

**Academic Services Committee**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2013**

**Committee Members Present:** Sonit Bafna, Doug Britton, Amy D'Unger, Susan Liebeskind, Helena Mitchell, Marika Manuud (Student Liaison) Carrie Shepler, Raj Vuchatu (Executive Board Liaison)

**Committee Members Absent:** Peter Hesketh, Denise Johnson Marshall

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Rafael Bras

Amy D'Unger called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

1) Presentation by Dr. Bras regarding the state of the Strategic Plan and how the Academic Services committee can assist with its implementation.

Key Points:

- Dr. Bras reviewed the current state of the Strategic Plan implementation. Funds have been allocated to campus departments to address the issues raised in the Spring 2012 task force reports. There are plans to revive the next version of the Strategic Plan Steering committee, as a collection of high-level committees and a working group. While there has been much work in this area, the campus efforts have not been well publicized or communicated, and this shortfall needs to be addressed.
- In Summer 2011, the following areas were defined as areas of interest for the Academic Services Committee: Library, Research Centers, Space Planning, Information Technology and Faculty Relations/Campus Committees. Dr. Bras discussed each of these areas in turn.
  - Library: The concept of the library has changed with the advent of the Clough Center and the library leadership has plans to change the library functionality to be more like Clough. The library infrastructure, however, needs a lot of work, including new buildings and new storage space. While the library faculty advisory committee is active, it faces significant fundraising challenges. To make the necessary changes will involve money from the Institute, from the state and from private donors. Libraries are not often the focus of large donations, and commercial sponsors are not interested in making library donations.
  - Research Centers: 12 Research Areas have been defined: Big Data; Bioengineering and Bioscience; Electronics and Nanotechnology; Energy and Sustainable Infrastructure; Manufacturing, Trade and Logistics; Materials; National Security; Paper Science and Technology; People and Technology; Public Service, Leadership and Policy; Robotics; Systems. Interdisciplinary research institutes on campus map onto these 12 area and are designed to promote interaction within these core areas.

Doug asked about the goal of these centers to enhance research and innovation, and how that might conflict with research programs within a given school. Dr. Bras

responded that at the end of the day, the academic side of campus doesn't separate itself from the research side of campus. Viable, active research centers attract students and resources to academic programs. Raj pointed out that these research centers are a way to have government efforts research both the academic and research (GTRI) sides of campus.

Helena then brought up the issues surrounding the differences in research faculty vs. academic faculty. Dr. Bras answered that the definition of who is who on campus is very mobile. If you are research faculty at GTRI, you have a clear career path. If you are research faculty on the academic side, you don't. Academic Professionals have even less guidance. The Institute recognizes that the roles of academic vs. research faculty must be clarified. Vice Provost Susan Cozzens is in charge of developing plans to develop proper evaluation and career paths.

- Space Planning: There are several LEED buildings on campus, and space planning in general is moving well. The issue is financing – the capacity to finance buildings is limited. Georgia Tech has gotten some state money for buildings, but only because the Institute has chipped in money as well.
- Information Technology: The Strategic Technology Investment Committee (STIC) is headed by Jim O'Connor, the Director of the Office of Information and Technology (OIT). The STIC is developing the IT master plan for campus.
- Faculty Relations/Campus Committees: There are two task forces underway in this area. The Family Friendly task force has been completed and will be presented at the next Executive Board meeting. The Campus Climate Committee (in which ASC members have participated) will be going out soon.
- Dr. Bras concluded his presentation with two suggestions for the Committee to pursue, in the area of lifelong education and in the area of faculty committees in general.
  - Lifelong learning: The Strategic plan lists lifelong learning as one of the focus areas. However, nothing has been done in this area. The Institute needs to come up with a schema to use technology in a self-sustaining way to support lifelong learning. Some thoughts: might lifelong learning tie into the emerging use of MOOCs?

Dr. Bras has mentioned to the Alumni Association that he would be talking to our committee about this area. Perhaps we could work on developing a model for lifelong learning? We would have strong support from the Alumni Association in this area – our contact person is Joe Irwin. We can also call upon Nelson Baker, of Distance Learning, as a resource.

- Faculty Committees: It is worth examining the purpose of all the campus committees at Georgia Tech today. Are the standing committees relevant? What areas of concerns are NOT covered by the standing committees? These faculty governance issues are worth

reviewing, with regards to our committee and other committees as well. With respect to the ASC, is “Academic Services” the best name for our committee? ‘

Helena brought up that the ASC had discussed its relevance some years ago and discussed disbanding but then received some specific tasks w/r/t the Strategic Plan. Dr. Bras responded that when Georgia Tech was small, and didn’t have much infrastructure, the committee was important. But in the large university that Tech has become, another organization might make sense. This discussion about committees is not relevant just to the ASC – Dr. Bras has been talking with Ron Bohlander about this topic. It is also worth looking at the campus committee and governance at other universities.

## 2) Updates on old business

- The minutes for the December meeting were approved.

## 3) Meeting schedules for spring semester

For the spring semester, the plan is to hold committee meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2:30-3:30. At the request of committee members, the location of the meetings will occasionally rotate to some place other than the Old CE building, which presents some parking challenges for those coming from elsewhere on campus.

## 4) February meeting

The next meeting will be February 12 from 2:30-3:30. An invitation will be extended to Jim O’Connor , to speak on the STIC, and how the Academic Services Committee can support its implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Susan Liebeskind

Secretary, Academic Services Committee