Deans’ Group Minutes 8/25/04


Minutes of 7/28/04 were approved.

Provost Henry opened the meeting by welcoming several new members. Joan Carson, Irene Duhaime, and Robin Morris. Cynthia Giddens was introduced as the new person to take the minutes at future meetings.

Fall Enrollment
Bill Fritz addressed the handout on the Overview of fall 2004 Enrollment. The registration period was open longer with a large number of students enrolling during the first week of class. The student body total for fall 2004 is 27,019. Transfer student enrollment is down. The average SAT score is 1094. The GPA average is between 2.8-2.9.

Ron Colarusso asked the difference between new freshmen admitted and new freshman enrolled. Bill Fritz responded that the new freshmen admitted are those students who have no college work since graduating from high school. The new freshmen enrolled are students who transfer with up to 30 hours.

Bill Fritz mentioned the average age of freshmen is 18. There has been a decrease in applications for freshmen and that it may be due to raising the admissions fee and deadline. However, more freshmen were admitted and enrolled.

Charlene Hurt inquired about the tracking of the students who transferred from Morris Brown to Georgia State. Ron Henry responded we did not track those students.

Bill Fritz pointed out on the last page of the handout a letter to the faculty regarding protecting student’s records and compliance with FERPA. The letter will be sent via email to all faculty. Discussion followed regarding including student’s grades or GPA in a reference letter. The concern is the legal implications if a faculty member gives a student’s grade in a reference letter.

Roy Bahl suggested a waiver form be attached to the letter being sent to the faculty. The waiver form would need to be signed by the student requesting a reference letter.

The decision was made to delay sending out the letter to the faculty until clarification is done with the Office of Legal Affairs. The letter was requested to see a draft before anything is sent out. Ron Henry made the suggestion that the list of DO items be listed first before the DON’T items on the letter to the faculty.

Budget
Ron Henry explained that the Governor Perdue met two weeks ago with his economic advisors. The payroll shift was not a good idea and the state agencies have been left to deal with the problem. The University System has absorbed $68 million of $179 million statewide. Georgia State’s budget will see a $7.3 million cut. The Chancellor wrote a good letter to Governor Perdue outlining possibly eliminating enrollment and a tuition increase by mid-year. There is discussion at the System office of campus mergers.

Lauren Adamson expressed concerns about staff layoffs given the budget situation. Ron Henry responded that there may be some reduction in force and some programs are vulnerable, but there are no specific programs targeted at present. Ron Henry stressed that units will be strategic as the university moves through a difficult budget time.

Secured Classrooms
JL Albert addressed the handout on classroom usage procedures. JL expressed concerns with street people walking into classrooms: buildings. Discussions have been made with Chief Connie Sampson regarding access control to classrooms and buildings. Faculty cooperation is needed to ensure classrooms are secured once a class is over. There is discussion on having the classroom on a keypad control, but this is very expensive. A card swipe system is a consideration, but the cards are easy to duplicate. Discussion followed as several deans who expressed concern about having the classrooms locked and faculty being able to get keys to their classrooms. Ron mentioned that there has been an increase of homeless people on campus. Georgia State University lost control of Woodruff Park and the park is controlled by the Atlanta Police Department instead of Georgia State’s Police department. There has been discussion of locking campus down by 6 p.m., but some buildings have constant traffic such as Kell Hall which might make it difficult to close by 6 p.m.

Henry expressed concern that the university cannot afford to lose valuable equipment. The Planning and Development Committee is reviewing options to secure buildings.
JL will wait to send out memo to faculty on classroom usage procedures until further discussion with various groups.

Resolution regarding graduate students
Ron Henry addressed the resolution by the Council of Graduate Schools. The resolution concerns conditions surrounding the accept offers by graduate students. The Resolution should give students an opportunity to consider more than one offer by the April 15 date. Some deans responded that they were not aware there was a date deadline on offers and that they have no problem with the April date. Robin Morris mentioned that some PhD students change their minds after accepting offers and wondered if the Resolution is binding.

Ron Henry mentioned the rankings by U.S. News & World Report. The university ranks at the 4th tier. Work will be done to continue to make retention and graduation rates a priority. Carnegie classifications will be changed in 2005.

Any other business
Roy Bahl asked for an item to be placed on the next meeting's agenda – which unit bears the cost of legal defense – central or college?

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 15, 9:30 to 11:30 am, Golden Key Board Room, Student Center

Submitted by Cynthia Fox-Giddens