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

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of February 13, 2008 were approved.

Enrollment update

It’s not clear whether we will or will not make enrollment targets for the Fall ’08 semester, but in terms of applications received daily, freshman applications are running 5% ahead from last year. Also in comparison to neighboring institutions, Kennesaw State University is about 4% down in freshman applications received and we anticipate the University of Georgia to increase their freshman class size this year. We have not received confirmation on whether UGA will in fact admit a large/smaller class this year, but generally they increase their class size every three (3) years, and usually our yield tracks their enrollment.

A successful yield activity we’ve implemented the past year is hosting an admitted student reception. We’ve held one at the Ravinia and one at Rialto, and are planning to add several more, including south of Atlanta in the airport area. Also, RuffaloCODY, a marketing firm, teamed up with our development office to work with our students to make telephone calls to the recently admitted undergraduates. Admitted students will be able to voice concerns over financial aid and other similar issues and student callers will relay the information to the appropriate office/department where a specialist will be able to follow up with the admitted student.

Students have already registered over 64,000 credit hours for the summer semester. Though it is early to predict, enrollment is expected to be robust considering recently enrolled freshman haven’t had the chance to register yet. By April, a campaign will begin to have students aware of the fixed-for-four plan. The University System has requested institutions design plans to have students more aware of the model. There will be a notification in GoSolar to notify students how many semesters they have left. In addition, the associate provost’s office will advertise for the summer semester, since the summer semester falls into the fixed-for-four model.

Budget

The governor has announced cuts for both the current and next year’s budget. He has recommended reducing the salary increase from an average of 2.5% to 2%, and as far as the university system is concerned, he has also recommended that the MRR funds be bonded for $35 million - meaning that we would have to sell the bonds to get the customary $35 million dollars in cash. Moreover, the possibility then would be that they will not fund all of the capital projects, this includes the Alpharetta Center. For the current year there is a request for strict hiring – only for critical positions, a reductions in discretionary expenditures, travel, contracts, and other areas deemed appropriate. Basically, at the end of the year, we will have to demonstrate savings. Further instructions on these issues is expected to come, in the meantime, the provost has cautioned deans to take careful scrutiny on these matters, especially travel.

SACS visit update

Mary Finn passed out information concerning the upcoming SACS visit, including information on the on-site team members, the itinerary for the campus visit and talking points with the team members. The on-site team will not have a formal meeting with the deans but instead will focus on the U.S. Department of Educations (DOE) request to follow up with compliance areas, which doesn’t involve specific colleges. We were in
compliance with the external review report; however the DOE has now instructed that an on-site confirmation of several standards be conducted. A few areas of concern include faculty credentials, how we assess performance with student affairs, and unexpended funds, weaknesses and control data in the physical plant area. Mary will send everyone scheduled to meet with the SACS team a copy of the feedback from the external reviewers and our response to the focused report. Information will also be posted on the web about the SACS visit. The exit interview will provide some feedback from the on-site team but we expect a detailed feedback in six (6) weeks and we will learn by December of our re-accreditation. There will be a follow-up report from the visit in five (5) years, and a similar on-site visit will occur in ten (10) years.

eFranchises - Regents targeted enhancements RFP

Over the last ten (10) years, there has been a rapid decrease in the percentage of Masters of Education degrees produced in the university system collectively. This was due in part by competition from institutions outside of Georgia providing online and blended courses. As a counter, the university system has created a new student information system, Georgia OnMyLine, to provide online course from all 35 institutions and a regent’s target enhancement RFP for an efranchise. There was a loan of $100,000 associated with the targeted enhancement to cover the initial staffing and courses which is to be paid back in three (3) years. Georgia State is the franchise for some of the M.Eds.

Some initial concerns with the system are workload and technical issues. Georgia OnMyLine doesn’t interface with Banner leaving students registered through the system outside of our databases. The ultimate challenge is students having an incident, for example financial aid, and our staff members are not able to solve the problem because they do not have access to the new student information system. Main concerns include the technological limitations which create barriers to student recruitment, enrollment, and satisfaction.

Announcements - PLA workshop Apr 23; Intel ISEF May 11-16

The Prior Learning Assessment workshop will be held on campus April 23, 2008. It will be a faculty-driven workshop and the provost is in need of 15-20 faculty members. The USG is having a two day workshop on April 24 & 25 on prior learning assessments as well. The provost will provide more information shortly.

Georgia Tech is hosting an Intel ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) on May 11-16, 2008. It will host some of the brightest students in the U.S. Tech would like to know if we have any faculty members who would volunteer as judges and if we could provide any volunteers during the week of the event to assist students, particularly those with language issues. The provost will send the event details to department chairs with the possibility of recruiting graduate students as volunteers. We could also purchase space for a booth for recruitment.

Any other business

Georgia Core Curriculum - Dorothy Leland, President of Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, spearheaded the discussion to create a new core curriculum about 6-8 months ago for the university system. However, there is discussion system-wide on faculty resistance to the new core curriculum models. Initial meetings placed high priority on preserving transferability; however, the preliminary meetings also voiced concerns for the lack of faculty involvement in the design for the core curriculum. The university system has placed information regarding the curriculum on their homepage (www.usg.edu) which includes information on the committee members, the charge to the committees, and FAQs that include faculty discussion and participation. Nevertheless, due to limited faculty involvement three faculty members developed a website in protest of the new core curriculum. The website lays out the concerns of the faculty...
members and requests of others to sign the petition to disband the discussion on the new core curriculum. Deans are encouraging faculty members interested in signing the petition to also respond to the official feedback page on the USG’s website.

Classroom scheduling - we face the challenge of classroom scheduling as we move towards providing more blended courses. Typically, blended courses meet a few times a semester for face-to-face meetings. However, the blended courses are scheduled in classrooms for the entire semester, ultimately leaving classrooms sitting vacant. If the courses were to only schedule classes for those face-to-face meeting times, the scheduling would fall under the events category, creating an additional challenge. The magnitude of the problem is uncertain, but as we move towards more blended courses, it is certain to create a dilemma. Solutions have ranged from dedicating 2-3 rooms on campus for the use of blended courses to leasing a few rooms certain weeks at a time, a cost-effective approach. The provost has recommended we look at the practices of some universities proven effective.

Next Meeting: March 26, 2008 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Haverty Room, Suite 816, Urban Life.