MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
April 17, 2008


ORDER: The chair, President Carl Patton, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the December 6, 2007, Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: President Patton stated that the recent BOR meeting was successful: Georgia State’s fees and tuition increases for next year were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Election of the 2008-2009 Executive Committee.** President Patton opened the floor for nominations. The names were recorded as nominated:

- Don Reitzes, College of Arts and Sciences
- Siva Nathan, Robinson College of Business
- Jeff Rupp, College of Education
- Paul Alberto, College of Education
- Sandra Garber, Staff Senator
- Dabney Dixon, College of Arts and Sciences
- Tom Caiafa, Student Senator
- Elizabeth Beck, College of Health and Human Sciences

The nominations were closed. Dr. Patton asked the senators to complete their ballots. The ballots were collected and tallied. While waiting for the results, the chair continued with new business.

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

1. **Policy on duty to report criminal charges/determinations** presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee; Laura Fredrick for Cece Grindel, chair. Dr. Fredrick proposed a friendly amendment: under the paragraph titled “criminal determinations” the sentence should read, “...the supervisor will contact the Office of Legal Affairs and Human Resources Employee Relations.” The question was called. The motion passed.

2. **Motion on posthumous grades** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. Currently there is no policy on posthumous grades. In the unfortunate event that a student should die during the semester, the student will receive a “W” in his/her courses. If the student had completed more than half the work of the course with an “A” or “B”, the professor may award this grade at his/her discretion. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. **Motion on to revise the credits awarded for IB exams** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion amends the motion approved by the Senate in December. The BOR made a few changes in its policy on IB credits and this proposal will put Georgia State in line with those additional changes. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. **Motion to revise the pass/fail grading option** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This proposal repeals the motion passed Spring ’07 regarding the pass/fail
grading option. The committee needs further input from departments that have been using the S/U grades in ways not authorized by Georgia State’s policies. A finalized policy on the pass/fail grading option will come to the Senate in the fall. The question was called. The motion passed.

5. **Motion on Regents’ Test exemption scores for student who are non-native speakers of English** presented by the Admissions and Standards Committee; George Rainbolt, chair. This motion will update the current policy by establishing cut scores for the tests and more clearly distinguishing the reading and writing portions of the Regents’ Test. The question was called. The motion passed.

6. **Motion to amend the Student Code of Conduct** presented by the Student Life and Development Committee; Elisabeth Burgess, chair. The committee has been working on this all year. Many of the policies contained in the Code of Conduct were reviewed by other Senate committees. Dr. Burgess thanked everyone for their work on this. Today’s motion modifies four sections of the Code of Conduct. The question was called. The motion passed.

C. **Nominations Report** presented by the Nominations Committee; Don Reitzes for Shelby Frost, chair. The report was presented as distributed. Dr. Reitzes moved a friendly amendment to include the changes that were given to the Senators as they came in to today’s meeting. The question was called. The motion passed.

The chair suspended the meeting at 3:22 p.m. so that the ballets could be tallied. Dr. Patton called the meeting back to order at 3:28 p.m. and announced the six senators elected to the Senate Executive Committee for 2008-2009: Siva Nathan, Paul Alberto, Don Reitzes, Jeff Rupp, Dabney Dixon, and Elizabeth Beck.

Dr. Patton turned the floor over to the University Attorney, Kerry Heyward, to update the Senate on a pending lawsuit against Georgia State. She gave a brief overview of the complaint against GSU as it pertains to copyright law and fair usage.

D. **Report from the Senate Executive Committee; Paul Alberto, chair.** Dr. Alberto made the following statement: “Dr. Patton’s sixteen years as President of Georgia State University are being recognized by various civic and governmental groups. Many of these groups are highlighting the urban planning aspects of his time here, recognizing the numerous ways that the University has grown physically and as a contributing member of the Atlanta community. The Faculty and the Senate of the University would like to draw attention to and praise Dr. Patton’s achievements on behalf of the academic advancement of the University during his tenure. Under his leadership, Georgia State added dozens of new academic programs and attained the singularly important designation of research university. Dr. Patton has worked tirelessly to build infrastructure to support this designation. Additionally, he has championed the increasing of academic standards and student achievements while maintaining an increasingly diverse student body. In appreciation and recognition of these efforts the Faculty and Senate will initiate the process for designation of one of the Presidential Scholars as The Carl V. Patton Presidential Scholar.”

When Dr. Alberto finished this announcement, President Patton was given a standing ovation. He thanked everyone for their support and hard work over the sixteen years of his tenure as president.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nell Stone
Secretary to the Senate