Deans’ Group Minutes 10/09/02


I. Approval of Minutes of 09/18 will be delayed until the next meeting.

II. Enrollment Update

Bill Fritz indicated GSU would place holds on grades for the next term for students who fail to pay for the current term, as do both UGA and Georgia Southern. The census will be run the evening of October 14th this semester.

Bill Fritz explained GSU is unique with respect to the extremely large number of transfer students whom apply addition, although the number of new students for the entire fiscal year for GSU is similar to other comparable institutions, GSU has many more new students in the spring and summer terms.

GSU also processes 42,000 applications per year. This is among the largest number of applications processed nationally. GSU graduates 2400 students with masters degrees and may be among the largest of any institution. Although GSU has the largest graduate program in the state the number of doctoral degrees is significantly less than UGA. GSU also has large numbers of non-degree students and those who stop out and may then return later, placing large workloads on campus services. Each term there are in excess of 50,000 students eligible to enroll.

Lauren Adamson commented that these issues may influence the negative graduation rate data for GSU and asked if this had been examined. Bill Fritz indicated that transfer students from Georgia Perimeter College have high graduation rates (nearing 60%). Ron Henry agreed with group comments that the parameters regarding success should be inspected. Mike Moore added it is difficult to develop an academic climate given these student issues.

Finally, Bill Fritz noted a steady increase in freshman application numbers following semester conversion, but although the number of transfer applications has increased, the values have not yet reached the high values for 95-96.

III. Budget Update

Ron Henry announced that a budget cut might occur following the November elections. He reminded the group that there are no more reserves to cover such cuts (estimated at 3% approximately $2.1 to 2.2 M for the campus, approximately 1% of the annual budget of the individual units.)

Lauren Adamson noted care should be made to indicate to the university this is a relatively small cut and that positions would be secure. Ron Henry emphasized that these cuts would be temporary, and the incoming fund on increasing enrollment values should cushion the effect of similar cuts in the future. He also pointed out layoff will not be allowed by the state and that many other state institutions are in much more difficult positions.

The Regents have asked for budget increases based on increases in the formula funding for next year ($145M) funding for new special funding initiatives. They will also request $34M for on-going special funding initiatives. Ron Henry therefore projects a net of a positive $2 to 2.5M for next year for GSU. The Regents also urged an average merit salary increase of an undefined value. Ron Henry reminded the group that the University has already weathered significant base funding decreases plus mid-year cuts due to improved enrollment figures.

Charlene Hurt noted the faculty has handled the large responsibilities of the increased enrollment. Lauren Adamson also indicated that although the enrollment numbers are up, the university community might find it difficult to understand the implications of the current financial climate.
III. GSTEP
As discussed on June 12th, a fee has been proposed for this examination. Ron Henry asked the group if the fee should be assessed to the student upon their arrival or to department. Bill Fritz noted the GSTEP Alternative has proved to be successful in that student pass rates on the Regents’ Exam with this program have nearly doubled fees will be absorbed centrally for undergraduate students.

Lauren Adamson indicated a course for graduate students in RCB has been established for students who need instruction in English as a second language, separate from ESL courses offered through CAS. Ron Henry desit that ESL programs are noncredit courses and have traditionally been centrally funded. Bob Moore asked if ES courses could be made into credit-earning courses and therefore be funded as are other credit courses based on enrollment and unmet demand. Mike Moore indicated these courses cannot be credit-bearing. Bob Moore als indicated in AYSPS graduate students must fulfill a language requirement and English as a second language or successful completion of the GSTEP examination to meet this requirement. Ron Colarusso suggested the st should bear the cost of their needed testing and coursework. Susan Kelley agreed.

Lauren Adamson suggested Gale Nelson should be asked to come and address the Deans’ Group to clarify the of these issues. The group agreed.

IV. Commencement Speakers
Ron Henry indicated that the Commencement Committee has asked for nominations and qualifications for faci speakers. Bob Moore asked if similar institutions have small commencements as GSU does. Ron Henry indic the commencement ceremonies probably would not be consolidated in the very near future. Lauren Adamson suggested that faculty are already involved in giving speeches for honors programs etc… She also noted nation renowned institutions select well-known speakers. Ron Colarusso suggested there are several qualified faculty do make speeches for national meetings. Bill Fritz suggested compensation should be considered for the future. Charles Louis suggested the deans might have good contacts with nationally known speakers. Charlene Hurt suggested the methods for selecting individuals to help with graduation is not satisfactory. Susan Kelley and J Griffith agreed it was difficult especially concerning the distribution of the proportion of individuals required each college/school.

V. Research and Shared Credit
Charles Louis indicated the technology can now allow for listing multiple PIs on records concerning awards, b similar accounting is not available for the distribution of expenditures so that the colleges can access this information. Ron Colarusso stressed that reports detailing the actual distribution of the award (as pertains to amount of effort) by college and by researcher must be put into place. Charles Louis noted that the associate d would meet to discuss these issues in the near future. Lauren Adamson suggested that each time awards are mentioned, the co-PIs should be listed.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 30, 9:30 to 11:30 am, Suite 870, Urban Life.

Submitted by Lisa Beck 10/09/02