In Attendance: Lauren Adamson, J L Albert, Robert Moore, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Gwen Benson (in for Randy Kamphaus), Susan Kelley, Mary Finn, Tim Renick, Nancy Seamans, Robert Sattelmeyer, Ron Henry, Chair

Visitors: Mark Becker

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of February 11, 2009 have been approved.

President’s Update
President Becker announced the following:

1) There will be a press conference to introduce the new Director of Athletics at 1:00pm today. The Commissioner of the CAA Conference will also be present.
2) Minor changes to Commencement include: There will be a separate reception and ceremony for doctoral students in the Rialto Center (the doctoral regalia might not be delivered in time for this semester’s ceremony). There will also be a separate faculty awards reception.
3) The human resources department is working on what our degrees of freedom are on furloughs. We would still have to wait on a mandate from the Chancellor. Jerry Rackliffe is looking for ways for GSU to make use of any money from the stimulus package (such as using it towards previously scratched grants and energy efficient renovations).

Enrollment Update
We are up 31% in applications received thus far. Quality continues to remain high- the average SAT score for accepted applicants is 1116. Fall 2009 transfer applications are up compared to last year as well and graduate applications are tracking well with a 27% increase. The financial aid office has processed more FAFSA applications so far than all of last academic year. The registrar’s office has also processed a record 4,400 grade changes in January.

Retention Update
We are not in compliance with a Board of Regents policy to have departments create their own retention plans for undergraduate students. We will need to satisfy the requirements and the academic departments will be notified.

Budget
The official budget cut for now is at 10.5%. However, we still expect that to go up to 12%. The Governor is expected to receive money from the stimulus plan. Discussion on next year’s fiscal budget is still up in the air. Deans Group members had a discussion on limiting summer compensation. Options included having a dollar maximum cap and/or a 3% credit hour maximum. Deans also suggested that there be the possibility to cap by discipline as opposed to college. The Provost will look at decreasing course load releases and focus attention on frequently low enrolled courses. Deans Group members agreed to increase minimum class sizes for Master’s students from 10 to 12. In addition the Provost and Jerry Rackliffe are looking at policies on layoffs (possibility of not giving 90 day notice; layoff notifications all occurring in one day).

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