Deans Group Minutes 10/12/05

In Attendance: JL Albert, Jim Alm, Joan Carson, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley, Mike Metzler, Bill Nelson, Robin Morris. Ron Henry, Chair

The minutes of September 14, 2005 were approved.

Draft W limit policy
George Rainbolt addressed the handout outlining the limits on withdrawals with a grade of W. George Rainbolt mentioned that retention rates are not good. Most students who receive a number of withdrawals do not seem to graduate. The new policy on limiting Ws would reflect better GPAs and student achievement. It is proposed that students be allowed one W grade per classification (freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior) and two additional withdrawals with a grade of W at any time during their careers at Georgia State.

The limit on withdrawals does not apply if a student withdraws from all classes during a term before the midpoint. However, students are only allowed to withdraw from all classes twice without having their withdrawals count against them. Students who withdraw from all courses a third or subsequent time will automatically receive a grade of WF in their courses if they have reached their limit of Ws.

The Phase-In Plan would initially apply to students on the 2006-2007 catalog and those on subsequent catalogs. The Enrollment Management Committee is authorized to decide when to apply these rules to all students. Deans Group was in favor of the new policy and suggested that the phase-in apply to all students as of fall 2006.

Ron Henry would like to have the draft policy on the University Senate agenda for their meeting in December. George Rainbolt added that several student focus groups will have a chance to provide feedback on the draft policy.

Update on Enrollment/Budget
Ron Henry distributed a handout on the changes to financial aid that affect students. The handout was provided last month to the department chairs during their meeting with Ron Henry. Bill Fritz provided a handout on enrollment. There has not been any significant change in the enrollment numbers. Students are still dropping/adding courses and 200 students have not paid for their courses. Some departments are requesting to have students added back into classes, but there has not been a check and balance on those students to make sure they have paid for their courses. Bill Fritz commented that the comparison of average SAT scores has declined from last year, but the average on the ACT has increased which is a positive sign. Bill Fritz mentioned an increase load in all the colleges for graduate student enrollment.

Ron Henry mentioned that the enrollment has affected the budget. There is a $10.3M shortfall projected for this year. Graduate student enrollment is up, but the university has taken a budget hit with regard to providing graduate research assistantships, the influx of providing tuition for Hurricane Katrina students, and part-time students taking fewer than 6 hours or less from last fall. Ron Henry added that the university will probably have a 2% budget cut this year, but more will be known in the next few months. The university will be paying health insurance for graduate students on tuition waivers next year which will impact the budget.

Policy on tenure and leaves
Ron Henry addressed the handout on Policy Regarding Tenure and Leaves. The deans discussed the draft and provided feedback. Ron Henry will make changes and rewrite the draft for further review.
IS&T Update
JL Albert reported that the proposed $25 increase in the Student Technology Fee was well-received at a recent Student Fee Committee meeting. JL commented that some students inquired about the return of the printing subsidy once offered. JL mentioned that the committee may consider reintroducing the subsidy for printing.

The deans expressed concern on the amount of spam they receive. JL commented that additional funding will be needed in order to install the software to reduce spam. Several deans noted that there seems to be a slow down of their email during the day. JL mentioned that a slow down seems to occur between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. when most spam comes through. The university will be looking into more ways to reduce spam before it hits the computer.

The deans mentioned that former employees are still using their Georgia State email address to receive email. JL responded that departments will need to take steps to remove an employee from the GroupWise system when they leave the university. JL noted that employees should check their email frequently to prevent their inbox from getting full which causes slowdowns in the system. JL plans to have the IS&T staff scan email mailboxes to check inboxes that are full. JL will provide a list of employees to the deans whose email boxes are full some time in November.

Graduate Student Stipends and trends in Graduate Education
Ron Henry asked the deans to consider levels of pay for graduate research assistant stipends in their college and to send recommendations to him. Steve Kaminshine mentioned that consideration should be given to providing partial waivers to graduate students. Ron Henry plans to review the information received from the deans and continue discussions of this agenda item for future meetings.

Faculty Hiring Paperwork
Ron Henry mentioned that the paperwork from the colleges to hire faculty is being received late into the Provost Office for entering into the Faculty Information System. The Faculty Data Form is being returned long after a new faculty member has begun teaching classes. Ron Henry requested the deans to talk with their college HR personnel to make sure the necessary paperwork is expedited sooner to the Provost Office. Ron Henry mentioned that paperwork on some new faculty who began teaching in August is just now being sent to the Regent's for approval at their November Board meeting.

Post Tenure Review Follow Up
Ron Henry distributed a handout on post tenure review. Ron Henry mentioned that more focus will be given during the review process on how well a faculty member has published in scholarly journals. Ron Henry noted that most faculty are given a reduce workload for scholarship, but the results of the scholarly work has not been published in high ranking journals. The deans agreed that the faculty will need to show that their reduced workload is producing scholarly work.

Any other business
Steve Kaminshine mentioned that the College of Law Henry Miller Lecture has a new format this year. The lecture will be held at noon with lunch instead of 5:00 p.m. The evening dinner at the Commerce Club has been discontinued. Steve Kaminshine welcomed all the deans to attend and they will receive an email about the event.

Ron Henry extended congratulations to Steve Kaminshine on his new appointment as dean of the College of Law.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.
Next meeting: Wednesday, October 26, 2005, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Golden Key Board Room 2nd floor Student Center.