MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
December 8, 2005


ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the April 21, 2005, Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Dr. Patton updated the Senate on the Science/Teaching Laboratory. Georgia State has received a $5 million naming gift from Pete Pettit. Georgia State has recently received a $5 million pledge from the Woodruff Foundation. This pledge is contingent on the state delivering its share of the money. Dr. Patton will be talking with legislators and the new chancellor about the importance of the capital projects for the research universities.

NEW BUSINESS: The Executive Committee recommends a “do pass” on the following agenda items:

1. Resolution on Hurricane Katrina presented by the Executive Committee; Paul Alberto, chair. This resolution is directed to all the faculty and staff who went to extraordinary lengths to make the transition smooth for students transferring to Georgia State from institutions that were damaged during Hurricane Katrina. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion to amend the April 21 Nominations Report presented by the Nominations Committee; Dean Dabney, chair. This amendment adjusts the membership on various Senate committees due to SGA and Staff Council appointments and changes in faculty and administration. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Motion on Dual Degrees presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. Departments that offer two undergraduate degrees will be allowed to prohibit students from earning the two degrees from that department. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion to modify the academic calendar presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal will set fixed dates as the semester midpoints. This does not apply to the College of Law. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. Motion to amend the withdrawal policy presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal will limit the number of times that a student can withdraw from a class with a grade of “W” to only 6 times in a career at Georgia State. It would also end the current practice of allowing a “WF” grade when a student withdraws before the midpoint. The motion was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion. Christine Gallant stated that she opposed the motion because it didn't give students an "out" a week or two into classes. Next, SGA president Russell Mildner stated that he opposed the motion and many students he had talked to about it opposed the motion as well. Dan Franklin asked if this proposal would remedy the graduation rate. Dr. Rainbolt explained the research that was done and the indicated outcome of students having less than 6 “Ws”. Dominique Huff, a student senator, stated his opposition to the proposal. Adam Lyons, a student senator, asked if the institutions that were used for comparison have programs similar to the Hope Scholarship. Dr. Rainbolt replied that all financial aid has a cap on “Ws”; it varies from state to state. Hugh Hudson moved to table the motion so that the SGA can discuss this proposal with the student body and get more feedback. The motion to table was seconded. The question was called.
and the motion to table this proposal was approved.

6. **Policy on Research and Scholarly Misconduct** presented by the Research Committee; Don Reitzes, chair. This proposal was developed by the Research Office and reviewed by both the Research and Faculty Affairs Committees. These policies will put Georgia State in compliance with federal regulations. The question was called. The motion passed.

7. **Amend the instrument used for evaluating administrators** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Cecelia Grindel, chair. This proposal will clarify that the administrator being evaluated cannot complete an evaluation on him/herself. It adds a question to the Provost and Dean’s evaluations and it adjusts the text to address the electronic format. The question was called. The motion passed.

8. **Motion on the faculty annual report** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Cecelia Grindel, chair. This proposal is a policy statement on the use of the data gathered from the faculty annual report. The template was distributed as an information item to the Senate. Dr. Grindel proposed a friendly amendment to the last paragraph, second sentence. It will now read, “Department chairs, college deans and their designees will have access to their respective unit’s database. . . .” The following sentence will read, “The University President, Provost, and their designees will have access to the database. . . .” The motion with the friendly amendment was seconded. The question was called. The motion passed.

Information items: Template for Academic Program Review and the template for the Faculty Annual Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Academic Programs** (Tim Renick, chair): The committee has met five times. The committee amended the template for APR self-study and it was included in the Senators’ packets as an information item. It has completed APRs of six units and approved several new degree programs. It has also been reviewing the retention report.

**Admissions and Standards** (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee has reviewed several student petitions, is reviewing a proposal from RCB regarding dual BBA degrees, is reviewing rules for declaring the major and progress through the core, and will be reviewing the retention report.

**Athletics** (Laurie Tis, chair): The committee has met twice and approved the fall and spring schedules. There were nine athletes who received faculty scholarships and 36 who made the Dean’s List in the spring. Several athletes have been nominated for various accolades.

**Budget** (Hugh Hudson, chair): The committee has met several times. A joint sub-committee is working with P&D on MRR recommendations. The committee is forming a new sub-committee to research the budgetary implications of adding football to GSU’s athletic program.

**Commencement** (Carl Patton, chair): Fall commencement is on December 17 at 10:00 a.m. and at 3:00 p.m. An honorary degree will be awarded at the 10:00 a.m. ceremony. The committee is considering the proposal of having one major ceremony in the spring and college diploma ceremonies in the fall.

**Cultural Diversity** (Christine Gallant for Cora Presley, chair): The committee has met several times. It has completed its recommendations on the LGBT survey and forwarded them to the Executive Committee. It has administered the Campus Cultural Climate Survey and has completed a preliminary analysis of the quantitative data. Next the committee will analyze the written responses and hopes to have a preliminary narrative report by the March Senate meeting.

**Executive** (Paul Alberto, chair): The committee is working to move several items through the various committees in order to be on the agenda of the March Senate meeting.

**Faculty Affairs** (Cecelia Grindel, chair): In addition to the items brought forward today, the committee is reviewing issues related to scheduling facilities management. The NTT governance issue is still in sub-committee.

**FACP** (Jerry Rackliffe for Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met several times to discuss the current year budget situation and the mandatory student fees for FY07.

**IS&T** (Yi Pan, chair): The committee met five times since the last Senate meeting. Several issues have been discussed: student printing credits and costs, increasing the student tech fee, the security plan, software issues, web access issues, and ways to reduce costs.
Library (Dave Pavesic, chair): No report.

Nominations (Dean Dabney, chair): The committee approved the amendment on today’s agenda and revisited its proposal for amending its membership.

Planning and Development (P.C. Tai, chair): The committee has met several times. Several sub-committees are working on various issues: MRR recommendations, public safety, and ASUR reports. The committee is recommending that the membership on the ASUR sub-committee be increased due to the heavy workload involved.

Research (Don Reitzes, chair): The committee has met five times. It has two ongoing issues: reviewing the university’s internal grants program and assisting the Research Office in faculty development and training for grant related activities.

Student Discipline (Val Miller, chair): No report.

Student Life and Development (Rebecca Stout, chair): The committee has met four times and worked on a variety of issues. It approved 77 student organization charters, reviewed its committee membership, approved three non-student voting members of the student activity fee committee, reviewed the plaza reservation and amplification policy, and reviewed the retention report.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Marti Singer, chair): The committee has met two times and has been reviewing the various proposals to amend committee memberships. It is hoped to have a motion before the Senate at the March meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone
Secretary to the Senate