Deans’ Group Minutes of June 12 – amended after discussion at July 24 meeting

In attendance: Roy Bahl, Reid Christenberry, Ron Colarusso, Hugh Hudson, Bill Fritz, Janice Griffith, Sid Harris, Charlene Hurt, Charles Louis, and Mike Moore. Also in attendance: Katherine Johnson. Chaired by Ron Henry.

I. Minutes of 04/24 were approved without modifications.

II. Policies Concerning GSU Research Foundation (GSURF) Expenditure of Residual Funds

Charles Louis presented a proposal to formalize policy concerning the use of residual funds from fixed-price contracts to be presented to the GSURF meeting next week. As first proposed in the 1989 “Memorandum of Agreement” with the BOR, awards would be expended on research and scholarly activity. Roy Bahl asked about the operational definition of “scholarly activity.” Ron Henry suggested the definition forwarded by Boyer. Roy Bahl indicated he was concerned about limiting the transfer of funds in the future to non-research areas. Roy Bahl asked to be provided with documentation from the auditors concerning recent findings driving the concern to develop policy. In particular, activities such as those honoring students (involving food) are difficult to fund in this way. Hugh Hudson pointed out the present discussion includes concerns about the centralization of decision-making and the level of management at which decisions are made.

Ron Henry indicated federal regulations specify the policies for expenditure of indirect cost funds, and therefore funds cannot be transferred for such activities. Ron Colarusso asked how practice would be impacted by these proposals, wanting to know which specific activities would be impacted. Ron Henry stated, the GSU Foundation allows for the expenditure for social activities whereas the GSU Research Foundation funds are restricted from being expended in such a way. Sid Harris suggested if the definition of “scholarly activities” is so broad, then the policy concerning the expenditure of residuals might also be broad. Charlene Hurt suggested donors might not be enthusiastic about supporting the donation of funds that can be transferred to the GSU Foundation from the GSU Research Foundation.

Roy Bahl suggested a transfer pricing mechanism to solve this problem. Katherine Johnson suggested a morale fund could be established within the Research Foundation. Charles Louis indicated he would consult the auditors concerning such a solution and would obtain policies for institutions.

The second point of the proposal concerns closing accounts. The policy specifies transferring funds from the GSU Foundation to the GSU Research Foundation for an undetermined amount of time. Roy Bahl suggested the proposal not be presented to GSURF next week. Ron Henry stated the proposal would be discussed at the GSURF board meeting. [Subsequently, the Board meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum – it will be rescheduled for August, but the Executive committee met].

IV. Enrollment Information

Bill Fritz presented Summer enrollment figures. For the first time since semester conversion, summer enrollment (headcount) has increased to over 15,000 students. Credit hours have increased by over 14,000. The early Fall registration held last week on the GOSOLAR system resulted in 5,000 students registering. This represents an increase in the size of the load that had registered during any period. The maximum load performance is estimated to be approximately 500 students at a time. One system failure did occur but was corrected within an hour.

Bill Fritz noted the “Reports Across Campus” functions are formatted differently with the new system, so he cautioned the group as to these changes. He also indicated more training would be afforded the university concerning obtaining information from the current systems, both for reports that are readily available on the existing system as well as in writing individualized queries.
V. Budget Concerns
Ron Henry informed the group that funding has been reduced by 0.25% for the first quarter with a projected 0.25% reduction each quarter until state revenues improve. He also noted the amount carried forward may not be as anticipated.

VI. FACP
At the previous FACP meeting, the recommendations from the Student Fee Committee were approved. Reid Christenberry suggested the funds for the fully funded projects might be funded by July 1. The committee plans those projects not fully funded will be expedited.

VII. Graduate Student Leaders
The University System has asked for list of graduate student leaders across university units. The deans will provide this information to Charles Louis.

VIII. GSAMS
Ron Henry suggested the five GSAMS sites could provide the same level of service with only two sites in action. The committee has suggested the Alpharetta site is highly underused and should be eliminated. In addition, sites in Alumni Hall and Urban Life are also underused. The BOR is phasing out the use of GSAMS favoring the use of a desktop system. Sid Harris will consult his chairs concerning the Alpharetta site. Reid Christenberry noted the Alpharetta site has the bandwidth to support limited desktop promotions.

IX. Student Services Fees
It has been suggested that MAT and CLEP exam fees be increased and that a fee be assessed for the Compass test when given to nontraditional students.

A fee has been proposed for the GSTEP test for international graduate students and the GSTEP Regents (for international undergraduate students in lieu of the Regents Exam). The Applied Linguistics Department is currently bearing the $61,000 cost of the exams (approximately $120 to $150 per exam) for a total of approximately 800 exams. Ron Colarusso, Roy Bahl and Sid Harris suggested the students should assume this cost after the next year. Bill Fritz noted that international student fees might be perceived as too high. Charlene Hurt asked about practices, especially for graduate students at other campuses and these other practices will be pursued. The undergraduate students are given the exam to increase pass rates on the Regents Exam; this alternate examination is acceptable to the BOR. Native English speaking students are not charged for the Regents examination. Charlene Hurt indicated then that the cost for the GSTEP Regents be borne centrally.

X. Emeriti Faculty
Emeriti faculty have previously been deleted from the university email system. One concern is that information of that individual will be stored on the individual department and college servers. In addition, some system to differentiate them as emeriti faculty rather than regular faculty might be established.

XI. Meeting Dates
Ron Henry distributed a list of potential fall meeting dates. He will email a list of possible dates for the fall retreat for the deans’ approval.

XII. BOR Information
A copy of the official leave policy from the BOR was distributed. The titles of Lecturer and Senior lecturer were approved by ACAA and will be recommended to the Regents for approval. Also, the percent of NTT faculty allowed will be increased by the BOR.
XIII. Deans’ Group Initiatives
Ron Henry distributed a list of proposed on-going topics for Deans’ Groups for next year. Included in these initiatives are the following: enrollment management plans for graduate students and the inclusion of historical “off-budget” items into the budget.

XIV. Additional Announcements
Charles Louis announced sponsored awards increased by 29% for the first 11 months of FY02. Charlene Hurt announced the serials review has been completed by the library and after purging, approximately $20,000 will be available for new titles.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 9:30 to 11:30, Room 200, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center.