

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FALL MEETING OF THE
ACADEMIC FACULTY SENATE**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 3:00 pm
Clary Theatre
Bill Moore Student Success Center**

MINUTES

1. **President Peterson** opened the meeting at about 3:05 PM. He welcomed everyone to the new Clary Theatre.
2. Dr. Peterson provided the following remarks on matters of interest to the campus:
 - a) We have a long standing relationship with France and our campus in France. We have ~650 students a year that spend time there. We have reached out to them and verified that all our students are safe. We are trying to continue to reach out to them to express our concern and support for them.
 - b) The Honors Program this afternoon will open a new facility. It will be the formal opening of a new Honors Community with a honors residence hall on West campus. This will create upper class residence hall so we may have honors students that stay in that same general area for a period of time.
 - c) He commented on the challenging times being observed across campuses across the country. Interesting to track number of institutions where students are making demands. He attended the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) the day before. There was a four hour session for presidents of universities and they change the agenda and spent the entire time talking about issues occurring on college campuses. Dr. Peterson does not know but thinks we are in an OK place in terms of the interactions we have. We have been fortunate that we have tried to address many issues. We have task forces on:
 - The Black Student Experience that was started quite some time ago.
 - Mental Health Task Force,
 - Sexual Violence Task force
 - Put together a new Health and Wellness Center, we have a new director for that
 - Have continued relationships through Dean Stein's office, Vice President for Student Life, with student leadership. Meet with the new officers that are elected in the spring and meet with them during the summer and early in the fall.
 - d) Started new listening sessions with faculty, staff, and students. Have had five sessions with two more planned. The have discovered the research faculty issues are different from the academic faculty issues and the undergraduate issues are different than the graduate student issues. Meeting in groups of 25-30 with understanding the purpose of

the meeting is not to complain, but to have real discussions and ideas for improvement actions. Will come back next semester with action items.

- e) Had a luncheon with Ireland Chamber of Commerce for the Bowl Game. Involve more than just a football game. Panels on research, addressing some academic issues. We have had a long standing relationship with Ireland; at one point we had a research center there. We have a number of activities with them other than football. The theme there is more than just a game.
- f) Work on facilities continues, we are moving forward with our request to the Board of Regents and the state legislature for additional funding for the library renovations. Looks like an \$80 million project in total; the goal is to transition the library into something that looks much more like the Clough Commons. The High Performance Computing Center is also moving forward; the state and

City Council just approved \$15 million dollars with \$5M in tax abatement and \$10M in other resources that can go into that facility. Scheduled to be completed in the first or second quarter of 2018. We should see construction starting on that facility soon.

- g) We had a \$30M gift from the Kendeda Foundation to build a “living building”, which is essentially a building that is sustainable from cradle to grave in all the materials to building. The building will have a zero water and a zero energy footprint.
- h) Applications – Dr. Peterson came to GT in the spring of 2009. We had 11,400 total applications for the freshmen class for fall 2009. This fall we had 11,700 applications for early admissions for fall 2015. Total of ~27,200 applications for the 2015 freshman class. Tremendous growth. We admitted 68% of students that applied in 2009. We admitted just over 30% for fall 2015. We are running ~27% larger early admission applications than last year; had over 15,000 early admissions applications. Not sure what is driving that, representation of institution lags reality. As reality improves, our reputation continues to grow.
- i) Capital campaign is now in its final stages to raise 1.5 billion dollars, with 7-8 weeks left. We passed 1.5 billion about a year ago this past October; we are now in excess of 1.7 billion. One of the goals was to create 100 new endowed chairs or professorships, and we are currently at about 97 and feel like we have a chance to meet that goal.

3. President Peterson called on **Provost Bras** to share comments:

- a) It is important for all of us to express our solidarity for what has happened in France. They have been our partner for many years. We need to move forward from this, but need to have a sense for what makes this happen and need to have compassion.
- b) To add to the discussion on the task forces that was talked about, he believes Georgia Tech is characterized by a culture of inclusiveness, acceptance, understanding, listening, and diversity. We can be proud of that; it does not imply we are perfect, but we should continuously work for that as a community.
- c) Students will have the Wed. before Thanksgiving off. This is new to the calendar.
- d) Task Force for Creating the Next. Is just getting started. Large task force that will include a large part of the community.

- e) Learning Environment Task Force: a very important task force that responds to the SGA needs for things we need to work on to improve the learning environment for our students.
 - f) First graduates of OMSCS will walk this semester; aiming to accept about 3300 new students into the program in the coming year. Very exciting new territory for Georgia Tech. President Peterson stated it will be exciting to see how the industry responds to graduates of this new degree.
4. President Peterson asked for the minutes of the October 20, 2015 meeting to be approved. He indicated that the minutes were posted on the faculty governance web site and no additions or corrections had been received. (See [Attachment #1](#) below for web site reference). **The minutes were approved without dissent.**
5. The President called on **Ms. Reta Pikowsky, Registrar**, to present the candidates for the fall commencement. She stated there are 1,226 BS; 1,009 MS, and 317 PhD which may drop as the thesis deadline was yesterday. She stated that the fall list of degree candidates has been reviewed and revised as necessary; she moved to approve it. **The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.**
6. The President called on Prof. Reginald DesRoches, to provide the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) annual report. He used the presentation in [Attachment #2](#).
- a) Serves as a liaison between the athletic association and the broader campus, represents the Institute to the NCAA and ACC's. Certifies the student athletes to be eligible to compete, interacts with student athletes and participates in investigations as needed.
 - b) ACC is a very strong conference academically, with 7/15 of the schools being ranked in the top 35 academically, along with having one school in the top ten since 2006 (based on US News rankings).
 - c) Nearly 400 student athletes at Georgia Tech, 2/3 are male, 1/3 are female. 3/4 of these students are majoring in difficult majors such as engineering, science, or business. In Fall 2014, student athletes had their highest overall GPA so far (3.01), which compares favorably to the 3.07 average of the freshmen class. Increasing trend in graduation success rate.
 - d) We have many programs to bring faculty and staff closer to our athletic association, one of which is the Georgia Power Professor of Excellence; where each college gets to nominate one faculty member to be recognized at a football game, and the professor gets a check to be donated to their college. We also have the Guest Coach Program, where we have faculty/staff that get to go to either home or away games. Also started having monthly breakfasts for student athletes with faculty in their departments to give them an opportunity to interact, since they typically have difficulty doing that with their busy schedules.
 - e) A big challenge our student athletes have is getting enough sleep, because studying as well as competing over 20 hours a week can be exhausting. They also struggle to get many of the opportunities other students get because of a lack of time, such as study

abroad and getting co-ops and internships. Fixing these issues will be a challenge for the athletic association, but we are working on it.

- f) President Peterson discussed some of the background of funding of the athletic association, in comparison with other ACC schools as well as other local universities.
7. Pres. Peterson then called on representatives of **Standing Committees of the Academic Faculty** to present minutes and action items requiring approval, found in **Attachment #3**. The following provides an outline of the material presented showing the representatives that appeared to make the presentations. Where presenters utilized additional presentation materials, they are noted below and provided as attachments.
- a) **Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:** Prof. Rhett Mayor, Chair: 10/27/15, 11/03/15, 11/10/15. See presentation in **Attachment #3a**. **Action items: From 10/27:** School of Modern Languages: added pass/fail grade mode to an existing course; School of Industrial and Systems Engineering: create a BS/MS program option for BSIE/MSSCE; School of Chemistry and Biochemistry: degree modification to add a new Pre-Health Science concentration; Schools of History and Sociology and Literature, Media, and Communication: modification to Minor in Social Justice; College of Computing: degree modification. **From 11/10:** School of Modern Languages: five new courses; School of History and Sociology: two new courses with attributes; School of Literature, Media, and Communication and the College of Computing: Degree Modification; School of Psychology: one new course.
It was moved and passed without dissent to approve the above minutes and action items.
 - b) **Institute Graduate Curriculum Committee** – Prof. Victor Breedveld, Chair, 11/05/15. He used the presentation in **Attachment #3b** to explain the following action items.
Action Items: From 11/05: College of Architecture: academic calendar exception to accommodate studio reviews; School of Biology: new course; School of Industrial and Systems Engineering: create a BS/MS program option for BSIE/MSSCE; Scheller College of Business: degree modification to offer an MBA option to selected students enrolled in Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs in the Colleges of Engineering and Computing.
It was moved and passed without dissent to approve the above minutes and action items.
 - c) **Student Regulations Committee** – Ms. Reta Pikowsky, Registrar and SRC Secretary for Prof. Al Ferri, Chair. Minutes 7/8/15, 8/27/15. No action items.
Ms. Pikowsky moved for the adoption of the listed minutes. All were approved without dissent.
8. President Peterson asked if there was any other business.
- a) Joe Hughes reported the Charitable Campaign has raised over \$330,000. Still processing paper forms. A little bit less than our goal so we still have this week to submit donations.

- b) Announcement: The first “Freshman First” will occur on December 3rd, 3:30-4:30 PM. The purpose of the “Freshman First” is to encourage the freshmen for their first round of final exams; faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in cheering them on.
- c) Announcement: Very first 3-minute-thesis competition, in which doctoral students are presenting their thesis in three minutes in front of a general audience, will occur Nov, 18th at 5 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at about 4:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Balsam
Secretary of the Faculty
February 11, 2016

Attachments:

1. [Minutes](#) of the October 20, 2015 meeting of the Academic Faculty Senate, Academic Faculty, and Faculty.
2. [Faculty Athletic Representative Annual report](#)
3. [Minutes](#) of Standing Committees
 - a. [IUCC presentation](#)
 - b. [IGCC presentation](#)