MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
August 19, 2004


ORDER: The meeting began at 3:08.

MINUTES: The first item of business was the approval of the April 29, 2004. The minutes were approved as presented.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: President Patton welcomed everyone back for the academic year. This will be a busy year. The freshman class is very strong this year. Dr. Patton addressed the budget situation. A recent article in the paper stated that the USG has a large deficit. Dr. Patton explained how this situation came about. Because of a change in budget policy in the governor's office, there will be a mid-year budget cut system-wide. This means a cut of $7.3 million for Georgia State for the current year. This will be a permanent cut, not a one time cut. The system presidents met with the Chancellor and discussed various options. The Chancellor met with the Governor this morning and Dr. Patton had not heard the outcome of that meeting. Dr. Patton stated that he will give the university community all the information concerning the budget as he is informed. He said that he is often asked about layoffs. There will be an effort to avoid layoffs if at all possible but, unfortunately, it seems likely that there will be some. We will probably limit our enrollment. It's possible that we will cut the amount of classes offered. Tuition should be increased. Options are still being discussed and considered. There is some good news: the Foundation has been very supportive. It has purchased the old Beaudry Ford property and the plan is to build 2000 more housing units. Construction will start in August 2005 and students will move in June for Fall 2007.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. The first item of business was the election of the Executive Committee. Dr. Patton opened the floor for nominations. The following senators were nominated: Paul Alberto, Charles Marvin, Cherian Thachenkary, Debbie Rupp, Carol Winkler, Dean Dabney, Gerald Gay, and George Pullman. The floor was closed for nominations. The senators completed their ballots and they were collected to be tallied. While the ballots were being counted, the chair continued with new business.

B. The next item of business was the approval of the Nominations Report. Dean Dabney, chair of Nominations, presented the report. In addition to the report, an addendum was distributed to the senators as they came in. Dr. Dabney moved that the report and addendum be approved. The motion was seconded. The question was called and the motion passed. Dr. Patton mentioned the information items that were distributed with the senators’ packet. The chair suspended the meeting at 3:27 p.m. while waiting for the election results.

Dr. Patton called the meeting back to order at 3:44 p.m. and announced the six senators elected to the Senate Executive Committee: Paul Alberto, Carol Winkler, George Pullman, Debbie Rupp, Charles Marvin, and Dean Dabney.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Neile Stone
Secretary to the Senate