Call to Order

The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:07.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 13, 1993, and September 30, 1993, meetings were approved.

President's Comments

The chair welcomed back the faculty not at the September meeting and recognized the committee chairs, those on search committees, those involved in faculty recruitment for all of their hard work and contributions. The President commented on the following issues.

Racial Sensitivity. About one year ago we dealt with issues raised by students concerned with lack of racial sensitivity, lack of communication, and lack of responsiveness to student needs. Since that time we have established a renewed commitment and spirit of cooperation and understanding with our students. We made some accomplishments this year including establishing the African-American Studies Department, utilizing a group of existing and new faculty members for courses in that department. In the Dean of Students Office, there has been established a student, faculty, and staff human relations committee; the fraternities and sororities have been moved under the authority of Office of Student Activities; and a Greek Council is now being formed. The Office of African-American Student Services and Programs has been moved to the Division of Student Life and Enrollment Services. We also provided special funding to the Counseling Center for sensitivity training through the Ombudsperson. Additional faculty, staff and students are involved in volunteer work. In the University Center we will be making some improvements including better signage, new furniture, and renovation of meeting rooms. We are at work now on a major addition to the Student Center. A women's studies program is also under study; a preliminary proposal has been presented to PACE and open hearings have been held.

Enrollment and Budget. We had an enrollment decline this year and are dealing with the budget implications of this. We are taking efforts to address this so that is will not be a problem in future years. It is important to remember that here at Georgia State we are enrollment driven. Some priority items that face us include undergraduate and graduate recruitment and admissions as well as financial aid. Due to the enrollment shortfall, we will make some efforts to meet the unmet demand. We will be using some of the money from our contingency fund. We must reassess the contingency list to avoid falling short at the end of the year. This is not a major tragedy facing the university; we are concerned about it but it can be dealt with. Dr. Patton said that during the past year he had made an effort to open the university budget, to make it rational and consistent. He wants to continue to develop budget processes, documents and guidelines so that all units are playing on the same level field. The budget must be frank and open, and we must avoid informal agreements. We must strive for broad based support for budget decisions that face us.

Regionalization. The Senate passed a resolution dealing with the Regents' effort to deal with regionalization of the University System. Similar resolutions were passed by the Alumni Association and the Foundation. Some newspaper accounts have reported that the issue of regionalization is dead. This issue is not now a top priority because the Regents are discussing other matters. They are concerned with a Chancellor search. Our efforts are now focused on trying to encourage the Regents to make a wise choice for an appropriate interim appointment.
Physical Facilities. We are involved in the campus master planning process. We have been working with Georgia Tech's Architecture and Planning Department as well as our own architectural staff and faculty from the College of Public and Urban Affairs. We are coming close to the point where we will present this to the campus for input. Classroom South is now open and is a quality facility as is the new Science Building. A top priority is to try to obtain the funding to complete the Science Building. We have recently obtained some additional funds from the Georgia Research Alliance and have submitted a proposal to the Office of Planning and Budget for additional funds. There has been discussion of moving the Police Department up to Woodward Park; this is under way. This will help as the campus moves toward the Fairlie Poplar and Five Points area. We will make police more visible on the street. The Rialto remains the top Georgia State private-fund-raising priority. Announcements will be made later concerning the progress. It is an important campaign because, if we are successful, it will allow us to launch a major capital campaign that will cover all areas. Priorities will be scholarships, endowed chairs, and facilities.

Olympics. There was a ground breaking some weeks ago for a 2,000-unit residence hall that will be ours after the Olympics. We have been engaged in the Cultural Olympiad, and many cultural events will take place at Georgia State. Our gymnasium will be the site for badminton. It has been approved by the Olympics Committee and the International Badminton Association. Badminton will take place from the preliminaries through the gold medal; in the future we can refer to our gym as the site of awarding of the gold medal. We have resolved the financial issue with the Olympics; they will be providing funding for the renovation and improvement of our gymnasium.

New Business.

Resolutions from the Executive Committee. Paula Stephan, Chair of the Executive Committee, introduced the resolutions. There are two resolutions form the Committee on Admissions and Standards; the Executive Committee recommends a "do pass." There is one resolution from the Committee on Nominations; the Executive Committee recommends a "do pass."

Admissions and Standards. The chair, Hugh Hudson, presented the following two resolutions:

1. Resolution concerning a revision in the policy on transfer from one college at GSU to another college GSU. The revised policy will eliminate the requirement that undergraduate students have a minimum 2.0 GSU cumulative GPA to change colleges. Instead, students will be advised to determine special criteria of the colleges by contacting the office of academic assistance in the college to which he/she is applying. This will make the transfer process easier for students. This item originated in the Associate Deans group. The Committee recommends that this take place immediately after the approval. Following a brief discussion, the resolution was approved unanimously.

2. Resolution seeking the approval of the 1994-95 Academic Calendar. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Nominations. The chair, Carolyn Robison, presented the resolution.

The Committee presented a listing of all changes to the Committees of the Senate made since the May 13, 1993, committee elections. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports.

Admissions and Standards, Hugh Hudson. In addition to the new items voted on today, the Committee also approved a program for the admission of high school juniors and seniors called the Postsecondary Option Program (POP). This will be presented to the Senate at the next meeting for consideration. The Committee has also completed work on a new policy on academic honesty. A subcommittee is working to clarify procedures for hardship withdrawals. At the Committee's May meeting they were informed of the new Regents uniform policy on developmental studies criteria and the new learning assistance program possibilities. They are awaiting information on these for consideration by the Committee.

Athletics, Valerie Miller. The Committee approved the intercollegiate sports schedules for 1993-94. They also approved amendments to the basketball schedule. The chair announced successes in the area of academic assistance.

Budget. Fred Massey. The Committee met several times. Their work included striving to fund Georgia State as other units in the University System; the establishment of a $378,000 shortfall and contingency fund in the budget due to the decrease in enrollment; working on Draft II of principles for allocating resources; setting up a Legislative Awareness Workshop on December 9 (Bea
Yorker is the coordinator); and discussion of a joint Budget/Research Committee.

Commencement. Carl Patton. The committee has met twice. They discussed the details concerning the quality of the receptions, the accommodation of various religious preferences as they regard the times of the ceremonies, and discussion of a list of commencement speakers.

Committee of Chairs. Tim Crimmins. No report.

Cultural Diversity. Christine Gallant. This is a new committee and has many highly ranked persons from the University community as members. The goal of the Committee is to recommend a plan by the spring of 1994 of actions seen by the Committee as necessary to further cultural awareness and diversity on campus. There are five subcommittees presently analyzing a large number of reports that indicate what has been studied/accomplished to date in this important area.

Executive Committee. Paula Stephan. The committee met twice each month with the President and also met with the Administrative Council. Items discussed included the plan for reorganization, the budget shortfall, faculty development, the twelve-month university, the technical development of the university, and composition of the search committee for the provost.

Faculty Affairs. Ed Gorsuch. The Committee has addressed two major issues. (1) The Committee investigated a concern relating to criteria for selecting dissertation topics. The Committee concluded that the perception of a problem rested on a misunderstanding. (2) The Committee discussed the problem of the bookstore concerning the ordering of books on a timely basis; they have had discussions with the Director of Auxiliary Services. Other items discussed included promotion and tenure, part-time faculty, classroom/space management, representation on the wellness committee, appeals, and faculty development.

Library Advisory. Steve DePouy. The Committee discussed the library budget, the problem of student sleeping in the Library, and the external review of the Library.

Nominations. Carolyn Robison. No further report.

Planning and Development. Bill Waugh. The committee has been considering the Campus Master Plan. A presentation by the Georgia Tech faculty and student group working on the plan was presented to the Committee on October 5. The current draft includes three scenarios: 1) Enclave Strategy – This alternative focuses on reinforcing GSU boundaries, creating identifiable campus entry point, and making the campus more pedestrian friendly. 2) Corridor Strategy – This approach emphasizes a pedestrian link to the Fairlie Poplar area and the creation of various beautifying techniques to create a “front door” to the University. 3) Checkerboard/Seamless Strategy – This concept involves breaking down boundaries dividing the campus and city, and breaks out the campus into the surrounding area including the Auburn Avenue area and emphasizes association with other entities in the surrounding area. Committee members had some questions about the assumption used in this planning process, but overall approach appears to be well conceived. The newly formed Subcommittee on Strategic Planning will have its initial meeting next week.

Programs and Continuing Education (PACE). Carol Winkler. The Committee is in the process of evaluating the self-studies and external reviews of two programs, the Department of English and the Library, to provide feedback regarding the development of the units’ action plans. As a result of those deliberations, the graduate and undergraduate councils have developed a list of data that they would like to see from all future programs undergoing review. These lists will be sent to the six current programs that are beginning review process. The Provost’s Office and the PACE Committee held a program review orientation in September for all programs to be reviewed in 1993-4. Two new programs, the Women’s Studies Institute/MA and the Center for Biotechnology and Drug Design, are under subcommittee review. Finally, the undergraduate council has formulated a working document of General Education Goals that have been sent to each of the six academic deans to obtain feedback prior to the PACE Committee’s January discussion of the issue.

Research. Robin Morris. The Committee meets monthly and has been very active. The joint committee with the Budget Committee has tried to address the issue of graduate assistantship money and availability. They have good data showing that we are completely under funded. They are trying to determine what is an adequate level of support. They are still struggling with the issue of how to monitor faculty productivity at GSU. One of the subcommittees is trying to deal with the issue of annual reports, trying to make them more consistent across the colleges so that data is more comparable. They are involved in a number of research center reviews and the development of better procedures for review of research centers. There is also a subcommittee that is dealing with the issue of procedures dealing with scientific misconduct. One in place and the subcommittee is trying to see if there are improvements possible given the national trend and the legal fights on campuses around the country. They are considering how to deal with these at GSU. There is an active subcommittee continuing to monitor and help fine-tune the internal
research grant program here. They are involved with the development of a new subcommittee dealing with how to improve communication at the procedure level so that those doing federally-funded research and other kinds of research don’t get caught in “Catch 22” situations by changing procedures.

Statutes and Bylaws, David Center. No report.

Student Discipline, Valerie Miller. No report.

Student Life and Development, LeVoyd Carter. Some of the issues to be addressed during the next few quarters include a sexual harassment policy – the present guidelines are seen as too vague; outside vendors and how they affect student leaders; space utilization in the Student Center; extending the Library Hours; creating a graduate student office.

Old Business.

None.

The Senate adjourned at 3:45.

Carolyn Robinson, Secretary,
University Senate