MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
April 19, 2007


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

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 15, 2007, Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: Dr. Patton opened the meeting by calling for a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy and their families. He began his comments with an update of our campus safety procedures. If an emergency occurs, it is best to “shelter in place” until more information is gathered about the emergency. He turned the floor over to VP for Student Affairs Doug Covey to address an issue involving an ongoing student judicial proceeding. The proceeding involves an alleged hazing incident.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of the 2007-2008 Executive Committee. Dr. Patton opened the floor for nominations. The names were recorded as nominated:
   Dabney Dixon, College of Arts and Sciences
   Paul Alberto, College of Education
   Dean Dabney, College of Health and Human Sciences
   Siva Nathan, Robinson College of Business
   Don Reitzes, College of Arts and Sciences
   Sandra Garber, Staff Senator

   The nominations were closed. The ballots did not need to be completed since there were six nominations to fill the six open positions.

B. The Executive Committee recommends a “do pass” on the following agenda items:

1. Adopt a critical thinking through writing requirement presented by the Academic Programs and Admissions and Standards Committees; Tim Renick and George Rainbolt, chairs. Dr. Renick explained that this proposal was the result of about 12 months of effort. It has passed through several committees including the Deans Group. This proposal acknowledges that both critical thinking and writing skills are essential. This proposal establishes a two course (upper level) CTW requirement with the courses being determined by the departments. The proposal, if adopted, will serve as the QEP for GSU as required for accreditation by SACS. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion on Academic Regulations presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This policy allows that the Faculty Scholarship Award will be computed using the GPA stripped of minuses effective Fall 2006, Spring 2007, and Summer 2007. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Expand the pass/fail grading option presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This policy is modeled after similar policies in effect at GIT and UGA. It will allow students to explore subjects outside of their major without putting their GPA at risk. After several questions were asked and answered, the question was called. The motion passed.

4. Adopt a university-wide set of student grievance procedures presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal will standardize the grievance, petition, waiver, and complaint process for the students. This policy will also put us in compliance with SACS. Dr. Rainbolt had a friendly amendment, suggested by Pam Barr, and the text of this amendment was distributed as the Senators came in. The amendment was added. The question was called. The motion passed.
5. **Degree verification/equivalency policy** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Cece Grindel, chair. This proposal clarifies how foreign degrees and their equivalence in the United States will be certified for faculty and staff seeking employment or funding for research/grants. Al Baumstark suggested a friendly amend to the second paragraph. It should read: “Employees of Georgia State who have received any degrees from foreign institutions must use the exact degree designation as granted by such institution (using English translation, if needed) for all teaching, scholarly, and service purposes.” Dr. Grindel accepted this as a friendly amendment. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. **Amend the Statutes and Bylaws to reflect Staff Council changes** presented by the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee; Marti Singer, chair. The Staff Council recently reorganized its internal leadership structure and this motion makes the necessary changes to the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws. The question was called. The motion passed.

C. **Nominations Report** presented by the Nominations Committee; Dean Dabney, chair. The report was presented as distributed. Dr. Dabney added a friendly amendment that the Staff Council appointees be added. The question was called. The motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Cherian Thachenkary announced that House Bill 815 had been introduced in the Legislature. This bill would allow the BOR and not the TRS Board to set the employer contribution rate to the ORP, effective January 2009, if passed.

Dan Franklin asked for clarification on the funding of a proposed football program. Dr. Patton stated that the athletics program cannot be supported out of fund code 10 (state appropriations). Before a decision is made regarding football, a full analysis will be undertaken to see if football would be beneficial to Georgia State. Jerry Rackliffe clarified that at GSU, coaches and their staffs could not be paid out of fund code 10. One source of funding would probably be through student fees. A question was raised, “could there be a fee deferential so that graduate students would not have to pay such high fees for a possible football program?” Dr. Rackliffe summarized how GSU is currently handling fees for undergraduates vs. graduate students. He stated that there could be some discretion in how the fees are charged.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone
Secretary to the Senate