MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
April 23, 1998

PRESENT:


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

MINUTES: The minutes of the February 19, 1998 meeting were approved with no amendments.

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT: The President announced that the university had received a good budget. The money comes earmarked for projects we have recommended. Dr. Patton said he had already thanked the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors. Dr. Patton also called attention to the Student Center which has officially opened and is functional. He informed the Senate that the classroom building project continues to move ahead with a citizen's advisory group. Dr. Patton extended thanks to the group for the success of the Faculty/Staff Campaign. The funds raised here help to promote additional funds in the business sector. We have one of the highest Faculty/Staff giving rates in the country.

PRESENTATION BY THE PROVOST: Dr. Henry presented information on academic standards which focus on undergraduate student learning. The goals of the plan are to have a learning centered environment for all students, not just the traditional student; to provide a liberal education for all students, not just those in liberal arts, but also for professional students; and to have a high quality of instruction from all faculty, from our most experienced to our newest.

Academia is faced with a hostile environment from state policy makers, who demand accountability. Business leaders are not pleased with the communication skills of graduates in general. There is a concern with the variability of grades. Variability of grades demands grading standards. Grades are in the eye of the faculty member; therefore, there is a great deal of variability. The impact of standards from colleges and Universities has a ripple effect on high schools. Standards promote the success of all students. Students should be judged by a particular
level of expectation and not against each other.

Dr. Henry discussed four basic approaches toward planning the implementation of a quality standards program. Georgia State is, has been, or will be involved with these approaches:

- Core Assessments - A Georgia State team of professors will participate in a Summer Academy sponsored by the AAHE;
- Quality Undergraduate Education - Ed Trust/Nash - To develop content standards in history and science and to drive curriculum and instruction to raise quality of undergraduate learning;
- A standards based Teacher Education Project - Includes a standards based-framework for preparing teacher candidates and creating accountability measures to assure that future teachers will know the subject they teach;
- Admissions - The University System will impact high schools by their admissions standards, and alternative admissions systems will be in place for English, mathematics and technology.

The faculty will be asking and answering many questions. Among them will be, what performance level is expected from a proficient student and advanced student? Departments will address such curriculum questions as, is there a balanced coverage of standards, and are some standards virtually ignored while others treated too much?

Dr. Henry stated that all students can be successful and the idea that time is the constant and learning is a variable should be reversed to state that learning is the constant and time is the variable.

NEW BUSINESS: The Senate Executive Committee recommends a do pass on all motions.

1. Motion to **Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia urging the implementation of the letter-grade plus/minus grading system at the University of Georgia Institution** presented by Admissions and Standards; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion urges the Board of Regents to allow the implementation of Plus/Minus in all University of Georgia Institutions. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion to **begin the implementation of the Letter-Grade Plus/Minus Grading at Georgia State University** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion allows Georgia State University to begin using the plus/minus grading system as soon as the necessary computer changes can be made. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Motion to **approve the summer 1999 revised academic calendar** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion provides the dates for the summer 1999 academic calendar. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion to **approve the 1999-2000 academic calendar presented** by Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion provides the dates for the 1999-2000 academic calendar. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. Motion to **accept the Senate dates for 1998-1999 academic year** presented by the Executive Committee, Carol Winkler, chair. This motion presents the four dates for the Senate meetings. The question was called. The motion passed.
APACE (John Newman, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee approved a number of degree related changes, spent considerable time considering the SAC's visit and the next steps, and discussed learning outcomes.

Admissions and Standards (George Rainbolt, chair): In addition to the items brought forward today, the committee is reviewing the admissions and standards for graduation for international students, as there is a drop in the number of international students coming to Georgia State. The committee is wondering why and what to do about the situation.

Athletics (Dan Franklin, chair): The committee met in March and discussed the NCAA recommendations. The NCAA has approved the program and made 13 recommendations which the committee will attempt to implement. The committee also discussed the budget.

Budget (Fred Massey for John de Castro, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting and discussed the requests for new funding for FY'99 from all units. The Committee devised its own priorities for funding and sent them to the Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President. In addition, the Budget Committee has discussed the allocations that were recommended by F.A.C.P. for FY’99.

Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The next commencement will be June 20, 1998, with two ceremonies, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. An honorary degree will be awarded to Franklin Garrett, an Atlanta historian. The speaker will be Jim Lewis, founder and president of Golden Key International Honor Society.

Committee of Chairs (Fred Jacobs for Carol Winkler, chair): This committee reviewed the business for the Senate meeting and set dates for the 1998-1999 Senate meetings. It has coordinated the distribution of the minutes from various campus meetings and discussed ongoing business in Senate committees. The committee supported the Transition Requirements TaskForce of Admissions and Standards to handle semester transition issues for students in a timely manner. Additionally, the committee asked for a review of policies at the office of international students regarding minimum support levels of I-20's be reviewed. This has been done.

Cultural Diversity (Maria Valeri-Gold, chair): This committee passed a resolution which was submitted to and passed by the Executive Committee regarding the hiring of an interim director for the ombudsperson position. The committee also voted to support the recruitment and retention of the African-American faculty document (Second Five Year Plan) and the establishment of a task force to study the same relevant issues for other minority groups on campus.

Executive (Fred Jacobs for Carol Winkler, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. In addition to the Senate business today, they have appointed the members of the 1998-1999 nominations committee, recommended the presidential appointees to the Senate, made recommendations regarding the 1998-1999 university awards committee, considered the appropriate number of Senate meetings on the semester system, finalized the interim job description of the ombudsperson position and discussed the priorities of assignments for weekend use of parking decks. Also, the committee hopes that you will join them in congratulating Mary Nell Stone for giving birth to Travis Patrick. Both are doing well.

Faculty Affairs (Brenda Smith for Gabor Patonay, chair): The committee has been working on
a number of items. Some resolutions should come to the Senate floor next time. First, they have been involved in the faculty evaluations of administrators and are constantly refining the process. In addition, they have been working on changing the dates to the semester system. They are working a staff component to be involved in the evaluation of a non-academic vice president. They have also been working with the Executive Committee in the hiring of a new ombudsperson. They have also been working on issues concerning the current workload policy surrounding semester conversion. The committee is working on a University Conflict of Interest Policy and preparing a multi-year study of faculty/staff benefits. Lastly, the committee has sent a memo to the deans encouraging an academic freedom policy document that conforms to AAUP requirements.

**FACP** (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met and discussed the budget. He reiterated that we received a very good budget. Our original request was 3.5 million in eleven projects. We had ten of those projects funded for three million dollars.

**Information Systems and Technology** (Fred Massey for Bill Nelson, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has discussed many issues, including a Student Computer Use Policy and the formation of a standing subcommittee called the Information Technology Support (I. T. S.) Subcommittee. The mission of the I. T. S. Subcommittee is to facilitate communication among those involved in technology support across the University. A draft of the Student Computer Use Policy has been reviewed by three other Senate committees, and the entire policy is moving toward final approval by the I. S. &T. Committee.

**Library Advisory** (Jim Hirsh for Dennis Thompson, chair): The committee has been meeting with the library staff to develop a strategic plan for the library. At the next meeting they hope to reach an agreement on a set of mission and vision statements. It is also their intention that the statements will be available on the library home page for review within a reasonable time after the meeting.

**Nominations** (Ellen Podgor, chair): The committee did not meet.

**Planning and Development** (Vijay Vaishnavi, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The signage program for the campus was presented at one meeting, the SAC’s review group on strategies and schedules was discussed at the second, and at the last meeting a resolution on moves and renovations funding was approved. The handout which was passed out today is the information on moves and renovation funding for FY’99.

**Research** (Mary Ann Romski for Chuck Derby, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. They have discussed five items. They are investigating whether it would be beneficial to join the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA). They have heard from IS&T of the benefits in terms of computers and are studying other potential benefits. The Joint Research /APACE Research Center Review Subcommittee has completed its review of two research centers: The Gerontology Center and the Center for Sports Medicine, Science & Technology. The review and recommendations have been forwarded to the Provost's Office. The committee has been participating in the Provost's Ad Hoc Committee for research administration, which is investigating how to improve research administration at Georgia State University. Coopers & Lybrand will be presenting to them alternative models for integrating the activities of the Office of Grants & Contracts and the Office of Research &
Sponsored Programs by the end of April. It is anticipated the committee will complete its analysis and issue a final report by the end of spring quarter. At a meeting organized by the Provost, they heard a report from the Carnegie Foundation. Charles Glassick informed the group that the foundation probably will conduct a new classification of institutes of higher education. However, planning has just begun and questions such as the threshold for determining Research I status, the data to be used to measure external research funding, or the possible revisions in the classification categories have not been addressed. Also, they discussed the issue of course buy-out rate and will be forwarding a recommendation for a University policy that would set the course buy-out rate in the semester system to be 1/9th of the faculty member's 9-month annual salary.

**Statutes and Bylaws** (Maria Valeri-Gold for Sheryl Gowen, chair): The committee met March 11 and approved changes to the Statutes and Bylaws to reflect semester conversion. The changes have been forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval and will be presented to the Senate at the next meeting.

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

**Student Life and Development** (Kurt Keppler, chair): The committee has met several times and is dealing with policy development, including procedures to allocate the student fee, which have been approved; new procedures for a new constitution for the student government, including new ways of electing student Senators, which has been approved; the new code of conduct; and all the specifics behind the new edition of the On Campus Student Handbook which was approved, and the review of the computer use policy. Also, student fees were discussed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Carolyn Robison, Secretary
University Senate

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Please send questions or comments to Mary Nell Stone