PRESENT: Senate members: Lauren Adamson, Peggy Albers, Paul Alberto, Julie Ancis, Pam Barr, Faye Borthick, Deron Boyles, Catherine Brack, Greg Brack, Michelle Brattain, Elisabeth Burgess, Janet Burns, Pedro Carrillo, David Cheshier, Missy Cody, Ron Colarusso, Joan Collier, Doug Covey, Dean Dabney, Cheryl Delk, Dabney Dixson, Stephen Dobranski, Bill Downs, Susan Easterbrooks, Crawford Elliott, Evan Eskridge, Paul Farnham, Nancy Floyd, Dan Franklin, Shelby Frost, Peggy Gallagher, Christine Gallant, Sandra Garber, MaryAnne Gaunt, Mary Gebhardt, Carol Grantham, Cecelia Grindel, Steven Harper, Ron Henry, Eva Horne, David Houchins, Yu-Sheng Hsu, Hugh Hudson, Charlene Hurt, Olgar Jarrett, LaLoria Konata, Rick Lakes, Susan Laury, Guy Leach, Tom Lewis, Carlie Manning, John Marshall, Hal McAlister, John Medlock, Dick Miller, San Miller, Phillip Mitchem, Robin Morris, Carl Patton, Nancy Peterman, Cherise Peters, John Peterson, George Rainbolt, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Mary Ann Romski, Debbie Rupp, Jeff Rupp, Rose Srvcik, Mary Shoffner, Ram Srim, Mindy Stombler, Andrew Sumner, Leslie Taylor, Leonard Teel, Cherian Thackenkary, Liz Throop, Laurie Tis, Sara Weigle, Elizabeth West, Marta White. Others attending: Patrice Gaulden, Rebecca Stout.

ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 5, 2006, Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Dr. Patton began his comments by thanking the GSU Foundation for the purchase of the Sun Trust Building. This purchase will allow GSU to move people out of space that is currently being rented. Presently plans include tearing down the east part of the parcel and building a new home for Law and Business, a new classroom building, and a new auditorium. The auditorium will be for hosting guest lectures and events of that nature. At present, there is a handshake agreement on a naming gift for the auditorium. The Welcome Center will move to the smaller building. This purchase will also allow GSU to reprogram the uses of the proposed Humanities Building. It won’t be necessary for the new Humanities Building to house administrative offices such as Financial Aid, Admissions, and/or the bookstore. More space can be used for the humanities.

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

1. Modification to the summer academic calendar presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This modification was needed to correct a small mistake regarding the make-up day for 6-week classes. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion to approve the hardship withdrawal policy presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. The changes indicated will allow students to request a hardship withdrawal prior to the midpoint. Students will be able to get counseling/advisement help when they make this request. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Motion to revise the Regents’ writing skills requirement presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal will modify the Regents’ reading and writing requirement to include English 1102 (with the earned required grade) as an exemption. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion to amend the evaluation instrument for the VP for Research presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Cece Grindel, chair. This proposal will amend the list of designated evaluators for the VP for Research. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. Motion to approve the evaluation instrument for the AP of Institutional Effectiveness presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Cece Grindel, chair. This is a new evaluation instrument. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. Motion to amend the evaluation instrument for the AP for Academic Programs presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Cece Grindel, chair. This instrument was modified from the previous instrument for the AP for Undergraduate Studies. The question was called. The motion passed.

7. Resolution on the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) presented by the Budget Committee; Hugh Hudson, chair. This resolution was discussed at the last full Senate meeting; however, the committee believed that it would be appropriate to get the formal endorsement of the Senate. Dr. Hudson thanked President Patton for the work he has already done on this issue. He thanked Tom Lewis and Dene Shehane for their work in addressing this issue with the governor’s staff and the chancellor’s office. He thanked Cherian Thackenkary for all the time and effort he put in on this issue as well. The question was called. The resolution passed unanimously.
Information Item: Executive Summary of the 2005 Undergraduate Racial/Ethnic Climate Survey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Programs (Tim Renick, chair): The committee has met once. It has approved the proposal for a BA in Applied Linguistics and is working on several new proposals: an Executive Doctorate in Business, a proposal to add a CIS course to area D in the core curriculum, several proposals involving the SACS accreditation process, several involving QEP projects, and about ten program reviews.

Admissions and Standards (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee has been working on issues involving the SACS accreditation process and the QEP projects.

Athletics (Laurie Tis, chair): The committee met once and heard a brief update on the Panthersville complex upgrade and received a brief report on the football feasibility study. The committee reviewed and approved the athletic competition schedules.

Budget (Hugh Hudson, chair): The committee has met once and is continuing its work regarding the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). It’s working on developing ways to enhance services in HR and has submitted recommendations to FACP regarding expenditures and priorities for the budget.

Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The committee has finalized the commencement changes. Fall commencement is December 16 with two ceremonies. Robert Townsend will speak at the 10:00 a.m. ceremony and will receive an honorary degree. John Lewis will speak at the 3:00 p.m. ceremony and will receive a University medallion.

Cultural Diversity (Christine Gallant, chair): The committee has met twice. The subcommittee met with the Executive Committee at its retreat and discussed the important findings of the racial climate report. Two subcommittees have been formed to address recommendations 10 and 11 in the Executive Summary of the Racial Climate Survey Report.

Executive (Paul Alberto, chair): The committee approved the agenda for today’s meeting.

Faculty Affairs (Cecelia Grindel, chair): The committee has met three times. In addition to working on the evaluations of administrators, it is working on revisions to the PTI Handbook.

FACP (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met several times and primarily has been reviewing various proposals to increase student fees. It has had a preliminary look at a ten-year projection of our likely budget and enrollment.

IS&T (George Pullman, chair): No report.

Library (Missy Cody, chair): The committee has met once. A joint subcommittee has been formed with the Research Committee to look at the institutional repository. The first part of the library transformation is scheduled to be opened on February 7th.

Planning and Development (P.C. Tai, chair): No report.

Research (Don Reitzes, chair): The committee has met once. The internal grant subcommittee is working on a Scholarly Support Grant and the research center subcommittee will begin its work in January.

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

Student Life and Development (Elisabeth Burgess, chair): The committee has met once. It continues to approve student charters and is working on several policy issues. It is working on changes to the policy regarding general student conduct, particularly on the organization of judicial affairs.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Marti Singer, chair): No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Nell Stone
Secretary to the Senate