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New Consolidated College Structure

Submitted by: Robert Costomiris

8/24/2017

Discussion:

The Senate should discuss the benefits and costs of the apparent trend at this institution toward smaller-scale and more specialized colleges.

Rationale:

The proposal by an administrative OWG to divide CLASS into two colleges was arrived at without faculty input (from the GSU side, at least), without any public airing of the reasons for taking this highly consequential step (other than the highly contestable claim that it "will be more manageable across the three campuses"), and against the express wishes of significant numbers of CLASS faculty and department chairs. The question of college scale and specialization is relevant to academic performance and the fact that the consolidated Georgia Southern is moving further away from the Arts and Sciences model that is the norm at high-achieving universities in Georgia and across the country is worth discussion.

Response:

Minutes 9-6-2017:

Moderator Pirro noted a second Request for Discussion item on whether we should be heading toward an Arts and Sciences model, rather than smaller, more specialized colleges. The SEC decided to hold off on that discussion for the time being, even though there was consensus that this is a discussion worth having. He noted this issue predated consolidation, going back to the splitting off of the sciences from the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Robert Costomiris (CLASS) asked if the SEC had in mind a good time for that discussion.

Ted Brimeyer (CLASS), an SEC member, said he had opined that we would be “beating a dead horse in terms of talking about this stuff” at this time, so maybe after consolidation, when we might have “more local control.”