In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, JL Albert, Jim Alm, Ron Colarusso, Mary Finn, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley, Bob Sattlemeyer, Ron Henry, Chair

Approval of Minutes of June 27
The minutes of June 27, 2007 were approved.

Welcome Jim Alm as the new Dean of Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, and bid farewell to Ron Colarusso as he steps down as Dean of College of Education and thank him for all of his contributions.

Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)

Ron Henry passed out copies of the VSA template. This was a topic of discussion at the most recent NASULGC meeting. The accountability will refer to undergraduate students in the institution. Institutions either report to Common Data Set or IPEDS. The National Student Clearing House requires every institution to send information on the status of their students. It’s really more for students who receive loans, grants, and/or any other type of federal financial aid. It turns out that the National Student Clearing House covers about 91% of the students who are enrolled in NASULGC institutions. They believe that eventually it will be a very good proxy of what is going on in your university. For example, if we send them our full-time freshman class enrolled in the fall of 2000, they can, in return, come back and tell us the percentage of students who have graduated in four years, the ones who have graduated in six years, and the ones who are still enrolled. Subsequently, and more importantly, they can also tell us who have graduated in other institutions and the ones who are still enrolled in other institutions. Basically, you would be able to get a better representation of what’s happening to students. They will also do the same thing for transfers. We have to report on all students once they come into our institution. The enrollment status is basically reported as such: full-time, part-time, enrolled, graduated, etc. We have to monitor/report this on all students so that they don’t receive aid from more than one institution. We will probably begin to report on this information within the next year. They don’t want to create a special website, they believe this is information that individual institutions can/will do on their own.

Ron went over the handout and made necessary modifications. They recommend NSSE, but we have the option of using other types of student surveys. For assessment of learning outcomes, most conversations have been around the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), which measures critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and writing skills. Every institution that has been involved in CLA has seen an increase in CLA assessment scores from freshmen to seniors. The problem, however, is that they take a snapshot of freshmen and seniors in the same year, so it’s not an assessment of the same students. CLA is in pilot phase now and is only used in a little over 100 institutions. It’s about $35 a student and they recommend you test 200 freshman and 200 seniors every 2-3 years. They also plan to roll out a similar assessment for transfer students. The VSA doesn’t anticipate requiring reporting of CLA scores until 2010.

Percent % Tenured Faculty

Ron passed out handouts detailing Georgia State’s tenure status distribution within each department unit. The Chancellor has tried to push authority to the Presidents on a lot of issues. For instance, the President is now the final authority with respect to promotions. However, the Regents’ staff and the chancellor are now debating whether the president should have the same authority in regards to tenure. Initially, they decided that the President can have that authority, except when the percentage of tenure faculty in a unit is above two-thirds. In these circumstances, the tenure recommendations would need to go to the Board of Regents (BOR) for justification. However, as a result of discussion at the summer meeting of RACAA, justification won’t be
necessary, but the BOR will continue to look at it. The vice presidents for academic affairs successfully argued that percentage of tenured faculty in a department is an issue that should be decided at hiring time not at tenure time. The BOR believes this to be a risk management situation, and something the President should be aware of. For instance, if you have fluctuating enrollment in a particular unit, and you also have a high number of tenured faculty, you won’t be able to adjust for those particular enrollments. The BOR will require the Presidents to report the percentage of tenured faculty in every department at least every year.

 CGS Issues

Bill Fritz passed out handouts. He attended a national graduate deans workshop where there was a lot of discussion on what’s going on in Europe. Universities across Europe honor incoming transfer students’ credit hours. However there are institutions in the US that will not honor the European 3-year degrees. CGS is urging the institutions to become more flexible in accepting these European graduate students.

 Enrollment Update

Georgia State is looking very good as far as enrollment goes. Bill Fritz passed out an updated enrollment data sheet for the fall semester. We’ve already registered 23,684 students and were now at 270,000 credit hrs. Our target is 315,000, which is believed to be attainable considering that we still have the month of August and late registration to look forward to. We are looking at the largest number of credit hours offered in one semester. We expect to receive more information on how many are exactly paid credit hours. The bad news for the summer semester is that while we had an increase in the number of credit hours, the number of paid credit hours was down. We were about $320,000 short of anticipated revenue. This was probably caused by a number of students taking between 20-25 credit hours, over the maximum number of credit hours allowed. We have 1,203 students who have signed up for the Freshman Learning Communities (FLC), our highest number ever. There are still 90 seats available, and given the number of Incepts left, we expect to fill all seats. Freshman applications were up 900 over last year; the number we’ve admitted is up, and we’ve already enrolled 2,300 freshman. Contrary to the rumor that UGA would have an increase in their number of freshman students, their target is actually 4,800, compared to last year’s 5,000. Another fortunate circumstance is that with Georgia Gwinnett College which was hoping to enroll somewhere in the thousands, has instead enrolled in the hundreds. Our transfer numbers have increased as well, with an increase of 400 applications from last year.

 Sick Leave Reporting

Ron passed out a draft Compensated Absences policy handout. The issue is faculty sick leave. We’re experiencing more emphasis on external audits from either the state or the system, particularly the state. Basically what they are saying is that if you’re sick, regardless of whether you’re scheduled to teach that day, you should declare a sick day. Georgia State needs to have consistency in the reporting of sick leave for faculty members. We’re vulnerable to auditors when they check and notice a small percentage in sick leave compared to the averages. We need to create a consistent policy and adhere to it. We don’t think that we should report it on a monthly basis and we’d like to move to have these submitted electronically. It might also be a good idea to include this information in faculty orientations.

 TRS and Stipends/ Supplements

At the beginning of the year, if you are getting a supplement and it’s stated in your contract that this is your salary and salary supplement, there will be a TRS contribution. If that not the case, as is generally not the case for stipends, then they don’t get counted toward TRS contributions. It also means that if there is a change, and you award someone a supplement, you will have to rewrite the contract to note this change.
Any other Business

Good news for the Library- the links will be open by the time fall semester begins. And, they will be installing white noise. However, the entrance for Library north will be closed five days after fall semester commences.

The College of Law will be celebrating their 25 year anniversary. On the first floor of Urban Life they have put together a timeline exhibit including artifacts from the Law schools history from 1982-2007. Additionally, the Law faculty members and students have pledged 25,000 pro bono hours to the community, which will be recorded on the internet. Sandra Day O’Conner will be coming in the spring and invitations will be sent out in the coming months. And most importantly, our signature academic event of the year will include the Law school hosting an international conference on the future of legal education.

Next Meeting: August 15, 2007 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Golden Key Board Room, 2nd Floor Student Center