Spring 2005 Minutes
University System of Georgia
Committee on Institutional Research & Planning
April 21-22, Macon State College

Dr. Andrew Luna, Chairperson for FY2005, opened the meeting at 9:45 am, introducing the current officers of the Committee.

Because the meeting was held in Macon, Georgia, home of poet Sidney Lanier (1842-1881**)**, the group chose a Lanier theme for the agenda. In keeping with the Sidney Lanier theme, Andrew read a poem that he wrote for the occasion.

The business part of the meeting began with a discussion of the proposed by-laws. Andrew reviewed the history of the drafting and revising of the by-laws, the first draft being written by him and Ming Wang, formerly the director at Clayton State University. The floor was opened for comments, yielding a few minor corrections. A committee will work to add corrections to the by-laws before the Fall meeting.

Senior Vice Chancellor for External Activities and Facilities, Thomas Daniel, our first speaker for the meeting, was introduced by Andrew. Key points from Mr. Daniel's presentation include the following:

- The State fully funded the USG through the formula this year after two consecutive years of unprecedented cuts. Through the cuts, institutions strove to maintain quality. Quality has remained high as evidenced by U.S. News rankings, but quality has suffered across the USG.
  - 80% of the formula funding was returned directly to the institutions. The remaining 20% went to the institutions in what the Chancellor refers to as strategic allocations with the exception of a few million for information technology. Examples of this strategic funding to institutions were given, including some capital funding. The $1.8 billion coming to the USG is the largest amount ever allocated to the System, yet still near the bottom of SREB states statistically, which points to the need to educate and inform the public. Some legislators are concerned about the tuition increase, not knowing that about 25% of the USG budget must come from tuition.
- Legislative front
  - A new state college in Gwinnett County, as yet unnamed, was approved by the General Assembly. The Board will create the 35th unit of the USG over the next 2-3 years.

- Á House Bill 340 got much attention, a bill to protect the confidential information of donors to USG colleges and universities. It passed the House by about 130 votes. The Senate passed the bill with clarification that the donor's identity was not being overly protected, but rather the donor's information. It then went back to the House where it got 90 votes out of 180. The Speaker voted for it, passing the bill. The bill is now pending before the Governor.
- Á Senate Bill 250, the GEAU Bill, is pending. (Georgia Education Authority/ University) This agency can issue revenue bonds for capital projects such as buildings constructed for an institution and then given to the institution.
- Á Health Insurance is another issue before the General Assembly. The State has two health insurance plans, with a separate plan for the USG.
- Á Other issues include: The Academic Bill of Rights; should the USG be more diligent with checking student citizenship for residency determinations?

- o IRP helps the USG compete by providing information that obtains grants and other funding. We are depended upon for data.
- o As employees of the USG, we represent the System. If people with whom we deal think well of us, they will think well of the USG and our institutions. An analogy is that when Jimmy Carter was in the White House, Georgia became more visible and more highly thought-of.
- o The USG institution presidents have been asked to get to know their state and national legislators.
- o Mr. Daniel closed saying that he is grateful for what we do, then asked for questions.

Andrew returned to the by-laws discussion.

- o He stated that our group needs to make formal recommendations to the System and requested that we keep that in mind when reviewing the bylaws.
- o He then called our attention to Article 1, Section 2, describing the makeup of the Committee. Several members said that the language was too restrictive in those included. Becky suggested that notes on this discussion be circulated to the full committee with the bylaws voted on at a later meeting.
- o Donna Miller questioned the language that our committee sends recommendations to other committees. There was much discussion that other committees make recommendations without consulting our committee. Andrew said that the "bottom line" is that this committee needs to have a representative on any committee making decisions

involving data. He clarified that he thought that other committees should send data-related recommendations for approval to our committee. Susan Daniel stated that RACRA operates in much the same manner as our committee in reacting to system office issues. Andrew stated that he wants a system in which we know more about what is going on—that there have been several instances of happenings that we knew nothing about. Cathie stated that we cannot be involved in all initiatives such as GACollege411, which is viewed as a student services initiative rather than a data system.

- Andrew redirected the discussion to Article 1, Section 2. Research needs to be added to that section (originally stated by Cathie, restated by other members).
- We next discussed Article II and IV, the composition of the Committee. It was stated that the language needs clarification that members are representing their institutions.
- A discussion ensued on whether to use the term information or data. Andrew stated that he would rewrite part of the bylaws to include the word “information.”
- Donna Miller suggested that the pages be numbered.
- Jack Bishop moved and Donna Miller seconded that the bylaws be tabled until the fall. Andrew said that comments are due to him within the week and will send Draft 5 to members by next Friday, April 29. He will give us a week to review each draft.

The business meeting was recessed for lunch.

Cathie Mayes Hudson presented the System Office Report

- A new state college in Gwinnett County has been approved with a team working on plans for that institution.
- Changes to mission statements
  - Á Overall review of missions at system level

    Minor changes

- Regional universities can now propose new doctoral programs, with a new category of research-intensive institution being considered.

- A new policy under discussion will give the Board the right to approve the addition and elimination of athletic programs and changing of associations.
- SHEEO/NCES Federal Issues
  - Cost/affordability emerging as an institutional ranking factor
  - Lost credit – is it costing Uncle Sam?
  - Unit record system – supported by NCES

Karen Bauer stated that according to a webinar, a pilot

- It was suggested by the chair that data standards for cost of attendance by program be discussed at the next meeting. Programs are defined as by CIP code. It was decided that it is premature to discuss these as agenda items.

Debbie Head made a presentation on the effects of of admissions changes at KSU

- The change of deadline had the largest effect
- See handout

Discussion (panel) on new admissions policies

- University college: Three 4-year institutions were allowed to establish a separate college for those who met 2-year but not 4-year admissions requirements. The new admissions changes for 2-year institutions will not have a big impact on these schools.
- The panel reviewed policy discussions and questions that had been raised. These changes may not affect attendance at 2-year colleges because they are not currently turning away many people who meet the new requirements.

Susan Campbell: IPEDS, NSSE, CSSE

- See handout
- Susan will forward slides from recent webinar on IPEDS unit record project.
- Jane Perkins will forward a summary of the unit record feasibility study.
- For the Graduation Rate Survey we can get a copy of the cohort—can be derived from SIRS file using SQL code from Susan.

Andrew Luna reconvened the meeting at 9:30 am on Friday, reintroducing Susan Campbell to complete her presentation.

- Send crosswalk of NSSE participants to Susan—SSNs in Excel or SPSS.
- Ruth Salter announced that the March issue of Research in Higher Education has multiple articles relating to student engagement and non-response in student surveys. This journal is available online from www.springerlink.com.

Ruth Salter and Lori Fernandez began their presentation on the data warehouse.

- Working with the OIIT staff in Athens, Ruth developed a program to run against the data warehouse to predict graduation rates based on a model by Astin (1993, 2005).
- A copy of her presentation slides will be sent to the listserv.

- Lori named the institutions that have at some point successfully loaded data to the warehouse. Some schools have done nothing. Others are not current.
- The Summit this year will be more user-oriented. Tell Ruth and Lori what we want at the Summit.

Tonya Lam presented on GAcollege411, a student portal to improve access and increase participation in higher education—a one-stop shop to plan, apply, and pay for college.

- We are to decide how and when the college data on the website are to be updated.
- There are various problems and issues with using Peterson's data.
- Andrew stated that Peterson's is not the best source for these data.
- Cathie stated that we have System data, IPEDS data, and Common Dataset data. Having three different sources for these data may be problematic.
- Andrew stated that some requested data are not available from these sources.
- Donna Miller, representing 2-year state colleges, and Andrew Luna, representing 4-year state universities, volunteered to serve on a GAcollege411 subcommittee along with private college representatives to discuss update issues and be responsible for data definitions.
- Michael Crow suggested that data be uploaded from IPEDS along with a subset of the common dataset.
- Cathie Mayes Hudson suggested that the BOR set up a private, password controlled website for common dataset data and that as much as possible come from System data.
- Tonya states that this site is the official site for the State of Georgia for information about colleges and universities in the state. The implication of this was discussed and questioned.
- Andrew stated that we should go in and update as we see fit using Fall 2004 data. He and Donna will work with Susan Campbell to address updating from the System level.
- We should go into the site and update based on what a student can see. Andrew and Ruth will help determine what data go into the site. We should make the data current as of October, 2004. The data need to be as current as possible. Costs should be current.

Andrew called the second half of the business meeting to order.

- Becky Farrow will chair the retention subcommittee.
- The benchmark subcommittee will be chaired by Akin.

- Debbie, Jackie, and Becky served as the nominating committee,
  - Teresa Merriweather-Orok will serve as the AY 2006 Chair
  - Charles Hawkins will be Vice Chair
  - Debbie Head will serve as Treasurer
  - Jack Bishop will serve as Secretary
- Debbie Head presented Andrew Luna with a plaque commemorating his service this past year as Chair.