Academic Services Committee  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2012

Committee Members Present: Amy D’Unger, Peter Hesketh, Susan Liebeskind, John Miller, Helena Mitchell

Committee Members Absent: Doug Britton, Marlit Hayslett, Nancey Green Leigh, Denise Johnson-Marshall, Raj Vuchatu (Executive Board Liaison)

The meeting was called to order by Helena Mitchell at 3.09 PM. There were two new members of the committee present (John Miller and Susan Liebeskind), so all members introduced themselves. Helena provided the new members with the report given by the ASC to the Executive Board in August 2011. Amy noted that this document, in addition to the Powerpoint presentation for the EB and all other presentations made in the past two years, are available on the T-Square site. Amy then moved to approve the December 2011 meeting minutes. John seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion then turned to the action items currently being undertaken by the committee. Helena explained the Open Access subcommittee and members discussed what Open Access is, what the potential costs and benefits would be, the issue of peer review (and whether Open Access impacts or dilutes that), and the issue of publishers—especially of smaller journals—potentially being put out of business. Amy read the email from Marlit detailing the activities of the committee, which has met two times for approximately two hours and is currently researching other institutions’ approach to open access, business models, and international views of open access. The goal is to have draft language by mid-February.

The committee then discussed the information technology action item, particularly as it relates to classroom technology. Peter had initially introduced this action item when he was having difficulty with different versions of software available across different classrooms. Raj had looked into the issue, and OIT responded by directing him to the classroom technology website. Peter said that the problem seemed to have gotten better last semester (fall 2011), but agreed to look at the OIT website to see if there are any discrepancies that he noticed. John pointed out that the Instructional Center seems to have particularly old technology, and wondered if OIT does a semesterly or yearly “health audit” of the classrooms to make sure that the technology is working, even at the most basic level (e.g., that the projector is aligned with the screen). All agreed that this was a good suggestion that should be made to OIT, if it’s not already being done.

Amy discussed the current state of the campus climate survey and gave the background of the action item for the two new members of the committee. She expressed concern that she had not heard anything from Archie Ervin since she and Denise met with him last semester, despite the fact that he said they would be moving to put together the task force very early in the spring. She wants to make sure that it remains on his radar and that he continues to involve ASC members in the planning process. She will send him an email reminder, cc’ing Helena, to make sure that things are continuing to move forward.

Amy then discussed the current state of the effort to get Georgia Tech to join ICPSR. She explained the background to the new members, and stated that IAC Dean Jacqueline Royster had already emailed a statement of support to Library Dean Catherine Murray-Rust. IAC Associate Dean for Research Susan Cozzens is also supportive of the efforts. Amy has drafted an email that
Susan will send to all Ivan Allen College faculty members, as well as a survey that assesses familiarity with ICPSR and previous/future (potential) usage of ICPSR data and resources. Committee members then asked about potential undergraduate use of ICPSR resources, and Amy was unsure. She stated that the survey questions she had created assessed only the potential impact on graduate students. She will go back and add a question on the potential number of students—both undergraduate and graduate—who might be impacted in terms of data utilization and training. She will also send the email and survey information to committee members so key stakeholders in other units (e.g., College of Computing, College of Architecture, the Provost’s Office, etc.) can be contacted about their support. Since Nancey is in the CoA, it was suggested that she could contact the appropriate person in her college about this. Amy can contact David White in computing to find the appropriate person in the CoC.

Helena then talked about the faculty club action item and provided background for the two new committee members. Susan said that retired ME professor Steve Dickerson was advocating for the creation of a faculty club, so Helena agreed to contact him and follow up. While a faculty club might be a “tough sell” in the current economic climate, secretary of the faculty Ron Bohlander is very interested in the idea, so the committee members concurred that it is still an action item worth pursuing.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the schedule and topics for subsequent meetings, as well as actions that need to be taken. Amy will send a Meeting Wizard request for the February meeting. It was decided that having new student member John Miller speak on behalf of the SGA and student interests would be a good topic for the February meeting. Amy suggested that he also contact a graduate student counterpart in the SGA, as the needs of undergraduates and graduates are often very different. Raj had stated in a previous meeting that his immediate supervisor, Lisa Sills, is a member of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee and that he could possibly arrange a meeting with her. It was suggested that this would be a good topic for the March meeting, so Helena will email Raj to explain what we’re looking for in a meeting with Lisa Sills so he can approach her about scheduling it. Helena will also request that Raj provide us with the minutes from the Executive Board meetings and report back to us on Executive Board activities at the Academic Services Committee meetings, as David White had previously done.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.03 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Amy D’Unger
Secretary, Academic Services Committee