Deans' Group Minutes 11/15/06


Other Attendees: Karen Oates, Harry Dangel, George Pullman

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of October 25, 2006 were approved.

eLearning
Karen Oates presented a PowerPoint presentation on eLearning Solution. At Provost Henry's request, Karen Oates and JL Albert collaborated to determine the current landscape of online delivery. The group investigated the standards and guidelines for online education and identified faculty incentive for online course development. The group will formulate a plan to move Georgia State forward in distance education.

The deans discussed and commented on the presentation which included advantages of using vClass and eCore for course delivery. Some of the deans were not familiar with vClass so Ron Henry suggested IS&T visit the colleges and departments to explain vClass and its advantages. Fenwick Huss commented that faculty in the College of Business have responded positively on the using vClass.

Bill Fritz mentioned that the classroom schedulers need to be aware of courses that are taught using eCore so that classroom space can be available for other instructors.

Ron Henry thanked Karen Oates for the presentation and commented that discussion will continue in January on eLearning.

QEP Update
Harry Dangel addressed the handout on the plans for the Quality Enhancement Plan for Georgia State University: The ThinkWrite Program.

The goal of Georgia State University's Quality Enhancement Plan is to increase our students' performance on two of the University's general education learning outcomes - critical thinking and written communication. The strategy for achieving this goal is to implement a university-wide two course critical-thinking-through-writing (CTW) graduation requirement.

The deans discussed the handout and plans for implanting the CTW requirement. Ron Colarusso pointed out that the estimated expenditures under The ThinkWrite budget may put a financial strain on the colleges. Harry Dangel commented that some programs will not need any resources to implement. Ron Henry added that the program will cause a fiscal impact on the University, but the Plan will need to move forward because the QEP is part of our SACS Accreditation. Harry Dangel mentioned that money will be needed for Writing Consultants and to train faculty on course implementation.

Susan Kelley requested time to share the QEP document with department chairs in her college to get their feedback before approving. Harry Dangel agreed and suggested the other deans share the document with their department chairs.

Susan Kelley commented that the comment made by RCB department chairs on p. 3 of the document does not express a positive view of QEP and suggested removing the comment. Ron Colarusso suggested the wording be changed so as to not appear negatively on the QEP.

Harry Dangel mentioned that he still needs to meet with the new department chairs in Nursing and Social Work to present and discuss the QEP. George Pullman commented that more feedback received on the QEP will be beneficial.

Graduate Fellowships
Robin Morris distributed an updated handout on the Policy and Procedures for Graduate Fellowships. Robin Morris explained the stipulations of some Fellowship awards that come with a condition that funds can not be used as compensation for assigned duties and therefore can not be used to fund a graduate assistantship.

The deans discussed the handout and agreed with the Policy and Procedures.
Limited submission grant programs
Robin Morris distributed an updated handout on the Policy for Limited Submission Grant Programs. This policy covers grant competition programs (including graduate fellowships) where there is a limitation imposed by the funding agency on the number of applications that Georgia State University may submit to the program.

The deans discussed the handout and agreed with the policy.

Any other business
Ron Henry announced that nominations for the Regents Professor will be due mid-March. Ron Henry mentioned that complete packets from the colleges on their nominee will need to be received so that he will have time to give the nominations to the Regents Professor Committee for review. Ron Henry added that the nominations will also be reviewed by the Provost, Bill Fritz and Robin Morris.

Ron Henry announced that the departments of Political Science and Early Childhood Education will receive the Department Instructional Effectiveness Award. An announcement on these awards will be in the next issue of The Villager.

JL Albert distributed a handout on the IP Telephony Project. All campus phones will be issued a new number with a common exchange by July 1, 2007. The purpose of this transaction is to move the campus community from multiple exchanges to a single one. The initial step of the deployment process will include the IP Telephony Team working closely with departments and colleges to assign numbers to their areas from a predetermined block.

The deans inquired if callers will be given the new telephone number when they dial the old telephone number. JL Albert responded that the new telephone number will be provided by BellSouth for up to 90 days. JL Albert mentioned that a web site with Frequently Asked Questions on the new phone system will be available to answer questions about the upcoming changes in the telephone system.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 29, 2006, 9:30-11:30 a.m., College of Health and Human Sciences Dean's Conference, Suite 816 Urban Life Center.