
ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 7, 2006, Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Dr. Patton began his comments by mentioning some of the funding issues on which he has been working. He acknowledged the sale of the Georgia State Village to Georgia Tech. This will allow us to achieve other housing goals on campus. Many entities were involved in this deal including the Board of Regents and the NSFIC. Dr. Patton specifically highlighted the enormous amount of work and effort that VP Jerry Rackliffe provided. Dr. Rackliffe received a round of applause for all his efforts in brokering this deal.

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

1. **Remove commencement dates from the academic calendar** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. The Senate Commencement Committee sets these dates and it is best to leave the dates off of the academic calendar. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. **Repeal the automatic “WF” policy** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This policy has not been enforced for the last several years since the 2005 reauthorization of the federal laws governing financial aid made it unnecessary. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. **S/U grading in Honors 1000** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. The Honors Program would like to offer an introductory seminar and this motion would allow S/U grading for this course. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. **Proposed policies for graduate programs** presented by the Academic Programs Committee; Tim Renick, chair. This proposal will bring the university into accordance with SACS requirements regarding graduate programs. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. **Amend standing committee memberships** presented by the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee; Marti Singer, chair. This proposal will amend various committees’ memberships. All of the chairs of the Senate committees have reviewed this document and approved its content. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. **Amend the sexual assault policy** presented by the Student Life and Development Committee; Elisabeth Burgess, chair. This policy will be renamed the Sexual Misconduct Policy in order to broaden the definition of assault and to take into account a variety of non-consensual actions. The question was called. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Academic Programs (Tim Renick, chair): CAP approved the MA in African American Studies and is considering an Executive Doctorate in Business and an MS in Information Systems Audit and Control. Referencing the CAP proposal that just passed, Hugh Hudson asked, "What if the SACS guidelines are wrong?" Dr. Renick responded that "in the discussion of these policies, the impact on graduate programs was reviewed and it turned out that there was very little impact. Two graduate programs were under 30 hours but in both cases the departments were considering raising the credit hour requirement anyway. The discussion in CAP focused on the three policies considered today rather than SACS policies in general and hence CAP did not specifically consider the question of whether there was a circumstance in which the committee would refuse to follow the SACS guidelines.”

Admissions and Standards (George Rainbolt, chair): The committee has been working on several policies: a student grievance policy, a CTW graduation requirement, expanding the plus/fail grading option, and academic recognitions.
Athletics (Laurie Tis, chair): An executive search firm has been retained and is working with GSU and the Athletic Board to recruit a highly qualified basketball coach with the goal of moving us to the upper echelons of the CAA. Football town hall meetings have been scheduled. CAA conducted its triennial compliance review and made some minor recommendations. NCAA recertification self study is in the draft and revision stage.

Budget (Hugh Hudson, chair): The committee has met twice and had a presentation from VP Rackliffe regarding some of the expenditures proposed for the facilities of various buildings. A subcommittee chaired by Bill Downs is conducting hearings to find ways to enhance the work of HR.

Commencement (Carl Patton, chair): The committee is working on both GSU's current system of commencement and our new system which will take place at the Georgia Dome. The committee will be reviewing proposals for honorary degrees.

Cultural Diversity (Christine Gallant, chair): The committee has met twice. Subcommittees are working on the evaluation of the core curriculum course "Perspectives in Comparative Culture", recommendations for the Freshman Learning Communities, better campus access for the disabled, and recommendations on employee benefits.

Executive (Paul Alberto, chair): The committee is working on several items. It is looking into the Chancellor's request for background checks by forming a committee under Faculty Affairs composed of faculty members who have expertise in this area. This group is charged with making recommendations on how background checks would be done and who would receive the information. This group will be working with a similar group out of UGA. The recommendations should be ready for the fall Senate meeting. A joint committee has been formed between P&D and SLAD concerning safety issues around campus. A taskforce is looking at staff issues and staff retention. The SLAD is also charged with looking at the entire Student Code of Conduct. Administrator reviews are going on now. This is the last meeting of the 06-07 Senate and Dr. Alberto thanked the members who are rotating off for their work.

Faculty Affairs (Cecelia Grindel, chair): The committee has been working on the background check issue, a policy on credential verification for international scholars, and the PTI Handbook.

FACP (Ron Henry, chair): The committee has met several times. It has put out a call to deans and vice presidents for proposals for a potential 2% increase in the budget. Hearings have been ongoing. FACP will not know our budget from the BOR in April. The BOR will call a special meeting in May with that information.

IS&T (J.L. Albert for George Pullman, chair): The committee has met twice. It has reviewed and made recommendations on the data stewardship policy, the web standards policy, and the remote access policy. The Student Technology Fee subcommittee has been assembled and will meet on March 29 and April 2 and will report to FACP on April 25.

Library (Missy Cody, chair): The committee has been working on the institutional repository policy for the library.

Planning and Development (P.C. Tai, chair): The committee has met three times. It has approved the 2007 Action Plan, the MRR list, and two ASUR reports. It is also working on safety issues and ADA compliance issues and is looking into the possibility of a student escort service.

Research (Don Reitzes, chair): Dr. Reitzes gave the following report, "Dr. Cleon C. Arrington was the founder of GSU's Research Office. He came to GSU in 1984 and served as VP for Research from 1988 until his retirement in 1999. Under his direction grants and contracts awarded to GSU faculty, staff, and students grew from $5 million to over $32 million and he spearheaded the university's efforts that eventually lead to our current designation as a Carnegie Research University with High Research Activity.

Dr. Arrington was passionate about the intellectual challenges and excitement of scientific inquiry and especially the beauty and majesty of inorganic chemistry. His personal mission was to assist faculty members in furthering their research agendas and accelerating their academic careers. He established the GSU Internal Grant Program and was especially proud of Research Initiation Grants, which provided funds for young scholars to develop external research grants. To honor Dr. Arrington's commitment to enhance research activities at GSU these awards have been renamed the Cleon C. Arrington Research Initiation Awards."

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

Student Life and Development (Elisabeth Burgess, chair): The committee has met once. In addition to today's agenda item, the committee chartered 6 new student organizations and renewed the charters for 3 more. It will be reviewing the Student Code of Conduct and will work with P&D on student safety.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Marti Singer, chair): The committee finalized the item on today's agenda.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS: John Marshall will be retiring in 30 days. President Patton and the Senate thanked him for his services over the years. Dr. Marshall received a round of applause.
ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone
Secretary to the Senate