MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
October 30, 1997

PRESENT:


ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 8, 1997 Senate meeting were approved.

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT: President Patton began by welcoming everyone back to another year. Georgia State is doing well: enrollment is up, the Village is full, 80 new faculty members, research funding is high, and the new classroom building is at the top of the Regents' capital budget list. Other good news includes a new parking deck, the Spring opening of the new Student Center, and the Rialto continues to garner rave reviews. Georgia State is currently in the quiet phase of the Comprehensive Campaign and we have raised $18 million toward our goal. This phase will continue through this year and the campaign will be publicly announced when we are halfway toward our goal.

Georgia State also faces some challenges: the semester conversion, preparing for the SACS and NCAA accreditation visits, and a possible computer technology fee. President Patton would like Georgia State to focus on the two major areas of operational excellence and building community. Operational excellence means we need to be easier with which to do business. We need to continually look for ways to drive costs down and be more efficient. Our strategic and master planning processes will guide us in the right direction. Student advising is most critical during the semester transition and we must strive to do our best in this area.

Georgia State is doing well in the area of building community. The barriers between units are coming down; more faculty are working on collaborative projects. Students are spending more time on campus and becoming more involved in campus events. Dr. Patton sees three challenges in this area: building a learning community, building a social community, and reaching out to the larger community. We need to engage our students, faculty, and staff in a true effort to work together on basic learning and solving those problems that will make a difference here and abroad. Our Center for Teaching and Learning and our many technology improvements will help with this. Students are more involved in undergraduate research, service learning projects, and academic community partnerships.

Besides learning together, we need to play together. Students, faculty, and staff need places on campus where they can gather, interact, and learn in an informal setting. Adding more classroom space will free up space to use for these kinds of gathering places. We need to look for other opportunities to come together as a social community. Georgia State has an obligation to give back to our community. We can learn from the larger community and benefit from what we give. Our Volunteer GSU project and our service learning efforts are responding to this opportunity. Another opportunity is the State Charitable Contributions Program. All are encouraged to contribute. Presently, we are one-third of the way to our goal with three weeks remaining. President Patton concluded by thanking everyone for his/her hard work. He is proud of Georgia State and hopes everyone else is proud as well.

RESOLUTION: The following resolution was offered by Carol Winkler, on behalf of the Executive Committee:
WHEREAS, Georgia State University currently compares unfavorably to peer System institutions, such as University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Georgia Southern University in square footage for classroom space;

WHEREAS, Georgia State University must currently rely on substandard, non-equipped, and poorly designed classrooms to accomplish its instructional mission;

WHEREAS, CBSAC, a subcommittee of the Planning and Development Committee of the University Senate has ranked a new classroom building its top major capital project to help remedy classroom shortages;

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents has recently ranked Georgia State’s new classroom building second on its capital construction priority list;

WHEREAS, The new classroom building will provide more than 50 much needed, high quality, technology equipped classrooms to the Georgia State inventory;

BE IT RESOLVED: that the University Senate extends its sincere appreciation to President Carl Patton for garnering Regents’ support for an improved learning environment that the Georgia State faculty and students will enjoy for years to come.

The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously with applause.

REMARKS FROM THE PROVOST: Provost Henry began his remarks by addressing the redirection that was imposed on all state agencies, including the University System of Georgia. In the first two years, the USG had sufficient money so that redirected funds could stay within the institution. For next year, Georgia State has been instructed to come up with $7.2 million dollars with $2.9 million of it being handed back to the Board of Regents. The challenge for us this year is to come up with $2.9 million dollars out of our $200 million budget. FACP and the Budget Committee are both discussing this issue but have not reached any conclusions or final plans. We are not interested in disbanding units. We want to protect student credit hour generation. Non-academic cost centers will be looked at first as they are, for the most part, not generating any money. These units are usually spending money in support of students, faculty, and staff. We will try to move things from state funds to Auxiliary Services, when possible. The academic units will be looked at as well. Rather than take funds from all units across the board, we will look to the strategic plan and our priority list for direction. The semester conversion will cost money. It is hoped that the Board of Regents will allow some of the redirected funds to be used for semester conversion costs.

Dr. Henry made a presentation on one of the strategic plan priorities that we have: the P-16 Initiative, which stands for pre-school through post-secondary education. In July 1995, the governor appointed a Georgia P-16 Council with about 40 members including the superintendent of education, Linda Schrenko; the Chancellor of the USG, Stephen Portch; and the commissioner of the department of technical and adult education, Ken Breeden; as well as a broad sector of other members including some from the K-12 sector, from business and other support units, from PTAE, from the USG, and from the legislature. There are also 15 regionalized P-16 Councils across the State of Georgia, located at the 15 USG units where a teacher education degree is offered. The Council based at Georgia State is called the Metropolitan Atlanta P-16 Council.

The five purposes of the P-16 Initiative are: to improve student achievement to high levels from pre-school through post-secondary education, to help the students move more smoothly through these different sectors, to ensure all students who enter post-secondary are prepared to succeed, to improve the admission and success rate of students from minority and low-income groups, and to focus on the co-reform of school systems and teacher education preparation programs. The Council has defined what it means to be a successful student - one that has met high standards, has demonstrated achievement at each level, is ready to advance to the next level, whether that be work, occupational training or education, and is prepared for productive employment and responsible citizenship. Dr. Henry discussed last year's national meeting and some of the work that the Metropolitan Atlanta P-16 Council has been doing. He also talked about what the Council's goals are for the future.

REPORT TO THE SENATE: Vice President Cleon Arrington announced that Georgia State has met the criteria for classification as a Carnegie Research II University. Georgia State has awarded over 100 Ph.D. degrees and received more than $15.5 million in federal support for each of the last three years. He discussed the various Carnegie classifications and defined each category and its criteria. He defined and summarized sponsored activities. Using historical data, Dr. Arrington projected what level Georgia State could move to assuming that our current level of participation from the faculty could be sustained and enhanced. Our greatest hope for growth in our level of funding is in the social sciences and the professional schools. He expressed confidence that Georgia State could move up to Research I status at sometime in the future.

RESOLUTION: Mary Ann Romski offered the following resolution:
WHEREAS: the University Senate approved a motion on October 18, 1979, that provided for one-half of the funds generated as indirect costs for research to be returned to the department which generated the funds for additional investment in research;

WHEREAS: the GSU Strategic Plan, approved by the University Senate on March 2, 1995, defined an important indicator of success in accomplishing its first initiative as the attainment of Carnegie Research II status;

WHEREAS: in three years, GSU has almost doubled its total federal obligations from $12,695,000 in 1994 to $21,554,000 in 1997;

WHEREAS: meeting this standard is a specific indicator of achieving the University Strategic Plan goal "of heightening the intellectual environment for scholarship and learning at GSU";

WHEREAS: the Carnegie Research II standard provides a realistic and nationally recognized benchmark for strategic planning and for identifying comparable institutions of higher education;

WHEREAS: the Carnegie Research II standard positions GSU among the top 3% of research universities in the country;

WHEREAS: the Carnegie Research II standard bolsters GSU, the only urban research university in the state of Georgia, to recognition as a peer research institution with Emory University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the Medical College of Georgia, and the University of Georgia;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the GSU University Senate extends its sincere appreciation to President Patton, Provost Henry, Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Arrington, Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Reitzes, the GSU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs for:

- their vision related to establishing GSU as a premier research institution and
- for providing the incentives necessary for faculty, staff, and administrators to contribute to achieving this goal.

The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously with applause.

NEW BUSINESS: Carol Winkler stated that the Executive committee recommends a do pass on all motions.

1. Motion to remove the 60-hour hold for Regents' Exam presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This hold forces students to come to their college's Office of Academic Assistance to be reminded that they must pass the Regent's Exam before they reach 75 hours. Removing the hold will not affect graduation requirements. This policy will become effective as soon as the necessary change in computer programs can be made. The question was called. The motion was approved.

2. Motion to change the waiver policy for admission to Learning Support Programs presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. Using the current LSP admission standards was causing GSU to lose some students as these same students were being accepted as regular status students at other institutions. Some of these students would be assets to Georgia State due to their exceptional background. The changes to the waiver policy would allow the Admissions Office to request a waiver from the chair of LSP and the chair of Admissions and Standards. Both chairs must approve the request before the student is granted regular admission rather than admission to LSP. The motion was seconded and passed.

3. Motion to allow review of Learning Support Programs placement criteria presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This would allow the Admissions and Standards Committee to review LSP placement criteria before being sent forward to the Provost and the Board of Regents. LSP placement criteria impacts other units and this would allow input from the affected units. The motion was seconded and passed.

4. Motion to amend the May 8, 1997 Nominations Report presented by the Nominations Committee, Ellen Podgor; chair. The various changes, additions, and deletions to Senate committees were included in the Senator's packets for review. The motion was seconded and passed.

5. Motion to change the membership of the Information Systems and Technology Committee presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee, Sheryl Gowen; chair. This would allow a representative from Enrollment Services to become a permanent member of this committee. A student representative, John Rowell, proposed a friendly amendment to add one or more students to this committee. This was not accepted as a friendly amendment because there was no previous opportunity for discussion of this request. The question was called, the motion passed.

6. Motion to change the name of the College of Health Sciences to the College of Health and Human Sciences presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee, Sheryl Gowen; chair. This change was approved by
the Board of Regents in July and this would formalize the change in the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed.

7. Motion to change the eligibility date for faculty to be counted for Senate elections presented by Statutes and Bylaws Committee, Sheryl Gowen; chair. This would change the eligibility date from September 1 to the fall term and allow for late appointments to be counted in departmental tallies for Senate elections. The motion was seconded and passed.

8. Motion to approve the Semester Academic Calendar presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee, George Rainbolt; chair. This calendar runs from Summer 1998 through Summer 1999 and does not apply to the College of Law. An editorial change needs to be made for August 4, 1998 and July 22, 1999. These are the ending dates for one day a week classes, not daily classes, so the proper notation should read “classes end MTWTh or F”. Al McWilliams asked if this calendar coincides with the College of Law semester calendar. Dr. Rainbolt responded that the committee did not attempt to align the two semester calendars this first time, however, there has been some discussion to look into this issue with future semester calendars. The re was discussion about rescheduling exams for graduating students Fall 1998. This is necessary in order to clear those students for graduation. Georgia State awards actual diplomas to the graduates and extra time is needed for the preparation necessary to do this. The question was called, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

APACE (John Newman, chair): Due to the semester conversion, the Academic Program Review subcommittee has postponed the initiation of the program self-studies for this academic year (five academic units). A Service Outreach Centers subcommittee has been established and will review university service outreach efforts for centers that are not research or academic programs. Also, an International Education subcommittee has been formed to coordinate our international education efforts for the university.

Admissions and Standards (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee is continuing to work on the issue of a plus/minus grading system. They are reviewing the requirements for graduating with honors. Also being reviewed are guidelines for dealing with transfer credit due to the semester conversion, mini-semester issues, admissions appeals, and issues stemming from a Board of Regents mandate regarding the new predicted gpa for admissions.

Athletics (Dan Franklin, chair): No report.

Budget (John de Castro, chair): The committee has met four times since the last Senate meeting. They have been discussing semester conversion costs and have made a recommendation that the Board of Regents identify conversion costs as a redirection priority. There are two areas that should be targeted: 1) graduate student support and 2) increase faculty to reduce teaching loads to the level that is comparable to research institutions across the country. The committee continues to discuss the redirection.

Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The committee has been discussing the impact of the semester conversion on commencement. Because of the increasing numbers of students graduating, this December's commencement has been split into two ceremonies. Board of Regents chair, Bill Clark, will be the commencement speaker for both. Honorary degree nominations are open for this year.

Committee of Chairs (Carol Winkler, chair): The committee has met twice and recently developed a plan for Senate review of the SACS and NCAA institutional self-studies.

Cultural Diversity (Maria Valeri-Gold, chair): The committee has met twice and is reviewing programs that address the concerns of diversity in our community. They are also reviewing the SACS and NCAA documents.

Executive (Carol Winkler, chair): In addition to the discussion of items that were voted on today, the committee has discussed network connections for new faculty by their contract start dates, short and long-term strategies for dealing with the resignation of the ombudsperson, plans for implementing Research Committee resolutions that were passed Spring 1997, the Provost's evaluation, and other issues.

Faculty Affairs (Gabor Patonay, chair): Auxiliary Serves and the Police Department have both made presentations to the committee. In addition, they are working on new evaluations for the Vice Presidents who will be evaluated this year. Faculty awards, workload policy, conflict of interest policy, SACS and NCAA self-study are also on the committee's agenda.

FACP (Ron Henry, chair): The committee meeting regularly and is dealing with the redirection and contingency funds.
Information Systems and Technology (Bill Nelson, chair): The committee has met three times. They have introduced a technology fee. An ad hoc subcommittee has been established to continue the activities of the Teaching and Learning with Technology Roundtable.

Library Advisory (Dennis Thompson, chair): They have been discussing the SACS self-study.

Nominations (Ellen Podgor, chair): The committee has forward recommendations to the Statutes and Bylaws Committee which will make the nominations process more efficient and will update several passages in the Senate Bylaws.

Planning and Development (Lauren Adamson for Tim Crimmins, chair): In December, the Strategic Planning subcommittee will present the 1998 update of the action plan for the strategic plan to the Planning and Development Committee for approval. The master planning process is underway under the direction of a steering committee chaired by President Patton. A subcommittee is reviewing the sections of the SACS self-study that deal with administration, planning, and space utilization. Programming for the new classroom building is underway.

Research (Mary Ann Romski for Chuck Derby, chair): The committee has met twice and has three major agenda items for the year. The subcommittee on Research/APACE Center Review are reviewing three existing centers: Gerontology, Sport Medicine, and C HARA. The Internal Grants Review subcommittee are revisiting the process for reviewing research enhancement program grants. The Strategic Planning subcommittee is following up on the implementation of Senate resolutions passed Spring 1997 and is also assisting in updating the research component of the action plan for the strategic plan.

Statutes and Bylaws (Sheryl Gowen, chair): The committee will be reviewing the changes to the Statutes that were brought forward and then tabled at the May 1997 Senate meeting and will ask Faculty Affairs to review the changes as well. The committee will be considering other suggested changes to both the University Statutes and the Senate Bylaws.

Student Discipline (Bill Waugh, chair): It has not been necessary for the committee to meet so far this year.

Student Life and Development (Kurt Keppler, chair): The committee has met several times. They have been discussing potential fee increases, the SACS self-study, issues pertaining to the Village and the new Student Center, the plus/minus grading system, new guidelines for Student Court, and other items.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Carolyn Robison, Secretary
University Senate

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