MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
October 5, 2000


ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 19, 2000, meeting were approved with no amendments.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: President Patton began his comments by mentioning several of Georgia State's "points of pride". In terms of SAT scores and GPAs, this year brings Georgia State the best group of students yet. Dr. Patton thanked everyone who worked hard to recruit and attract these students. Three new vice presidents have been appointed and he thanked all who worked on the search committees for their hard work. He introduced Katherine Johnston, the new VP for Finance and Administration and Hazel Scott, the new VP for Student Services. The new VP for Research and Sponsored Programs, Charles Louis, was still on Mt. Wilson for the dedication ceremony for the CHARA array. The Alpharetta Center opened and has attracted a greater enrollment than expected. The Aderhold Classroom project was successfully bid and came in under budget and is underway. The Recreation Center project is also on schedule and on budget. President Patton thanked the GSU Foundation for everything that it has done to help with these projects. The Board of Regents has approved a science/teaching laboratory for Georgia State. This is a $68 million project, Georgia State has to raise $23 million of that amount. The Board of Regents also listed a project on the minor project list for Georgia State: the purchase of a parking garage in the Fairlie-Poplar area. We have also been working to increase the amount of money that goes into our major repair and renovation fund (MRRF) which is used for remodeling and upgrading our current facilities.

Dr. Patton updated the group on the Capital Campaign. Our initial goal of $75 million has been surpassed. Although the goal has been surpassed, the fundraising will continue in order to meet some of the goals in the individual areas. These areas are: scholarships, chairs and professorships, and the Aderhold Classroom Building. Dr. Patton concluded his remarks by stating the items he will be working on during this academic year. He will be working to raise the $23 million needed for the science/teaching laboratory. This will be an opportunity to reach out to those who have not funded Georgia State before. He will continue to work on faculty and staff salary increases and to address the system structural deficit. He will work to maintain our Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) funding and try to increase the funding for the GRA and, in turn, increase the share that Georgia State will receive. Finally, he will be working with private builders and developers to provide additional housing for married students, international students, and graduate students. It is in Georgia State's interest that these developers focus their housing on populations other than undergraduates so that we can continue to fill the Village.

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

1. **Motion to revise the hardship withdrawal policy** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. The committee did a complete review of this policy. Faculty input was increased and a specific appeal route for faculty who disagree with the Dean of Student's decision was written in. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. **Motion on transient/ARCHTE requirements** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This policy is to restrict students from taking courses at other institutions and then transferring the course work back when they did not have the GPA required to take the course at Georgia State in the first place. The question was called. The motion passed.
3. **Motion to alter the method of computing transfer GPAs** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. Currently the Admissions Office hand calculates the transfer grade point average of all transfer applicants using the Georgia State method of GPA calculations. This proposal would allow the Admissions Office to use the cumulative GPA as calculated by the accredited transfer institution. This would result in faster processing of transfer applicants. The floor was opened for questions and several points were discussed: this will allow students to transfer in with GPAs higher than 4.0; this will eliminate problems when the hand calculated GPA is lower than the originating institution's GPA; this will not effect the Georgia State grade point average. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. **Motion to modify admission requirements** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This is a slowing down of the rate of increase in admission standards. Due to the fact that Georgia State may face a structural deficit, the committee felt it was prudent to slow down the rate of admission standard increases. Dr. Rainbolt was asked if students in this program get the HOPE Scholarship. The answer is no because they haven't finished high school. Carolyn Denard commented that there are some social problems with this population of young students. Dr. Rainbolt stated that this may be an new population of students that Student Services can serve. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. **Motion to revise the admission requirements for the early attendance programs** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. The committee did a complete review of the early attendance programs. The committee redesigned the admission requirements so that more students will take advantage of them. Dr. Rainbolt was asked if students in this program get the HOPE Scholarship. The answer is no because they haven't finished high school. Carolyn Denard commented that there are some social problems with this population of young students. Dr. Rainbolt stated that this may be an new population of students that Student Services can serve. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. **Motion to modify admission requirements for 2001** presented by the Executive Committee; Hugh Hudson, chair. Dr. Hudson explained that this proposal did not have time to be formally approved by the Admissions and Standards Committee, however, the committee did review and discuss it via email. This motion was sent through the Executive Committee as a means of bringing it forward today. This proposal would allow for some expansion in the limited admission category. The question was called. The motion passed.

7. **Motion to amend the Nominations Report of April 19, 2000** presented by the Nominations Committee; Dave Vanko, chair. This is a list of changes to the original Nominations Report. The majority reflect changes in various vice presidential and other administrative posts. There is also the addition of students whose names we did not have when the Nominations Report was sent forward originally. Dr. Vanko presented one friendly amendment from the floor: add Edi Guyton, Education, to the Cultural Diversity Committee. The question was called. The motion passed.

8. **Motion to modify the domestic partner benefits policy** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Diane Willen, chair. This is a correction to the policy that was passed on April 19, 2000. This proposal is to provide domestic partner benefits to staff as well as faculty. The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for questions. Bob McGinnis asked why the requirement “they are not related by blood” is included. Discussion followed. President Patton read a passage from the approved April 19 minutes because this same issue came up at the last Senate meeting. Dr. Patton reminded the group that the proposal on the floor is to add the word "staff" to a policy which had already been approved by this body. The question was called. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**APACE** (John Newman, chair): The committee has met once this semester and expects more business by the end of November.

**Admissions and Standards** (George Rainbolt, chair): Dr. Rainbolt discussed the handout on admissions trends from Fall 1993 through Fall 2000. The increase in the number of freshmen over the period cited is remarkable. Provost Henry commented that we are disappointed in the fact that U.S. News and World Report ranked Georgia State in the fourth tier for this year. Part of that is on reputation. Although we scored rather well in reputation, we rated poorly in the other area which is the way that the magazine looks at graduation rates and predicted graduation rates. Georgia State has been talking with the magazine about changing the way they do that calculation. At present they look at the profile of the current class coming in and then they make a predicted six year graduation rate. So the ranking in this year's magazine was based on the Fall 1994 incoming class. As more of our students come in with higher grade point averages, we will have significantly higher graduation rates. Dr. Henry predicts that Georgia State will move into the third and then second tier of universities in a few years.

**Athletics** (Debra Snell, chair): The committee has met once. The TAAC men's basketball tournament will be at Georgia State in February and will be televised by ESPN. The men's tennis championships will be at the Stone Mountain Olympic facility next year.

**Budget** (Fenwick Huss, chair): The committee has met twice and the primary agenda items have been the budget process, the
Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The committee met on September 21 and discussed the new procedures for commencement starting Fall semester since the students will no longer be receiving their "live" diplomas at the ceremony. The committee has put out a call for nominations for honorary degree recipients.

Committee of Chairs and Executive (Hugh Hudson, chair): The Committee of Chairs has met once and will meet again on October 12. The committee will discuss possible topics for the Executive Committee to consider at its fall retreat. The retreat will be on November 7.

Cultural Diversity (Nannette Commander and Deborah Whitley, co-chairs): Dr. Commander reported that the committee has met twice. It has approved the 2000 action plan to recruit and retain diverse faculty. This plan has been sent to the Faculty Affairs, Planning and Development, and Budget committees for further consideration. These committees have scheduled the plan for discussion at future fall meetings. The staff assessment survey is currently under consideration of the Cultural Diversity committee.

Faculty Affairs (Diane Willen, chair): The committee has met twice and has a variety of subcommittees pursuing a variety of issues. Some of these include the bookstore, developing a policy for mentoring graduate students, and the status of NTT faculty. In October the committee will consider the task force report on the advancement of women.

FACP (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met several times. The committee will finish its consideration of the student technology fee recommendations on October 18. Another issue is enrollment. Georgia State has a record number of new freshmen and sophomores. We are still short on the number of credit hours generated. For Summer 2000 we were 4200 credit hours below where we were Summer 1999. For Fall 2000 we are approximately 5000 hours above where we were Fall 1999. This means we have netted about 1000 credit hours. The target on which the budget was based this year was an increase of 15,000 credit hours which translates into $1.65 million dollars. We are still significantly short on our tuition revenue for this year. For the time being, QIF proposals on instruction and research are being frozen. It is hoped that the spring revenues will be such that these funds can be released. It is being predicted that the spring enrollments will be healthier than last year. Eventually we will catch up but for now the fall credit hour generation is still close to 30,000 fewer than we had in Fall 1997 (the last fall under the quarter system). We are still about 11% down on our credit hour generation and this has significant budgetary implications.

Information Systems and Technology (Bill Evans, chair): The committee has met several times and the subcommittees have been meeting regularly as well. The committee has participated in the technology fee deliberations and passed on its recommendations to FACP.

Library Advisory (Philo Hutcheson, chair): The committee has met once. There is an ongoing discussion on budget and acquisition of periodicals and books.

Nominations (Dave Vanko, chair): Dr. Vanko stated that the committee has been meeting via email. He thanked Mary Nell Stone for her work keeping the various committee membership records for the Nominations Committee.

Planning and Development (Lauren Adamson for P. C. Tai, chair): The committee has met twice. The committee has accepted the first ASUA report on Human Resources. The report has now been forwarded to the Provost. The subcommittee on strategic planning has been appointed to work on the first annual action plan for the new strategic plan. This subcommittee will be chaired by Provost Henry and has representation from various Senate committees and from the colleges.

Research (Mary Ann Romski, chair): The committee has met twice. It is extremely pleased to welcome Charles Louis, the newly appointed Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs. The committee will be working on research center review, the internal grants program, beginning to develop a strategic plan for research, and discussing the funding of the new research building.

Statutes and Bylaws (Murray Brown, chair): The committee has met twice. A subcommittee will be drafting a questionnaire to send to all Senate committee chairs regarding their opinions on committee membership, the efficiency of their committees and any improvements that can be suggested.

Student Discipline (Ralph Gilbert, chair): No report.

Student Life and Development (Kurt Keppler and Jerry Edwards, co-chairs): Dr. Keppler reported that the committee has met three times. It has seen a presentation on the new Recreation Center and one from the new food vendor. It has been reviewing student fee proposals, student group charter renewals, code of conduct alterations, and gpa requirements for student
leaders.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

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Gayla Domke, Secretary
University Senate

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