**In Attendance:** Lauren Adamson, J L Albert, Robert Moore, Irene Duhaime (in for Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Susan Kelley, Robin Morris, Tim Renick, Nancy Seamans, Robert Sattelmeyer, Ron Henry, Chair

**Visitors:** Allison Calhoun-Brown

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of December 10, 2008 have been approved.

**Enrollment update**

There are over 27,000 students enrolled for the spring semester, that’s over 1,000 more than this time last year. There are 326,000 credit hours registered, an increase of 15,000 from last year. For the first time in a spring semester the average number of credit hours is 12.0. Over 2,000 new students were admitted this semester and as usual most of them were transfers. The fee cancellation on January 9, 2009 is considered to be one of the most efficient ones ever done. Also for the first time, financial aid was completely caught up on processing.

So far 2,100 freshmen have been admitted for the fall 2009 semester, which is an increase of 45%. The quality of the students looks great with twice as many students qualifying for the honors program compared with last year.

**Discussion of retention strategies**

On average, universities lose 21% of their freshmen students after the first year. For a number of years now we have averaged 18%, but we tend to lose a lot of our students after their first year; the national average is at 11% loss after the second year, whereas our numbers are 12-15%. Allison Calhoun-Brown, Academic Director for Student Retention, has come up with a number of retention initiatives to support undergraduate students at risk of dropping/leaving the institution:

1) Academic Success Workshops – 50 minutes sessions in the student center; open to all students but specifically targeted to freshman and sophomores.
2) Midterm grade referrals – pilot Philosophy & English course; professors will report to office of Undergraduate Studies names of students whose progress at the midpoint is unsatisfactory; students will be contacted and recommended services available to assist them.
3) Launch Student Success website – provide students with links to services/programs that are designed to assist with academic support; provide tips and strategies for doing well in college courses.
4) Pilot Freshman Learning Community (FLC) course – resolve student dissatisfaction with current 3 credit hour GSU 1010 course that does not count towards graduation but does towards your GPA; pilot course will consist of 2 credit hours in a perspectives class that will count towards graduation and 1 credit hour in a GSU 1010.

**Budget update and discussion of cost cutting strategies**

We are led to believe that the Governor will be looking at line items in the budget and decreasing them by 10%. By implication, we think that there will be a 10% cut to state agencies. We also believe that the University System will get their workload money.

We are required by the State to balance our budget, but our estimates show a $12 million deficit for FY 2010. Hugh Hudson, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee is receiving feedback from Department Chairs on how
to deal with the budget issues we will have in FY 2010. Since our travel has gone up from last year, travel approval by the Provost Office for fund code 10 will happen soon. There is a possibility that we can defer some of the budget shortfall by making use of the money set aside for rental in the Science Research Lab and SunTrust Building because we won’t occupy those buildings anytime soon. There is also an opportunity for us to change our course buyouts policy or place some faculty on FC 15. Also, increased teaching loads on average for tenure-track faculty could save us money by not having to hire as many visiting instructors, non-tenure track faculty, or part-time instructors. Deans were asked to further discuss cost cutting strategies with their respective units.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2009 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Golden Key Board Room, 2nd floor, Student Center.