UNIVERSITY SENATE
October 8, 1998


ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. President Patton began by thanking Gayla Domke for assuming the role of Secretary of the Senate.

MINUTES: The minutes of the May 7, 1998 meeting were approved with no amendments.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Dr. Patton thanked everyone for their hard work during the semester conversion. In the long run, the change will be a good thing for the institution even though in the short run it has been a lot of work. Georgia State has some challenges ahead but these are good times. Dr. Patton discussed what it takes to provide a good education: an excellent group of students, an excellent faculty and staff, and a good place in which to do the teaching. The entering students this year have the best SAT scores and grade point averages than any other class. These high quality students improve the way the faculty teaches - they are challenged more and they are more excited about teaching these students. The new faculty joining us this year are outstanding. Our facilities are excellent as well. We look forward to the new classroom building. The recognition we received from the SACS and NCAA reviews were positive. The suggestions that were made can be easily accomplished. These reviews also reflect that these are good times for Georgia State. The media has been treating us well recently. The Regents' budgets have been good - each year our budget is better than the year before. Also, the J. Mack Robinson gift to the College of Business Administration shows that the community is recognizing that good things that are happening here at Georgia State.

There are challenges ahead. One of them is the decline in our enrollment which affects our budget. This was anticipated and money was set aside to cover a large portion of the shortfall. Now the budget needs to be fine tuned because we need some additional reductions in order to assure that this year's budget gets balanced. Dr. Patton wants to look at budget reductions in areas where it will have minimal impact. He does not want to impact on our operating budget. We also have a challenge for next year. We hope to have recovered on our enrollments. In the meantime, contingency plans need to be made and preparations will have to be made for the redirection that the Office of Planning and Budget will require. Dr. Patton hopes we get the redirected funds back, but without knowing who the new governor will be or what his policies will be, contingency plans need to be in place. Dr. Patton will continue to work to get relief from the University System for this decline. He encouraged everyone to think about solutions to this enrollment shortfall and to think about possible improvements in efficiency of services. He is confident that we will resolve this problem; the GSU community has weathered these challenges before. He concluded by saying that these are good times at Georgia State and he looks forward to working everyone as we work to resolve these problems.

Finally, he mentioned a report put out by the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education (ARCHE) which summarizes responses to a higher education questionnaire by the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. Dr. Patton encourages everyone to read the report, make your own independent judgment on the candidates, and vote on November 3.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Patton called on Carol Winker to report for the Executive Committee. Dr. Winkler stated the Executive Committee recommends a "do pass" on all motions on the floor today. The committee offers a friendly amendment to motion one, the amendment to the Nominations Report. This friendly amendment is offered because of changes in the Provost's Office and in the leadership of the SGA and to more evenly distribute the membership of the
1. **Amendment to the Nominations Report** presented by the Nominations Committee; Bill Kinyon, chair. Professor Kinyon accepted the friendly amendment from the Executive Committee. He had an additional friendly amendment: add Lynn Stallings, College of Education to the Budget Committee. Hugh Hudson asked to be “undeleted” from the Admissions and Standards Committee. These changes were also accepted as a friendly amendments. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion to **revise the LSP and regular admission criteria** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal changes Georgia State’s admission requirements and changes the plan for meeting the Regents’ requirement that the admission requirements are raised significantly by the year 2001. Dr. Rainbolt explained the chart that was included with this motion. Discussion centered on what is more important: the commitment to raise the standards or to increase enrollment to increase funds. Dean Abdelal stated that this break in the rise of admissions standards is needed so that the colleges and the student services areas can continue to hone their skills in recruiting students at this higher level. Robin Morris asked if Dr. Patton thought that the Board of Regents might give institutions a year’s relief on meeting these new admission standards given the decline in Fall enrollment at many institutions. Dr. Patton answered that he doubted that would happen. Vice President Scott mentioned that there were 613 students who were denied admission this year but would have been admitted last year under last year’s standards. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. **Resolution Addressing the Budgetary Challenges of Semester Conversion** presented by the Budget Committee; John de Castro, chair. The Budget Committee had much discussion on the enrollment shortfall and its budgetary consequences and felt it was important to bring before the Senate some ideas that should guide the discussion for how the reallocation and reallocation of funds should be done within the University. The resolution’s action steps are: 1) The President and the FACP determine needed budgetary reductions in FY1999 and FY2000 in accordance with the principles 1 to 4 enumerated within the resolution; 2) The University will consider reduction and/or delay of all one-time and continuing expenditures in preference to layoffs or cuts in faculty and staff; 3) Final decisions regarding redirection be made only after spring registration is complete and the Regents plans for redirection become available; 4) The University should consider everything possible, including increasing instructional budgets, to increase spring enrollments to offset revenue shortfall. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion for a **policy on student computer use** presented by the Information Systems and Technology Committee; Bill Nelson, chair. There are two basic elements to this policy: one formalizes the requirement that students can be expected to use computers associated with any class; the second element is that some departments or degree programs may require students to own computers. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. Motion to **add the Affirmative Action Director to the Committee on Faculty Affairs** presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This would add the position of Affirmative Action Director to the Faculty Affairs Committee as a non-voting member. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. Motion to **change the Bylaws to reflect the change from the Department of Learning Support Programs to the Department of Academic Foundations** presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This would update the Bylaws due to a change in department name. The question was called. The motion passed.

7. Motion to make the approved **changes to the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws to reflect the semester calendar** presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This would update both documents, changing text references from quarters to semester. The question was called. The motion passed.

8. Motion to **change Bylaws to reflect the change from the Division of Student Life and Enrollment Services to the Division of Student Services** presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This would update the Bylaws due to a change in Division title. The question was called. The motion passed.

9. Motion to **change Bylaws to reflect change from Associate Provost for Faculty Relations to Associate Provost for Academic Services** presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This would update the wording in the membership of the Committee on Cultural Diversity. The question was called. The motion passed.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

APACE (John Newman, chair): The committee has met once and is engaged in several activities. Among them are the review of self-study reports from three departments; responding to the SACS accreditation document; and creating an assessment subcommittee for the assessment of undergraduate student learning outcomes.

Admissions and Standards (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee has implemented the policy on admission appeals which was adopted by the Senate and heard about 80 appeals, denying almost all of them. Currently they are working on: a policy on awarding degrees posthumously; a policy on clarifying the distinction between "In Progress" and "Incomplete" grades; a policy on international and non-native speaking students; and reviewing the transfer admission criteria.

Athletics (Dan Franklin for Rankin Cooter, chair): The committee met on August 19 and approved the schedule for Fall and Spring sports. There was a report on the NCAA Steering Committee in which the NCAA appears to be satisfied with the progress the University is making in response to their proposals. There was also a report on the academic performance of the athletes.

Budget (John de Castro, chair): The committee has met twice and the primary agenda has been the discussion of the budgetary shortfall and the challenges of semester conversion.

Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The committee will be meeting on October 14 with three main agenda items: commencement speakers; reviewing the honorary degree proposals; and continuing to review the ceremonies. There will be two ceremonies for the Fall semester.

Committee of Chairs (Carol Winkler, chair): This committee has met once and reviewed the items on today's agenda. Because of the interruption of a fire alarm, no other business was conducted.

Cultural Diversity (Maria Valeri-Gold, chair): The committee has met once and is working on the following projects: staff assessment survey, a document on the recruitment and retention of under represented faculty, and revising their bylaws.

Executive (Carol Winkler, chair): The committee has met monthly and, in addition to the items on today's agenda, have discussed the structure of the alternative dispute resolution committee; the master planning process; proposed amendments to the faculty workload document; the process for considering Library and Athletics strategic plans; and potential remedies for the enrollment shortfall.

Faculty Affairs (Gabor Patonay, chair): The committee has met twice and has been working on several items: finalizing the faculty workload document; review of Auxiliary Services; evaluation of administrators.

Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met several times and is currently discussing responses to revenue shortfalls for FY99.

Information Systems and Technology (Bill Nelson, chair): The committee has met twice and finalized the policy on student computer use which was approved today. In addition, the committee has constructed the 1998-99 Teaching and Learning with Technology Subcommittee and have established an additional subcommittee composed of staff members delivering information and technology services in order to streamline the relationship between those in the central areas and the actual users.

Library Advisory (Philo Hutcheson, chair): The committee has met twice and reviewed and improved the Pullen Library Strategic Plan. That document is now moving to other Senate committees for their review and it is also posted on the web. The committee is now examining the Library budget particularly in the areas of periodicals and serials acquisition.

Nominations (Bill Kinyon, chair): The committee reviewed the changes brought forward at today's meeting. Any new changes will be brought forward at the next Senate meeting.

Planning and Development (Vijay Vaishnavi, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee has ratified the Administrative and Support Unit Assessment Committee which was nominated by the Provost. This committee can now begin its assessment process of support units. A number of subcommittees are making good progress: master planning process, strategic planning process. President Patton recognized Bob Sattelmeyer who had a question: could the Executive Committee work with the President and the Provost to establish a process and timetable for wide dissemination and discussion of the master plan. Carol Winkler responded that the Executive Committee could discuss the issue and establish a timetable at their retreat next week.
Research (Dave Vanko for Mary Ann Romski, chair): The committee will hold its first meeting on October 12 and on the agenda for the year are: research center reviews, review of policies related to the internal grants program, and a focus on the infrastructure for research at Georgia State.

Statutes and Bylaws (Sheryl Gowen, chair): The committee has met twice and discussed items dealing with the semester conversion, name and title changes within the University, and requests for various individuals to be added to various Senate committees.

Student Discipline (Howard Schneider, chair): The committee has met once to resolve a matter dealing with academic dishonesty.

Student Life and Development (Kurt Keppler, chair): The following items have been discussed by the committee: new student government constitution, changes in the code of conduct, criteria for chartered student organizations, the impact of the semester conversion on student fee budgets, and food service issues. Dr. Keppler made two announcements: there was perfect attendance at their last meeting and Timeka Lamback is the new Student Government Association president.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Gayla Domke, Secretary

University Senate

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