Deans’ Group Minutes 03/27/02

In attendance: Ahmed Abdelal, Roy Bahl, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Janice Griffith, Sid Harris, Charlene Hurt, Susan Kelley, Chaired by Ron Henry.

I. Minutes of March 13 were approved without modifications.

II. Budget Update Discussion:
The USG has received hold harmless money as well as funds to cover increases in health insurance. Ron Henry announced that GSU will be able to balance the budget for FY02 and is releasing the funds that the units were holding. He also discussed the options for previously held funds, as well as options for projected surpluses such as funding the Sports Arena renovation ($600,000) and reserving $1.5M for next year to relieve potential budgetary shortfalls. FACP will also take up these discussions.

Roy Bahl suggested the Wachovia Building project needs political pressure to ensure completion by fall 2003 thus freeing up additional space. He also noted the staffing for Banner backfill may cause problems with College Admissions offices, so he supports rolling money over to FY03 for these purposes. Susan Kelley agreed with this need for funding. She also thought the Athletic Department should be given funding to allow some of the other cramped academic departments to move into Park Place facilities. Janice Griffith supported the need for funding for Banner backfill. Sid Harris suggested Banner, space and faculty support will be of issue considering rising enrollment figures.

Bill Fritz noted the Banner conversion is going well and he believes that the perception of a large increase in workload has not been evidenced from the experiences thus far in Financial Aid, Admissions and the Registrar Office. Ahmed Abdelal strongly recommended examining the FY03 budget before trying to make further decisions. Charlene Hurt agreed that funding the Sports Arena project would be a priority concerning space needs. Bill Fritz prioritized faculty funding and space for faculty needed to cover enrollment increases. He still estimates both new freshman and transfer students will continue to increase.

Ahmed Abdelal indicated space for faculty offices is critical for meeting the increased enrollment. Sid Harris noted other deans with whom he confers also indicate the need for more faculty as a crucial need. He suggested steps are needed to limit enrollment. Bill Fritz explained that as enrollments increase, admissions standards might also be raised, limiting enrollment in that way. Sid Harris further indicated that the labor market is also limited for the future, impacting the use of NTT faculty. Ahmed Abdelal has suggested a heavy reliance on mentored GTAs to deal with the short run in faculty.

Ron Henry indicated careful consideration should be made of capping limits on student enrollment considering limitations in space, support staff as well as faculty. He discussed the allocation strategy for incremental money to be recommended to the Chancellor will propose returning 80-90% of the workload money earned by each campus. In addition, those institutions losing money will also have to return budget money. He also noted large differences across campuses concerning faculty student ratios. He explained funds generated by an institution will gain more per credit hour on graduate programs and therefore emphasis should be placed on these programs. Roy Bahl asked about the formula differences for graduate vs. undergraduate programs. Ron Henry indicated the ratio is 2:1. Ahmed Abdelal noted a more sophisticated formula taking discipline differences into account exists, but has not been implemented.

Sid Harris proposed rolling as much forward as possible. Roy Bahl agreed. Ahmed Abdelal supported rolling as much money as possible but including funding for faculty space. Mike Moore indicated funds might be necessary to support the Faculty Information System (FIS) for the BOR. Roy Bahl noted three choices exist for meeting unmet demand: reduce research releases, employ more GTAs, or hire more NTT faculty. He further noted constraints at the graduate level might not be suitably met by GTAs and NTTs. Ron Henry noted the increased use of GTAs also imposes greater stresses on tenure track faculty. Ahmed Abdelal also noted GTAs should be exposed to a pedagogical course and mentored.

Charlene Hurt asked about summer enrollments. Bill Fritz projects freshman numbers will increase and transfer students may be increased a small amount, but predicts modest growth for this summer. Ahmed Abdelal noted preliminary budgets would be discussed today in FACP.

III. Graduate Assistant Guidelines
Ron Henry presented modifications to the policy. Ahmed Abdelal proposed that GAs who are also employed full-time by the university, may not be employed for a combined total in excess of 100% FTE. Ron Henry will ask for the opinion of Human Resources. The statement concerning a student not fulfilling the requirements of their GA agreement – the policy will be silent on the issue.
IV. Grade Distributions on the Web
Mike Moore asked if these grade distributions should be displayed. He noted a student has inquired about obtaining this information for the purposes of selling it. He proposes allowing these distributions to be public. The group decided that distributions would remain public. Bill Fritz indicated how useful the data is for enrollment management.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 9:00 to 11:00 am, Room 200, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.

Submitted by Lisa Beck 03/27/02