

Academic Services Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2013

Committee Members Present: Sonit Bafna, Doug Britton, Amy D'Unger, Denise Johnson Marshall, Susan Liebeskind, Carrie Shepler, Raj Vuchatu (Executive Board Liaison)

Committee Members Absent: Peter Hesketh, Helena Mitchell, Lucy Tucker (Student Liaison)

Meeting Topic: Working meeting to review recent speakers for potential new committee business

Amy D'Unger called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM.

Approval of minutes:

Doug moved to approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting and Denise seconded. All members approved.

Presentation of Executive Board meeting highlights:

Raj talked about the following items from recent executive board meetings.

- Enrollment for Fall 2012 resulting in the largest freshman class ever. For these students, SATs averaged 1394 and the average GPA was 3.89. 38% of the class is minority and 35% women. The number of graduates is approximately 7000.
- This is the 100th anniversary of the co-op program. Approximately 50,000 students have participated in the program over the years.
- The Open Access Policy has been rolled out.
- A new faculty handbook has been published.
- \$50 million was given to the business school by alumnus Ernest Scheller – the school has been renamed in his honor.
- John Carter is stepping down as president of the Georgia Tech Foundation – a search committee is in place to find his replacement.
- Construction on the Engineered Biosystems Building has begun.
- A number of Georgia Tech courses on Coursera have been launched.
- There were some concerns raised over the tone of an electronic mailing to the campus community regarding environmental health and safety issues. The email left an impression that those in EHS were more interested in strictly enforcing policies that aren't written down, instead of supporting the campus community in meeting campus goals for environmental health and safety. While EHS has the right to close down labs that don't meet standards, it needs to take steps to develop institute policies that clearly state what the expectations are in this area.
- The Provost has started a task force to develop a definition of what kinds of faculty and staff we have on campus. Currently we have Academic Faculty, General Faculty (including Academic Professionals), Research Faculty, and Staff. Restructuring the categories will mean developing new campus governance - for example having both a faculty and a staff senate. It is important to note that benefits would not be impacted by his restructuring. Doug asked if such a restructuring plan would have to be approved by multiple bodies. Raj indicated that it would, but who those entities would be are not yet known. Raj has in his possession a copy of the memo about this task force that he will distribute to the committee. It is important for the Academic Services Committee to be kept

in the loop – as our executive board liaison; Raj will provide the committee with information. Amy asked if Susan Cozzens was involved with this effort. Raj indicated that the Statutes Subcommittee was addressing this issue – Raj will send out a list of the subcommittee members.

Discussion of items associated from previous committee meetings:

Regarding Dr. Llewellyn's talk about CETL:

Amy said that no big action for the ASC leaped out at her from that presentation. Raj mentioned that the new faculty profile system might be something like Google Scholar ("GT Scholar"). Doug asked if the faculty profile system would be linked to the Open Access System and Raj indicated it would.

Regarding Mr. O'Connor's talk about the Strategic Technology Investment Committee (STIC)

There were no committee action items that emerged from this presentation.

Regarding Dr. Bras's talk about the Strategic Plan:

In our meeting, Dr. Bras called out Lifelong Learning as a specific item that the Academic Services Committee could address. Amy has emailed Joe Erwin of the Alumni Association twice, at Dr. Bras's behest, but has not gotten any response. There are definitely opportunities to extend the Tech experience beyond graduation, in such areas as technology refresh, in marketing to alumni and in providing network capabilities. Denise mentioned that her own college alumni association was very active in providing professional learning opportunities and opportunities for certification.

Doug pointed out there are multiple players in the Lifelong Learning area. Nelson Baker, for example, the Dean of Distance Learning Programs, would be a good content provider for lifelong learning components. Once there is an established strawman for dealing with Lifelong Learning, that would be a better time to contact the Alumni Association. There was discussion of having outreach to the Student Alumni Association, which Amy points out is a fairly active group.

Amy then asked if Lifelong Learning was something that the committee wanted to deal with. Dr. Bras mentioned this item to the committee because he needs this item to have a home. Doug said that Lifelong Learning would fit in the mission of the committee, but wasn't sure if the committee was interested in dealing with these issues.

Sonit suggested that we would want to have support for Lifelong Learning at the level of the college/institute. It could be a self-sustaining operation, where people pay for content. Perhaps there could be a degree option, or some kind of continuing education component. We would need to develop a model for this content. Carrie pointed out that as a member of the Student Center Government Boards, she knows that the OPTIONS classes are open to alumni. Denise also pointed out that online content is another mechanism for outreach. Raj asked if this was an area we wanted to get involved in – OIT has money set aside to support online infrastructure. Amy suggested that the Learning Excellence Committee might be a more appropriate committee to be involved with this effort, noting that this is not a faculty governance committee. There are other committees on campus dealing with MOOCs that might also be more appropriate.

Sonit made a final point that Lifelong Learning offerings fit into the sense of identity alumni feel as part of the larger Georgia Tech community. Doug suggested that Tech needs to develop the 30,000 foot view of what it should do in this area, and determine the benefits of these offerings. It is believed that Dr. Bras is trying to gauge buy-in for Lifelong Learning on campus at this time. Denise feels that surveys

could be done to assess that buy in. Doug said that what the committee should do is figure out who is looking into this area, and as a group, we should hook up with those other groups.

Another point Dr. Bras brought up to us was the future of the Academic Service Committee itself. If the university will be restructuring the faculty, that will involve reorganization of this committee, as we are a committee of the general faculty. Doug asked what the time frame was for the restructuring effort. Raj said it is supposed to be done by the end of the calendar year.

Doug asked if it is worthwhile for us to think about the essential roles of this and other committees in a newly reorganized faculty structure. Sonit asked if this committee should be a better conduit to the Executive Board. Amy pointed out that this committee is composed of representatives from all the colleges and GTRI. Doug asked why more people aren't involved in campus committees. Carrie said that there are a limited number of committees on which non-academic faculty can serve. Denise concurred that the ASC is the only committee she can be involved with.

Carrie brought up that it's not always clear what academic services are. Sonit wondered who decides what academic services are offered, and if there is a bottom-up way of defining service offerings, rather than the current top-down mechanism. Currently, some academic services are provided by the colleges instead of being centrally administered. Doug concurred that the service offerings are distributed not centralized. Sonit asked if more centralized service offerings are better, and should be coordinated administratively.

Amy believes that we should draft a definition of this committee's purpose under the proposed restructuring. The consensus is that the committee should not consider disbanding, but that we should assume we would remain relevant under the new structure. Doug feels it is important to have some group focusing on what is important in the area of academic service, and that we, as a committee, should clarify the role we should fill towards that end.

Summary of action items from the meeting:

- Raj will provide the committee with a copy of the faculty restructuring memo.
- Raj will provide a membership list of the Statutes Subcommittee that will be addressing the faculty restructuring issues.
- Sonit will ask his college about its Lifelong Learning efforts.
- Raj will ask Jim O'Connor of STIC regarding online efforts.
- Amy will talk informally to Dr. Llewellyn to clarify Dr. Bras's vision for Lifelong Learning.
- Amy will email Dr. Baker to see how the Distance Learning office would be involved in Lifelong Learning.
- The general consensus is that the Academic Services Committee will attempt to determine who the players in the Lifelong Learning area currently are, and will offer its assistance in this area, but will not lead the charge.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Susan Liebeskind

Secretary, Academic Services Committee