**In Attendance:** Lauren Adamson, JL Albert, Jim Alm, Joan Carson, Ron Colarusso, Bill Fritz, Fenwick Huss, Charlene Hurt, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, Ron Henry, Chair

**Visitors:** Bob Sattlemeyer

**Introduction:** Ron Henry introduced Fatuma Dahir, who will be replacing Cynthia Fox-Giddens, as his new secretary. Members introduced themselves and the units they represented.

**Approval of Minutes**
The minutes of May 9, 2007 were approved.

**Honor’s Program**
Ron Henry turned the floor over to Bob Sattlemeyer to introduce a university-wide honors program at Georgia State University.

Bob Sattlemeyer passed out proposals titled ‘Honors at Georgia State University’ which included examples of web designs from selected universities and their honors program. The honors program in the College of Arts & Sciences dates back to 1975. Its background is a microcosm of the history of Georgia State, especially in the last 10-15 yrs. It began as traditional, humanities based program with interdisciplinary classes. There were few traditional incoming freshman and undergraduates at the time. Yet, in the last 10-15 years, with a change in the demographic, growth, and traditional freshman and undergraduates, Georgia State is now the only university of the list of twenty-five universities located in the back of the proposal, that doesn’t have a university wide honors program. Many of the suburban schools, like Kennesaw and Southern Polytechnic, have an honors program.

An honors program at the university level is typically the primary way that universities recruit high achieving students. He clarified that we have an honors program, or programs similar in at least two of the colleges here at Georgia State. About 30% of those who graduate with honors are outside of Arts & Sciences. He explained that a university wide program would have a central structure for students in all colleges. The upper division level units in each college, however, would construct the kind of courses appropriate for their students, but the executive level of the honors program would assemble a sequence of core courses suitable for the first two years. National Standards suggest that the program should be visible and highly reputed throughout the institution, and the honors director should report to the Chief Academic Officer.

The College of Arts & Sciences began a freshman honors seminar series. It plans to be a small class with a highly focused topic. It’s designed to engage the students with a senior faculty member. He’s assured that these honors-type programs would not be taken away with a university-wide honors program.

Lauren Adamson mentioned that the current honors program is not acting as a portal for students, because it’s currently based in colleges. Traditional freshman and sophomores usually enter into the Arts & Sciences honors program with the number currently standing at about 100-120 students. The College hired a lecturer in honors to construct the core courses and develop a structure to expand it throughout the college, which has made great progress in the past 2-3 years. Would like a forum to discuss what an honors in a major is. The College of Arts & Sciences began a freshman seminar series, and would only see honors in a major program for Georgia State as a win-win situation. Dean Adamson would need to speak with the undergraduate council and department chairs. The College of A&S honors program has a lot of history. She wouldn’t want our honors to be harmed by the university-wide program. She has suggested that the director of honors be a part of the Dean’s Group, and a part of the colleges, and possibly an equal partner with the Deans. We should make sure there is flexibility. Students can take honors classes but not be in the program. The ones in the program should be allowed to register first though.
Bob Sattlemeyer stated that to get an honors designation on a graduation diploma, there are three different levels, which are all described in the proposal. First there’s general honors which involves a certain number of courses in the core level. Second there’s advanced honors which includes the above and major courses. Finally there’s research honors, which includes all of the above and an honor’s thesis which students write with a faculty member. There is a misperception that our honors program does the same work as the general courses. Bob would like to see around 10% of incoming students participate in the program. Were running 40% ahead of last year, as far as applications go. We might hit 130-150 freshmen. Around 600 total are in the program, and it could rise to 1000-1200. The freshman benchmarks are 1200 in S.A.T. scores/3.5 + GPA., which is a little low. The requirement for a non-freshman is a 3.3 GPA.

Fenwick Huss stated that the Business School has a similar honors program. Requirements include extra community-service activities, small seminars, and interaction with the cohorts. Others join one of the discipline based honorary fraternities that have strong interactions with the business community. He doesn’t want to get to a point where all of the universities efforts for high achieving students were under an honors program umbrella. Experience has shown that even with active recruitment, many students elect not to join an honors program.

Bill Fritz challenge is increasing the quality of our freshman and transfer students. While many of them seek an honors program; many of them want other options. Currently, we offer scholarships/scholarship housing to high-achieving students.

Enrollment
Bill Fritz passed out the Enrollments sheet. Georgia State has reached its target of 110,000 credit hours for summer. There has been one hard fee cancellation during Maymester. The next is scheduled for June 15, and it’s expected the numbers will rise to 115,000, and drop back to 110,000. The students we’ve admitted for summer are on par with last year. We have already enrolled about half for fall. We are up 800 freshman applications from last year. Our recruitment efforts have paid off. Our targets were 9,090, and were already at 9,193. We’ve accepted 4,828 and there are 900 pending. Many of the pending, at this time, will probably not meet the complete application status. We should meet our 5,000 target however. And we should bring our accept percentage between 54-55%.

Budget
No budget update at this time.

Building Community
Ron Henry declared that this will not be discussed until the June 27, 2007 meeting. The meeting will include VP Douglas Covey and soon to be Associate Provost Mary Finn, who would both like to be included in the discussion.

Vision 2013
Ron Henry began with stating that 2013 is Georgia State’s centennial year. A more concentrated honors program is one way to add significant value to the university, but we also need to have signature undergraduate programs and a strong focus on graduate/research programs. What would we like to be known for? How do we become the business school of choice for Atlanta? What would we like the university to look like? We could market Georgia State’s professional degrees, which are quite strong. Our problem is that we’re not challenging students relative to other USG institutions. In some categories we’re better than other universities, and in some we’re below.

Lauren Adamson requested that we use some time from the deans retreat to have the data beforehand and spend time pouring over what students have to say about why they chose Georgia State. She suggested we
build up our academic success stories by picking a cohort of students, follow their stories until 2013, and have those be a powerful image for students.

**Bill Fritz** mentioned that Georgia State’s Freshman Learning Community program has had nine years of sustainable growth and a healthy turnover of faculty members. We currently have 55 proposals for the FLC, of which 20% -30% of them are new. Data has shown that nationally, similar FLC programs falter at the five year mark. It’s possible that Georgia State could one day offer an FLC program to all incoming freshmen. If you look at the freshmen index for FLC members, it turns out to be significantly lower than the index for the norm. However, if you look at them a year later, they have a higher GPA then those of the norm.

**Issues and Goals for next month/what are you wrestling with?**

**Ron Henry** mentioned that the university system had a task force on retention progression and graduation (RPG) and it’s expected that the report will be released shortly. One of the recommendations in it, which we did last year, was to have each department create a retention plan. If you look at all the things a department has to do during the academic year, and considering that some things are better handled at different times than others, when is it a good time to have departments prepare retention plans for their majors? Is it better to give it to them in the middle of fall as a due date? In the past it was voluntarily completed and it was done towards the end of spring semester. During the summer, slightly more than half of the department put together their retention plans.

**Lauren Adamson** claimed that a good time is when it’s tied to resources. If there is a way in which it leads to an action plan, or impacts what the department could do.

**Ron Henry** stated that we could put it in a regular basis as they write their institutional effectiveness report at the end of the year, and they can comment on the progress they’ve made on their retention plans. The RPG proposals generally go out early spring and we could tie it to that. Ron also stated that we have not done well in the doctoral programs and we need to look at ways to positively impact that.

**Lauren Adamson**’s concern is trying to strategically focus on bringing resources in the undergraduate programs and deliver more quality courses at the same time that we are expanding our quantity. The other is dealing with funding for graduate students.

**Robin Morris** mentioned that the *NRC studies* show pretty striking poor retention levels for graduate students. The study includes cohorts in programs and their status. Also, we’re going to be dealing with personal effort recording/workload relationships and new systems and guidelines this summer. He should have a draft policy procedure guideline in the next week or two.

**Any Other Business/Announcements**

**Ron Henry** announced that he received information about a summer institute that the university system holds on conflict management. If there are any interested, it will be held in July 30- August 8th in Jekyll Island.

**Charlene Hurt** announced that the university library is spending approximately, $350,000 on materials out of savings. They haven’t spent as much from the operating budget because of the construction and due to limited service desks they have not been filling positions as well.

As far as criteria, they looked at one-time expenses. They looked at humanities and social sciences and bought Classical Scores Library, the American Periodicals series, which they have on microfilm, the Institute of Physics Archive, the Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics in paper, Historical Statistic’s online, two more JSTOR components, and Harpweek, which will cost $5 more on the annual fee. And for the Andrew
Young School they’ve got Empire online. They plan to let the liaisons and faculty know about the new databases.

**Any other Business**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2007 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Golden Key Board Room, 2nd Floor Student Center