
Others attending: John Hali, Mike Moore, Dan Niccum, Bob Probst, Rob Sheinkopf, Mary Ann Skipper, Jennifer Smith.

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

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 8, 1998 meeting were approved with no amendments.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: President Patton began his remarks by recognizing the gifts that Georgia State has recently received, and in particular, the $2.5 million that John Aderhold gave as a birthday present for his wife, Helen, and the gift from Mack and Nita Robinson. He also reminded the group of the upcoming Fall semester commencement ceremonies and announced that the speaker at 1:00 p.m. would be Bill Todd from the Georgia Research Alliance and at 5:00 p.m. would be Mark O'Connell from the United Way. He stressed that it is important to have faculty in attendance at the ceremonies and urged those who are planning to come to be sure to do so.

Dr. Patton mentioned that he has met with Governor-elect Barnes on a number of occasions and hopes to develop a good relationship with him. He stated that there may be some state money going to fund other state agencies that haven't prepared as well as the Board of Regents and the University System of Georgia for the Year 2000 problem. There is no news yet on the redirection.

Dr. Patton extended his best wishes for the holidays on behalf of himself and his wife, Gretchen. He reminded everyone of the University holiday party being held on December 22 at 3:30 p.m. and the evening party held for the night staff at 10:00 p.m. He urged everyone to attend one or both of these events.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Patton called on Carol Winkler to report for the Executive Committee. Dr. Winkler stated that the Executive Committee recommends a "do pass" on all motions.

1. Motion to approve the Library Strategic Plan presented by the Library Advisory Committee; Philo Hutcheson, chair. Dr. Hutcheson thanked the library staff and faculty, the Library Advisory Committee, and several Senate committees (Research, APACE, Budget and Planning and Development) which reviewed this document. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion to modify the undergraduate transfer admission process presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion drops the requirement that a transfer student must have at least a "C" Mathematics and English before being admitted and also drops the freshman GPA requirement from 2.1 to 2.0. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Motion to approve the policy on non-native speakers of English, presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal does not raise or lower standards, but codifies the various policies on dealing with international students and will aid the offices that work with them. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion to approve a resolution in response to the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, presented by the Executive Committee; Carol Winkler, chair. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS: In each of the last three years, the SIGNAL has published an advertisement purchased by the
Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust (CODOH) which suggests that the Holocaust never occurred, and

WHEREAS: The existence of the Holocaust is established by a vast body of documented historical data, and

WHEREAS: No credible evidence has been offered that calls into question the existence of the Holocaust or the extraordinary evil it involved, and

WHEREAS: CODOH's calls for "open debate" and "intellectual freedom" regarding the Holocaust are rhetorical disguises for bigotry, anti-Semitism, and racism.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

(1) The University Senate categorically rejects the position of CODOH that the Holocaust did not take place. We call for a wider public understanding and discussion of the true magnitude and consequences of this atrocity and all other acts of genocide.

(2) The University Senate deplores the bigotry which lies behind Holocaust denial, and we urge our colleagues, our students, and members of the community to staunchly oppose any such bigotry whenever it arises.

(3) While the University Senate recognizes the prerogative of the editorial board of the *Signal*, it deplores the recurrent acceptance of the CODAH ad and encourages the *Signal* to reconsider its acceptance of the advertisement in the future.

This resolution is in response to a CODOH advertisement that suggests that the University community is afraid to openly debate whether or not the Holocaust actually happened. By placing this resolution on the floor, the Executive Committee is hoping to put this debate to rest. The motion was seconded. The editor of the *Signal* was recognized by the chair and stated that the ad does not actually deny the Holocaust but rather requests debate on specific subsets of the issue, for example, whether Anne Frank’s diary was fiction or non-fiction. She continued that the notion that everyone has the right to be heard, at least in advertising, is only being upheld at student newspapers like the *Signal*. She stated that they may be wrong on this issue, but they reserve the right to make mistakes and not be censured for it afterwards. The *Signal* editor stated that she respected the first two parts of the resolution; she feels that the third part has an implication of causality which makes the issue much larger than what the desire or intention of most faculty would feel. The chair then recognized several Senators. One Senator asked if the resolution were reworded to sound less recriminatory and addressed future actions would that be acceptable to the *Signal* editorial board. The editor responded that next year's board would be composed of all new people and would probably not know about this resolution. Another Senator stated that he deplores the ad; and that if the Senate does not deplore the ad, then it is accepting it. He does not want the wording of the resolution changed. One of the student Senators stated that she knew of many students who oppose the ad and strongly urged the passing of this resolution. Another Senator stated that he deplores the ad; and that if the Senate does not deplore the ad, then it is accepting it. The motion passed.

5. Motion to change the faculty workload policy presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Gabor Patonay, chair. The changes in the policy reflect the changeover to the semester system and Georgia State’s status as a research university. The language has been changed and is similar to other research universities within and outside the state. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. Motion to approve the campus physical master plan presented by the Planning and Development Committee; Vijay Vaishnavi, chair. This plan has received input from a number of Senate committees and Dr. Vaishnavi expressed his appreciation for the input. The question was called. The motion passed.

7. Motion to change the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws to reflect the name change for the J. Mack Robinson College of Business presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This change would update the name of the College of Business Administration to the J. Mack Robinson College of Business in these documents. The question was called. The motion passed.

8. Motion to update the Senate Bylaws to reflect various changes in administrator titles presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. This proposal updates the titles of the Registrar and the
Dean of Students in various membership lists of Senate standing committees. There also is a change in the membership of the Library Advisory Committee, substituting the Associate Provost for Academic Programs for the Provost. The question was called. The motion passed.

9. Motion to **refine and adjust committee membership in the Senate Bylaws** presented by the Statutes and Bylaws Committee; Sheryl Gowen, chair. The committee was asked to make changes to several membership lists of standing committees to reflect changes in administrator responsibilities and to add various resource people to some of the committees. This proposal was the result of those committee discussions and it adjusts the membership lists by indicating that the Provost can send his/her designee with a proxy vote. Carol Winkler mentioned that since the Executive Committee met and discussed this issue, the Committee of Chairs met and had some concerns about this issue. One such concern was that this motion would empower one member of the Senate with a proxy vote while no other member had this privilege. Dr. Winkler moved that this motion be tabled. The question was called. The motion to table passed.

George Rainbolt moved to request that the chair suspend committee review and have the Senate act as a committee of the whole, pursuant to Article VI, Section 1 of the Senate **Bylaws** to consider the motion to **approve the interim academic improvement program** which was distributed to the Senators as they signed in. The motion to suspend committee review was seconded. The question was called. The motion passed. Dr. Rainbolt gave some background on the development of this program, which would be a one-semester-only, pilot program to be put into place at the end of Fall 1998. This proposal would raise the scholastic discipline standards and give students help in meeting these higher standards. Provost Henry commented that this program will help with retention and will provide more services for student success. Tim Crimmins stated that this program allows for earlier intervention and encouraged the support of this proposal. The question was called. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**APACE** (John Newman, chair): The committee has met many times. The academic review process has begun again after a year hiatus due to the semester conversion. The committee has reviewed and commented on the Library strategic plan, the strategic action plan, and the campus physical master plan.

**Admissions and Standards** (George Rainbolt, chair): In addition to the items brought today, the committee is working on refining the academic improvement program plan. The committee is also considering a policy on posthumous degrees. The committee has considered 56 petitions or appeals and denied 43 of them.

**Athletics** (Rankin Cooter, chair): No report.

**Budget** (John de Castro, chair): The committee has met three times and discussed the revenue shortfall, the Library strategic plan, budgetary issues surrounding Y2K problem, and fee requests for FY2000.

**Commencement** (Carl Patton, chair): The committee will be meeting soon to review the names submitted for honorary degrees.

**Committee of Chairs** (Carol Winkler, chair): The committee met once and reviewed the items on today's agenda.

**Cultural Diversity** (Maria Valeri-Gold, chair): The committee has met several times and is working on revising its bylaws.

**Executive** (Carol Winkler, chair): The committee has had one regular meeting and one retreat. At the regular meeting, today's agenda items were discussed. At the retreat, several items were discussed: the need to create a taskforce on the advancement of women within the university, the master planning process, the administrator evaluation instruments, graduate enrollment and recruitment, improving conditions for PTIs, and a faculty and staff benefits survey.

**Faculty Affairs** (Gabor Patonay, chair): The committee has met several times and, in addition to the workload policy, has been working on the staff component of certain administrator evaluations and has created a benefits subcommittee.

**Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President** (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has been primarily working on various requests for fee changes for FY2000.

**Information Systems and Technology** (Bill Nelson, chair): The committee has met monthly and is reviewing the FY2000 redirection budget requests for the IS&T area and developing the action plan for FY2000.
Library Advisory (Philo Hutcheson, chair): The committee has met four times and has been working on the Library strategic plan and on budget and collection issues.

Nominations (Mary Ann Romski for Bill Kinyon, chair): The committee has not met and has no new business.

Planning and Development (Vijay Vaishnavi, chair): The committee has met many times and has been primarily discussing the master plan and the 1999 action plan for the strategic plan.

Research (Mary Ann Romski, chair): The committee has met twice and has reviewed and commented on the Library strategic plan, the master plan, and the action plan for the strategic plan. The committee is also working on research center review and review of the internal grants program.

Statutes and Bylaws (Sheryl Gowen, chair): The committee has met three times and discussed the proposals that were on today’s agenda. The committee will be discussing a recent request by the Staff Advisory Council.

Student Discipline (Bill Waugh for Howard Schneider, chair): The committee has not had a reason to meet during Fall semester.

Student Life and Development (Kurt Keppler, chair): The committee has met four times and has recently approved a new student absence policy. The committee has also been reviewing the differential fee proposals, the CODOH ad, cults in student organizations, and the new student handbook.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Gayla Domke, Secretary
University Senate

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