
ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 20, 1997 Senate meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: President Patton stated that Georgia State has received the new budget and it is one of the better budget's Georgia State has ever received. He was pleased that the Governor and the legislature approved the 6% salary pool for University System employees and acknowledged the efforts of those who contacted their legislators. Now is the time to thank those legislators that were contacted. President Patton thanked all those who helped him with his budget presentations. Also included in the new budget are funds to renovate the recently assigned Wachovia building. This building will be used to house the School of Policy Studies and other offices as well. The Governor continues to support higher education and Georgia State University.

President Patton has been contacting legislators and Regents members to discuss Georgia State's need for a new classroom building. Each University System president will be making a presentation to the Board of Regents in June which will outline each institution's capital budget needs and priorities.
President Patton discussed the disruptive bomb threats. Georgia State is not the only institution receiving them. He supports the Provost's position that classes will continue in spite of the threats. After consulting with many people, Dr. Patton has decided to offer a $5000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) making these threats.

NEW BUSINESS: Carol Winkler, representing Amy Lederberg, noted that the Executive Committee recommended a do pass on the three motions and three resolutions being considered by the Senate.

1. Motion to approve criteria for **Graduate Faculty membership** presented by APACE Committee; Dave Vanko, chair. The document was prepared the Graduate Council in response to the university's strategic plan which calls for university standards for graduate faculty status. It was discussed and adopted by the APACE committee. Philo Hutcheson questioned why provisional graduate faculty cannot chair a dissertation committee for five years. Dr. Vanko stated that provisional graduate faculty may request a review for regular graduate faculty status and thus are not prohibited from chairing a dissertation committee. Paula Dressel stated that once the new faculty member demonstrated the credentials that full graduate faculty status required, s/he could move from provisional to full graduate faculty status. But, in that interim period, it would be more appropriate for a full graduate status faculty member in the department to chair a dissertation committee. Tim Crimmins added that the document states that at the natural time for review is the pre-tenure review. That suggests that at the end of the third year, a tenure track faculty member could be recommended for full graduate faculty status. Dr. Vanko believed the criteria to be even more liberal than that; these provisions do not prevent even a first year provisional member showing current scholarship and research from being reviewed for full graduate faculty status. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Resolution to **Route Grants and Contracts Through GSURF** presented by the Research Committee; Chuck Derby, chair. The aim of the three resolutions was to facilitate the growth of the research activity while providing effective grant administration. This first resolution supports the idea that grants and contracts be required to be routed through the GSU Research Foundation. One advantage to this is that funds can be carried over from one year to the next which enables the utilization of interest-earning capabilities of GSURF. The question was called. The resolution passed.

3. Resolution to **Change the Bylaws of the GSURF** presented by the Research Committee; Chuck Derby, chair. The change to the Purposes and Powers directs their activities to promote the strategic plan and the annually updated action plan. This resolution also changes the membership of the Board of Directors. John de Castro proposed a friendly amendment to change the membership to read "two members of the faculty elected annually by the Senate Research Committee" instead of the stated "one". Dr. Derby accepts this as a friendly amendment. Tim Crimmins proposed a friendly amendment to include the Acting Provost/VP for Academic Affairs should there be one. All the other listings of administrators specifies the "acting" position except for the listing of the Provost. This would make all the citings of administrators to read the same. Dr. Derby accepts this as a friendly amendment. Paula Stephan proposed that in light of Dr. de Castro's friendly amendment to have two elected faculty, the resolution be changed to allow that one of them have the necessary academic background to understand investment performance. Dr. Derby stated that the Research
Committee decided not to put stipulations on the election of the faculty member(s). Dr. Wiita pointed out that Dr. de Castro’s amendment would change the membership from eight to nine and should be adjusted in the document. The question was called. The resolution passed.

4. Resolution to **Consolidate Pre- and Post-Award Administration of Grants and Contracts** presented by the Research Committee; Chuck Derby, chair. The efficiency of grants administration could be improved tremendously by consolidating pre- and post-award administration. Fred Massey asked if approval of this resolution would provide an expectation that a pre- and post-award administration manual would be developed soon for faculty. Dr. Derby stated that he expected the Research Committee to be involved in the consolidation. The question was called. The resolution passed.

5. Motion to add **Academic Professional** to the definition of university faculty presented by Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This status was approved by the Board of Regents in 1992 but never categorized. George Rainbolt asked for examples of academic professional. Dr. Gowen and Dr. Crimmins described the academic professional as typically doing 50% teaching and 50% service. They are often used in the sciences in laboratory operation and teaching. Dan Franklin asked if there was any safeguard to guarantee academic professionals from supplanting tenured faculty. Dr. Gowen responded that academic professionals do not follow the appropriate professional development path. They do not have a research role. Hugh Hudson added that the Board of Regents policy already allows full-time non-tenure track faculty. Dr. Gowen added that academic professionals status is not as closely tied to the generation of credit hours because they have a significant service role. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. Motion to add a **Committee on Information Systems and Technology** to the Bylaws presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This will be an important committee to the future of Georgia State. Dr. de Castro asked how the faculty members would be elected or appointed. Dr. Gowen answered that it will be by the same process as other Senators to other committees; through the nominations process by the Nominations Committee. The question was called. The motion passed.

Carol Winkler introduced the next two items and stated that the Executive Committee abstained from making a recommendation in order to allow active debate on the issues.

7. Resolution to **Change to a Plus/Minus Grading System** presented by Admissions and Standards Committee; Paul Wiita, chair. The committee conducted a survey asking faculty to choose a number of different grading systems. The majority chose a plus/minus system. Student senator Elizabeth Heidler asked if students had been surveyed. Dr. Wiita answered that original plans included surveying students, however, there was a time constraint. UGA had already sent a similar proposal forward to the Board of Regents supported by their Provost and it was decided that this would be the time to send forward a proposal from Georgia State. Kurt Keppler stated that discussion in the Student Life and Development Committee indicated that a majority of students would be in favor of the change in grading policy. Much discussion followed with several people talking about personal experiences at other institutions which have a plus/minus system. Al Smith stated that the resolution as proposed is vague and more debate and information is needed. Roger Weed moved that this resolution be tabled. This motion was seconded. The vote: 33 to table, 36 not to table; the resolution was still on the floor.
Sandra Storrar stated that the two major initiatives in progress right now, semester conversion and the year 2000 system conversion, are utilizing the current resources to the maximum. No additional resources have been granted. Adding a third initiative would overload our resources and could not be done. George Rainbolt proposed an amendment to the resolution: "Georgia State University urges the Regents to provide resources necessary to implement this change expeditiously". Paula Dressel cautioned supporting an amendment that asks for more money out of budgetary context. Provost Henry stated that the amendment should be addressed to motion #8 rather than resolution #7 and moved that the amendment is not appropriate for resolution #7. Dr. Wiita agreed with the Provost. Dr. Rainbolt withdrew his amendment. John Neel discussed research he had done on grading systems and moved that the resolution goes back to committee. This motion was seconded. Brenda Smith called for a quorum count. A count was done and there was a quorum. George Rainbolt described his classroom experiences in support of a plus/minus grading system. Alicia Woo stated that student input is needed and the resolution should go back to committee. A vote was taken: 34 voted to send to committee, 25 voted not to send it to committee. The motion to send it back to committee was passed. At this time, George Rainbolt moved to send item #8 back to committee, this was seconded. This motion passed.

Report to the Senate on National Education Initiatives; Ron Henry. Because of the late hour, Provost Henry decided not to give his report, but rather to discuss one slide pertaining to the budget. He discussed System redirection and the budget that was just passed. Once the President has had a chance to review the budget and the recommendations made by FACP, more detail will be made available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**APACE** (Dave Vanko, Chair): The committee has met twice. Two program reviews have been completed: the School of Music and the baccalaureate and Masters programs in Nursing. Three proposed and three existing centers have been reviewed by the Joint Research/APACE subcommittee. A pre-proposal for a Bachelor of Arts degree in African-American Studies has been approved by APACE and forwarded by the President to the Board of Regents for approval.

**Admissions and Standards** (Paul Wiita, chair): The committee has met twice. Aside from the plus/minus grading issue, they have considered changes in catalog wording required by the semester conversion, treated six petitions, and approved and modified a CBA proposal to raise standards of students taking upper-level courses.

**Athletics** (Dan Franklin, Chair): The committee met on April 10 and discussed issues pertaining to the Athletic Department.

**Budget** (John de Castro, Chair): The committee has met twice to review priorities for budgetary recommendations and to give feedback on various iterations of potential budgetary allocations by FACP.
Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The committee meets quarterly. The Spring quarter commencement will be on June 21 at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with Jonetta Cole speaking at both ceremonies. The Board of Regents has approved the awarding of one honorary degree during the Spring ceremonies. Once arrangements are confirmed as to the recipient's attendance that day, the name will be announced.

Committee of Chairs/Executive Committee (Amy Lederberg, chair): The procedure for routing items passed up to the Executive Committee was discussed. Occasionally, the Executive Committee has suggestions or disagrees with items that are recommended to the committee. The committee decided that on the first occasion, the item would be referred back to the originating committee. The second time that the Executive Committee did not agree with the item, it would be brought before the whole Senate.

Cultural Diversity (Maria Valeri-Gold for Christine Gallant, chair): The committee has met twice and continues to discuss the implementation of the intervention plan regarding the staff assessment report.

Faculty Affairs (Gabor Patonay, chair): The current issues being discussed by the committee are: guidelines for the giving campaign, amorous relationships, and evaluation of administrators.

FACP (Ronald Henry, chair): The committee sent their recommendations to the President earlier this week. The auxiliary budgets will be reviewed next week.

Library Advisory (Dennis Thompson, chair): The committee continues to finetune collection development.

Nominations (Bill Waugh, chair): The committee has not met since the last Senate meeting.

Planning and Development (Tim Crimmins, Chair): The committee will be presenting three items at the May Senate meeting: a mission statement for the university, a mission statement for a suburban campus and the Information Technology strategic plan. CBSAC has made recommendations on the capital budget for the coming year and is currently considering the issue of the Wachovia Building.

Research (Chuck Derby, chair): In addition to the resolutions discussed at this meeting and the center reviews mentioned by Dave Vanko, the committee has reviewed and approved a policy document on intellectual properties.

Statutes and Bylaws (Sheryl Gowan, chair): In addition to the motions discussed today, they have reviewed and passed several changes to the Statutes which have been forwarded to the Executive Committee. A change in the duties of the Commencement Committee (adding awarding of honorary degrees) has been approved and forwarded to the Executive Committee as well.

Student Discipline (Al Smith, chair): The committee has not met recently.
Student Life and Development (Kurt Keppler, chair): The committee has met three times. They have been focusing on some publications, reviewing policies for the new student center, reviewing the grading policy issue, and reviewing revisions to the code of conduct.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Mary Nell Stone, Recorder
University Senate Office

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