Deans' Group Minutes 2/28/07

In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, Roy Bahl, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley. Ron Henry, Chair

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of February 14, 2007 were approved.

Endowed Academic Position Limits
Ron Henry addressed the handout on Endowed academic positions. The Board of Regents has asked the System institutions to review the funding levels for endowed academic positions.

The deans discussed the funding levels on the handout.

RACAA Items Update
Ron Henry reported on several items that were discussed at a recent meeting of the Regents Administrative Committee on Academic Affairs (RACAA).

The Board of Regents is exploring revamping the Core Curriculum by 2011-2012. The Regents plan to start reviewing the curriculum this summer and pay faculty to work on the revisions. Ron Henry reported that further instructions on the revised curriculum will come from the Regents’ Office.

Ron Henry reported that the Regents plan to re-examine low production programs. The goal is to push for efficiency with programs. The Regents will send the institutions a list of programs to examine.

Ron Henry reported that the Chancellor wants to reduce the amount of paperwork he needs to approve and delegate signature authority to the presidents at the institutions. Ron Henry added that approvals such as tenure will be approved by the Chancellor, but promotions will probably be approved by the Presidents. Ron Henry added that the Chancellor will be working with Regent's staff and committees to determine the approval authority by the Presidents and will inform the System institutions.

Ron Henry reported that the Regents plan to request that institutions develop a schedule of classes for the next 18-24 months. The schedule will give students an idea of which classes are planned so they can better schedule their classes.

Ron Henry reported that an Instructional Delivery Plan (IDP) will be developed by the institutions that outline the institution's plan for delivering external instruction to students. The IDP includes both a summary of current external program activity and planning for 3-5 years. Ron Henry mentioned that the Committee on Academic Programs is developing the Instructional Development Plan for Georgia State University.

Ron Henry reported that the Board of Regents will now require institutions to perform criminal background checks on any new faculty or staff hires. Ron Henry added that this is an unfunded mandate so institutions will have to cover the expenses of the background check. The vendor selected to perform the background checks plans to offer a good rate.

Ron Henry mentioned that the results of the background checks should be available within 24 hours. The background checks will screen for convictions and felonies. The checks can also perform degree verifications. Ron Henry added that the institutions will receive guidelines on the background checks from the Board of Regents.

Eliminating Social Security Numbers
Bill Fritz reported that there is a project underway with IS&T to develop ways to eliminate the use of social security numbers. The coordinators of the project are developing ways to have a unique identifier from the nine digit number on the PantherID. The project will begin now and continue through the start of summer to re-card everyone on campus.

Bill Fritz mentioned that social security numbers may still need to be used for Interlibrary Loans due to information that is needed to identify students, faculty, and staff in the library system.

Undocumented Students
Bill Fritz reported that about 44 students at Georgia State University who have been receiving tuition waivers have been determined to be undocumented students.
Bill Fritz reported that the undocumented students come from all over the world. Currently, 14 students were given out of state waivers and 4 students received scholarships from the Goizueta Foundation.

Bill Fritz mentioned that some of these undocumented students will no longer be able to continue as students next semester. Bill Fritz added that several of the students are close to graduation. Bill Fritz inquired of the deans on ways the colleges may be able to help these students financially so they can continue their studies.

The deans asked for a list of the students and the countries they are from so that the colleges could talk with donors in their college for possible financial support. Fenwick Huss commented that discussions with college donors should be done before dispensing any money to the students.

The deans commented that assistance should be provided for the students who are close to graduation and make the hard decision to discontinue providing the waivers for the undocumented students.

Discussion of enrollment and budget implications
Ron Henry addressed the handouts on Strategic Enrollment Plans. Ron Henry explained that the undergraduate enrollment plans includes adding 100 transfer students.

Lauren Adamson commented that the impact on college advisement staff will be a concern as enrollment grows. Charlene Hurt added that demand for more resources for the library will need to be considered. Roy Bahl added that the university should be selective in its investments and invest where we will get a return.

Ron Henry commented that enhancing quality is important as the university looks ahead to increasing enrollment. Ron Henry added that the university leadership will play a large role in the marketing strategies for increasing enrollment.

Any other business
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2007, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Golden Key Board Room, 2nd Floor Student Center.