He encouraged the university community to become knowledgeable about such preventative measures, noting that some intrusions have occurred because some areas of the university have not corrected such deficiency.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 23, 9:00 to 11:00 am, Room 200, Golden Key Boardroom, Student Center

Submitted by Lisa Beck 01/09/02