In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, J L Albert, Jim Alm, Mary Finn, Bill Fritz, Charlene Hurt, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Randy Kamphaus, Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, Bob Sattelmeyer, Ron Henry, Chair

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of January 9, 2008 were approved with modifications. Under the commencement section, rather than stating “due to grammatical errors”, it should also include ‘and content errors’.

Enrollment update
Spring enrollment is robust. Students are taking a little over 307,000 credit hours and it’s expected that the numbers will rise close to 308,000 credit hours. Compared to 2003, we have 1,300 fewer students, but more than 10,000 more credit hours. This is a sign of a significant change in the course load the current average student is taking.

Freshman applications for the fall semester are on track to reach our 2,800 freshman enrollment targets. The only information we have on other competitive institutions in the system is Kennesaw State University, which their data currently shows their enrollment applications up by only 2%, compared to our double digit increases.

QEP proposal
Mary Finn passed out a draft report for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The report highlights the importance of linking the required SACS initiatives to the university and nationally, evidence of our discussion and commitment by the university, and evidence of support financially. The report is a reflection of a body of a lot of work from administrators on how we are planning to transform our undergraduate education through the SACS initiatives. The plan itself describes the implementation of an emphasis on the Critical Thinking through Writing (CTW) plan, which we’ve targeted within the degree major as a general education learning outcome. Nationally, the trend is to stress the continuity between the undergraduate core curriculum and what students are able to achieve within their degree programs. Most departments have identified two courses in their major degree course programs, which are the 3000 and 4000 level courses, and many academic departments have identified either an entry-way/gateway course in the major, and others have taken the opportunity to build a capstone course.

The major jumpstart is with a University Senate motion to institute a graduation requirement that will be effective for students entering in the fall semester of 2009. The motion has given guidelines to train faculty on how to implement the CTW initiatives across campus. Mary Finn has spent the last year working with academic chairs and identifying ambassadors for each major/department, who are required to share and report to the campus community the student learning outcomes in those areas. The departments have laid out their own plans, which provide definitions for the CTW strategy for the specific field and identifying each course on how they’ve implemented the policy; whether it’s by expanding the number of lecturers, and/or using CTW consultants who can train faculty in these courses, etc. A requirement from the Senate is that the courses be limited to a 1:25 instructor-student ratio, to allow active learning and more interaction in the classroom. This initiative will enhance our attraction to traditional freshman and recruitment for our honors wide program. We have a foundation of faculty members who already express willingness and a commitment to undergraduate education - this plan will only increase this. The estimated budget for this SACS initiative is probably around $1.3/1.4 million total.

Strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (for discussion w/BOR staff)
On February 8, 2008, the Board of Regents (BOR) staff will have a budget conference with the chief academic/budget officers of institutions in the system. The meeting will explain the BOR’s strategic investment model and give an indication of how much money we can acquire or how we may have to go
about requesting the money. The total amount is $81 million, and we have generated in excess of $10 million for the BOR; however, we don’t anticipate getting $10 million back. We do expect that the BOR might give back 25% that each institution generated. A lot will be taken off the $81 million for targeted enhancements, which isn’t flexible money that the university needs most of all. Instead, the flexible money will come from the strategic investment model and a portion of tuition increases.

After the February 8th meeting, the institutions will have a one-on-one meeting with the BOR staff, limited to the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Academic Officer, and Chief of Staff. We will be asked to talk about Georgia State’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Our funding requests will need to feature the University Systems of Georgia’s (USG) six strategic goals. The USG is particularly interested in seeing institutions improve their retention, progression, and graduation rates. Ron Henry opened the floor for the deans’ group perspectives. Suggestions to incorporate in the request include, but are not limited to: highlighting our track record in building success with strategic investments; showcasing examples of leveraging research dollars to display our effectiveness; our cost per student is much better than other major research universities; despite little investment, we have incredibly gifted faculty members; we are one of the major producers of health professionals, including the most physical therapists, respiratory therapists, and nutritionists in the state of Georgia; and our access for transfer students, of which 25% come from Georgia Perimeter College.

Any Other Business

The BOR has given us the authority to make the final call on promotions and tenure (P&T) and the official letters from the President will go out on February 7, 2008. At that point the promotions and tenures will be official, for the fall semester. We will have the celebration for the P&T’s much earlier than the usual late April or early May.

The decision was made by the Capital Budget and Space Allocation Committee to move the Welcome Center from Alumni Hall and Sparks Hall to the newly acquired Citizens Trust building. Sometime during next fiscal year we’re hoping to have the center move, along with a number of other offices associated with new students and recruitment, to the Citizens Trust location. While the access to Citizens Trust has provided some relief, it’s not nearly enough relief for the increase in students, faculty, and staff. So, we have been successful in acquiring another two floors on 34 Peachtree. The tentative plan is for a department to move out of General Classroom building into that particular space. We plan to continue to utilize 34 Peachtree until we can make a successful move into the SunTrust building, which isn’t expected for another five years.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2008 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Golden Key Board Room, 2nd floor, Student Center.