

USGFC Meeting Minutes – March 1st, 2014

- I. Meeting was called to order by Douglas Moodie at 10:01 am.
- II. Introductions –Douglas Moodie (Kennesaw State University) introduced Humayun Zafar (Kennesaw State University) as the makeshift meeting minutes recorder.
- III. Dr. Steve Dorman, President of Georgia College thanked the USGFC for their work.
- IV. The floor was turned over to Chancellor Hank Huckaby and Dr. Houston Davis at 10:15 am.
 - a. Salary – Chancellor Huckaby mentioned that he had discussions with the Governor, and the recommendation is a 3/4th of one percent raise that will focus on compression and merit. **There will not be a raise across the board.**
 - b. Capital budget – Chancellor Huckaby state that he had requested \$240 million. The Governor recommended \$170 million and another \$50 million in bonded projects. The Chancellor stated that the System needs to move away from constructing new buildings and work more efficiently with what we have. That means spending more on maintenance of existing buildings, rather than on new buildings.
 - c. Operating budget – The Chancellor requested \$5 million to restore the Galileo program. The Governor recommended \$2.5 million. A request pertaining to CCG was mentioned (\$2.5 million requested over the next two years in conjunction with the technical schools). The plan is to target the almost 1.2 million Georgians who have some college credits to come back and complete their degrees, and not just focus on recruiting traditional high school graduates.
 - d. Although revenues are up for the state of Georgia, Higher Education competes for money with Medicaid, K-12, and other needs.
 - e. Enrollment Management and Financial Aid - Dr. Davis mentioned the importance of enrollment management, and possibly freeing up administrative dollars for the classroom. He mentioned that due to the times we are in, Universities will have to make some tough decisions. He also stated that the new funding formula will look at productive enrolment results. Chancellor Huckaby then stated that enrollment management is a broad based term. It is a signal for everyone (from administrators, to faculty and staff) that they have a role to play. He also stated that we are in a different era, and we will not be able to go back to 2004-2005. He mentioned that Universities need to be more inviting to potential students. He also stated that the new funding formula will be a game changer for many institutions. He also laid emphasis on financial aid and how verification of attendance is extremely important due to its federal financial implications. One USG institution has already been fined \$900,000, which USG will not cover. He recommended taking roll at least four times a term. USG will also need to examine shared services such as Banner across all system schools.
 - f. Legislature – Chancellor Huckaby talked about a bill in the legislature, which dealt with employees who have an ORP being allowed to opt-in to TRS. The bill passed 92-70 on the floor, but was voted to be reconsidered since all costs were not identified. There is not enough time to address all these questions and get it done this session. Chancellor Huckaby stated that a lot of political capital was used, and the Board will have to think

long and hard about wanting to go down that road again. The Chancellor also talked about another bill (PPV HB 788) that would allow the USG to privatize the debt incurred due to things like building too much student housing when its not needed at an institution. Right now the System assumes high debt (\$3.6 billion from these facilities) and high risk. This bill passed 166-5 in the House. Finally, the Chancellor mentioned that there are Bills that do not originate at the System office, but the System gets involved, e.g. guns on campus and medical marijuana. The Chancellor mentioned that we have to follow whatever the law is.

- g. Questions from the floor
 - i. Juone Brown (Fort Valley State University) asked about attendance verification, which was an issue at her institution. Instructors have been asked to provide enrolment verification about students from 4-6 years ago. Blackboard access is not available. There is a worry that due to technology limitations, it looks like instructors are being derelict.
 - 1. The Chancellor mentioned that an USG institution was fined \$900,000 by to the US Department of Education, due to inability of an institution to verify attendance.
 - 2. Dr. Davis stated that he will have to look at that to see if IT can resolve this issue.
 - ii. William Baird (Armstrong Atlantic State University) asked about the criteria being used for downsizing programs. At Armstrong, Physics has low enrollment. Are arbitrary thresholds being used for programs?
 - 1. Dr. Davis stated that numbers do not tell the whole story. Thresholds allow them to make sense of over 3000 programs in the system. A short list of the programs that need to be reviewed more deeply was created based on these numbers. If a low enrollment program is allowed to continue, then it will be put in a post-monitoring period.
 - iii. Robert Lightfoot (South Georgia State College) asked about consolidation guidelines.
 - 1. Chancellor Huckaby mentioned the USG guiding principles are used.
 - iv. Brian Swartz (Columbus State University) asked about any health care insurance plan changes next year.
 - 1. Chancellor Huckaby stated that there could be changes. They are looking at everything...health care benefits, etc.
 - v. Timothy Brown (Georgia Perimeter College) asked about the difference in employer contributions for TRS (13%) and ORP (9%).
 - 1. Chancellor Huckaby stated that an employer contribution (ORP) increase of 1% will cost about \$10 million.
 - vi. Jeffery Waldrop (Georgia Southwestern State University) asked if the System expected any major modifications to the guns on campus conversation.
 - 1. Chancellor Huckaby stated that a lot of discussions are going on. The System believes that the current law is working.

- vii. Meg Dillon (Southern Polytechnic State University) asked about the future role of consolidations.
 - 1. Chancellor Huckaby stated that for the time being there are no more consolidations planned but initial consolidation studies continue.
 - viii. Susan Steele (Georgia College and State University) asked about the 12 month pay option, and if ADP would be replaced.
 - 1. Dr. Davis will follow up on the 12 month pay. Conversations are going on with another vendor regarding a possible replacement for ADP.
 - ix. Brian Schwartz (Columbus State University) asked about looking at summer fees to address declining summer enrolments.
 - 1. Chancellor Huckabee stressed the need to address this issue. USG has tried to keep extra fee requests a minimum.
 - x. Patricia Humphrey (Georgia Southern University) asked about open texts.
 - 1. Dr. Davis stated that we need to work on an affordable method of education via open texts, as e-core is doing. If USG standardizes on a text major savings to students can result.
 - xi. Doug Williams (Georgia Institute of Technology) asked if any conversations about creating open e-text content, like the connections model.
 - 1. Dr. Davis said yes. It is important to address the issue of controlling cost for students. Discipline groups and library directors are a part of this conversation.
 - xii. Robert Lightfoot (South Georgia State College) asked if there was a way to monetize the bookstore if low cost models for texts are followed.
 - 1. Chancellor Huckaby said no. Bookstores were no a USG priority. Reducing costs to students was.
 - xiii. Humayun Zafar (Kennesaw State University) asked about the financial impact of programs such as eCore on operating budgets of Colleges through summer revenue declines.
 - 1. Dr. Davis mentioned that the System had their eyes open to possible challenges, but we need to be student centered, and not institution centered. He also stated that the coin of the realm is SCH (Standard Credit Hours).
 - xiv. Patricia Humphrey (Georgia Southern University) asked about any more updates on MOOCS.
 - 1. Dr. Davis mentioned investigating new flexible pathways for credit and thanked those who contributed to the MOOC debate. He was encouraged by KSU's success.

Meeting thanked Chancellor Huckabee and Dr. Houston Davis for attending meeting and answering questions.
- V. Meeting minutes from September 14th, 2013 meeting were presented for approval – meeting minutes were unanimously approved (moved by Humayun Zafar and seconded by Sally Robertson)

- VI. Break-out group for discussion – Kirby Swenson (Middle Georgia State College) led the discussion on programs being shut down, while also being asked to increase graduation rates.
- VII. Elections – Tiered voting was used to determine the method of elections. All tiers voted unanimously to suspend tier voting for the purpose of election of officers.
 - a. Candidates for Web Master>: Timothy Brown (unopposed). Elected by affirmation.
 - b. Candidate for Secretary: Brian Schwartz (unopposed). Elected by affirmation.
 - c. Candidates for Chair Elect: Juone Brown, Pat Humphrey, Barbara Musolf
 - i. Juone Brown elected by secret ballot.
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.