Deans Group Minutes 10/30/02

In attendance: Lauren Adamson, Reid Christenberry, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Janice Griffith, Sid Harris, Charlene Hurt, Susan Kelley, Bob Moore, and Mike Moore. Also in attendance: Doug Podoll, Gayle Nelson, and Sara V. Chaired by Ron Henry.

I. Minutes of 09/18 and 10/09 were approved.

II. GSTEP
Gayle Nelson described issues surrounding the funding of the GSTEP testing as well as for graduate ESL courses. She noted that 300 to 350 students are tested each fall and spring. Last fall, 94 students enrolled in ESL courses including intermediate and/or advanced courses. These courses had previously been paid for through the CAS. Gayle explained that RCB has planned on implementing their own testing procedures and teaching undergraduate ESL courses, with plans to organize graduate level courses. Ron Henry agreed that the ESL department should offer courses for the University.

Lauren Adamson stated there are two issues surrounding the funding of these programs through Applied Linguistics. First, funds are needed for faculty to teach additional sections of ESL courses, and second, funds need to be budgeted to pay for testing. Courses being taught in other Colleges and Schools may interfere with funding for the faculty position. For this year, funding for both was covered centrally.

Sid Harris explained RCB concerns revolved around costs and the execution of the exam. Gayle Nelson explained she had contacted RCB because Applied Linguistics had not been informed RCB would not use their services in the future.

Ron Henry noted that if all ESL courses are credit-bearing courses, then concerns voiced last meeting might not be a problem. Mike Moore questioned whether these courses count toward the degree and if there was still a problem with the manner in which the Regents count credits. Sid Harris asked how ESL courses could address the diversity presented in the general ESL courses.

The issue was left with ESL to meet with RCB on course delivery and for ESL to request unmet demand money. The question of payment of testing fee was left to the discussion below concerning an international student fee.

Doug Podoll distributed a request for a $50 fee per academic term for F and J status students/visitors due to the federal government mandated service SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information Service). Without this system before January 30, we would not be able to enroll international students or host visitors or scholars.

Sid Harris indicated he considered this fee might be a little formidable. Bill Fritz explained he thought the proposed expenditures were perhaps conservative in their estimation. Lauren Adamson also indicated she felt the fee was above what international students should be expected to pay. She agreed that in keeping with the mission of the institution, the institution in some way might cover these expenses. Ron Colarusso spoke in favor of the fee being paid by the students. He likened this fee to fees other students assume for testing they require. Sid Harris questioned the amount, stating this is a large amount of money by international standards. Susan Kelley asked if this fee was a small proportion of the total international cost for tuition etc. She spoke in favor of the assessment of the fee.

Ron Henry supports the idea of an additional staff person and support personnel, as well as most of the current proposal. He feels there is a minimum of $100,000 proposed budget that is necessary and reasonable and may best absorbed centrally.
Lauren Adamson indicated that if the university absorbs the fee, she thinks the action should be publicized. Reid Christenberry noted these requirements might just be the first of many more requirements that may come up in future. He cautioned then that we should consider this in a broader context (such as a “homeland security” fee.) Janice Griffith noted if all institutions did this, a message would be delivered about the cost of this level of security. Ron Colarusso indicated some faculty might be concerned about this additional central cost for international education. FACP will further discuss this fee consideration.

Doug Podoll also distributed a review of the cost of attendance for F and J status international students. He stated the new twelve-month costs for attendance for a GRA would be $13,949.50 (without the cost of tuition). With tuition, for graduate students (CAS, AYSPS and COE), this figure would be $27,341.50. For undergraduate students with tuition the total cost is $21,846.00.

Bob Moore asked where insurance was included; Doug Podoll responded this was included in the “personal expenses” category. Sid Harris asked why room and board had increased nearly 10%; Doug Podoll indicated this value reflects the market (including the Lofts or the Village) but is still under the Fulbright estimates for the area. Ron Henry indicated the previous figures were set several years ago. Bob Moore was concerned these values may actually be too conservative. Charlene Hurt noted that during a previous discussion, many students find themselves seeking additional (and potentially illegal) sources of income. Bob Moore asked about taxes on these funds, and Doug Podoll indicated that taxes are also an issue. Lauren Adamson asked if these figures are similar to those provided in the catalog. Ron Henry summarized that from the discussion, the figure of $14,000 for a GF graduate student (without tuition) is a fair estimate of the cost for twelve months.

III. Enrollment Concerns
Bill Fritz distributed current enrollment figures. He is receiving positive feedback from students who have registered early. A pilot project to check prerequisites has also been positive. He encouraged the deans to begin assembling prerequisites established for other courses to go on-line for summer. He is projecting 27,100 students for spring (with 294,000 credit hours).

Sid Harris indicated he does not have figures reflecting newly admitted students. Bill Fritz noted these values are now available on STATWARE, but that they were delayed due to upgrading computer systems. Lauren Adamson asked if an email (or some other system of communication) could go out describing where, and in which system, the reporting features are currently found. She also asked that the contact people identified.

IV. Indirect Cost Recovery
Ron Henry noted the policy on applying indirect cost recovery and current practice differ. He supports splitting the funds 50/50 between the unit and the university according to the indirect cost recovery rate proscribed by the funding agency. He does not favor forcing providing funding institutions to submit a statement detailing their desires. However, there is potentially about $400,000 loss of revenue centrally to implement this change.

V. Extra Compensation Policy
Lauren Adamson noted the policy is still cumbersome from the regard of the necessary levels of approval and paperwork. Ron Henry asked if the group could assemble the methods by which they currently provide for such compensation for staff members. Bill Fritz asked if this guide related to outside compensation. Ron Henry indicated that it is illegal to be employed fulltime simultaneously at Georgia State and elsewhere. Ron Colarusso asked Chancellor’s approval was required each time or just upon initial credentialing. Reid Christenberry noted that rates indicated are different (in one place in the document the rate to be considered is based on their current pay in another, it is based on the going rate for faculty positions). Ron Henry asked for comments from the group.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 9:30 to 11:30 am, Golden Key Board Room, Room 200, Student Center.