

FILE COPY

on index

Georgia Southern University
Intracampus Memo
Office of the President


Post Office Box 8033
Marvin Pittman Administration Building

TEL 478-5211
FAX 478-0598
TDD 478-1454

<http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/president/>

Corrected Copy

TO: Dr. Marc D. Cyr, Chair, Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Bruce Grube, President 

DATE: June 24, 2009

SUBJECT: February 16, 2009, Faculty Senate Recommendation'
Recommendations to Improve Funding for Henderson Library Resources

This is a corrected copy of the response I sent you on May 4, 2009, regarding the above-referenced subject. Some of the text of my response was inadvertently omitted (note bullets 2 & 4). Below are my corrected responses to the recommendations adopted by the Faculty Senate at their February 16, 2009, meeting, as provided in your memorandum of February 17, 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Georgia Southern should consider directing to the Henderson Library budget dollars from a per-credit-hour charge for all or selected classes, such as those taught entirely online. *Georgia Southern will consider the redirection of a proportion of budget dollars from online programs to support electronic resources.*
- Georgia Southern should explore alternatives to current technology strategies. For example, should so much of the student technology fee continue to fund desktop computers? Freeing up some of the technology fee from continually updating hardware would enable the University to redirect funds to databases and other electronic library resources. *Library resources such as desktop computers, paper, toner, and student assistants are currently funded through Student Technology Fees. In addition, the Technology Advisory Committee is currently reviewing the Technology Information Resources Strategic Plan. A part of this review will include the consideration of alternatives to current technology strategies.*
- Henderson Library should be a higher priority in Georgia Southern University fundraising, especially online since the library web site receives so much traffic.

- Every year the library committee should conduct a library comparison of comparable in-state and out-of-state peer institutions to assess the distribution of library funds and report the results

Page 2

to the faculty senate, noting how Georgia Southern University is addressing these expenditure gaps. *This is an ongoing effort. The Dean of the Library collects such data each year, and these are an input to the budget building process in Academic Affairs. These data can be made available to the Library Committee.*

RATIONALE:

The problem with funding for the Henderson Library stems from underfunding of Georgia Southern in general. An examination of peer institutions supports this claim. For example, Appalachian State University's library receives 3.0% of the university's total funding, but spends \$462.27 for "Total Library Expenditures Per Person Enrolled;" Georgia Southern is provided with 4.3% of the university's funding, but spends only \$225.17 for "Total Library Expenditures Per Person Enrolled." The first recommendation that additional funding be garnered from a per-credit-hour charge is modeled on the University of Texas-Pan American. Doing so at Georgia Southern, according to data provided by the Provost's Office for fiscal year 2008, would provide over \$1.1 million. Online courses also pose additional library costs in terms of providing resources for students who are far from campus. Second, the committee suggests that the continued support of computer hardware through the student technology fee be examined; for fiscal year 2009, computer hardware expenditures accounted for \$1 million of \$1.2 million from the student technology fee. Third, the committee recommends a more visible profile for fundraising for the library, especially on its web pages. Finally, the library committee plans to continue to monitor progress made with this issue on a yearly basis and report on it to the faculty senate.

gm

c: Dr. Linda Bleicken
Dr. Michael Moore
Dr. Tim Giles
Dr. Amy Heaston
Dr. Bede Mitchell
Ms. Candace Griffith