

Academic Services Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2012

Committee Members Present: Doug Britton, Amy D'Unger, Nancey Green Leigh, Susan Liebeskind, Denise Johnson Marshall, John Miller, Helena Mitchell, Raj Vuchatu (Executive Board Liaison)

Committee Members Absent: Marlit Hayslett, Peter Hesketh

The meeting was called to order by Helena Mitchell at 3.07 PM. The first item of business was approval of the January meeting minutes. Doug moved to approve the minutes and John seconded. The committee approved the minutes unanimously. Helena then discussed the Committee on the Use of University Facilities. Helena has been asked to sit on the committee on behalf of the Academic Services Committee. Doug said he was involved in the initial discussions about this in 2010 and that he would send the documents he received from that meeting to the committee. Nancey asked if use of resources such as university vans would be discussed, but Helena was not sure. Amy discussed the Ruth Malhotra lawsuit against the university and how that was probably the impetus for putting this committee together (and it is included in the Strategic Plan). Helena is unable to attend the meeting on February 29th, so Amy will most likely go in her place. Amy has jury duty on the 28th, but is fairly confident she will be available on the 29th. She will let the committee know if she is not available so someone else can attend in her place.

Doug then discussed the ongoing efforts of the Open Access working group. He said that a very fast agenda was initially being pushed in an effort to get a policy drafted before the March Faculty Senate meeting, but that that is not going to happen. The committee decided to scale back the timeline to avoid moving too quickly. They are currently starting to draft a policy based on design decisions from other schools that already have Open Access policies in place. The goal is to make sure that the questions "Why Georgia Tech?" and "Why now?" are being adequately answered in the policy. The committee believes that GT should be in a leadership position as an institute, which fits with the Strategic Plan focus on "What does GT think?" Doug stated that, in general, there is support from the faculty but they are restricted by journals unless their institution has a policy that requires Open Access, which Tech does not. The largest area of push back has been from the College of Sciences, where professional organizations are organized a little differently and funding structures for those organizations rely on subscription fees. Currently, the focus of the policy is on journal articles in scholarly, refereed publications, and possibly related presentations and posters. Data management, collection, and dissemination are also issues. The committee is considering an "opt out" model in which faculty could email the Provost to opt out of a particular publication and is also working on the logistics of how this would work smoothly for faculty. Integration with the campus faculty profiles system is also an issue. Raj stated that he is leading the faculty profiles project on campus and that it will definitely tie in with Open Access issues. Doug stated that, in essence, what is being written is a policy that assigns copyright license to Georgia Tech, which then has the right to manage that writing or data, as long as it's not being used for profit. He also noted that there is no policy at the Board of Regents level and that they may not be involved in the GT policy, other than making sure it is legal. Part of the motivation for Tech to move quickly is to get a policy in place before another BOR school does so and we are forced to use abide by that policy. Nancey pointed out that the colleges that Doug cited as leaders in Open Access were private institutions with large amounts of financial resources. Doug said that a financial report had been done and that the cost was not as much as anticipated, particularly as people are using Smart Tech for open access purposes already.

Raj spoke with Jim O'Connor in OIT about campus software across classrooms and the information that is available online for faculty members. Peter was going to look at the OIT website and see if there were any issues that seemed to remain. He was not at the meeting, so we did not discuss this further. Raj mentioned that there is a newly created entity called the Council for Educational Technologies that advises Provost Bras. It is a high-level committee, though Raj was not sure who is on it and/or who chairs it. Denise asked if accessibility is part of what the committee is looking at, but Raj was not sure given that it was just formed. Denise pointed out that picking out the right technology for accessibility is very important and requires some research. Helena asked if this group is affiliated with the Center for Twentieth Century Technologies, but Raj was not sure.

Amy then talked about the campus climate survey. She reached out to Archie Ervin to inquire about the formation of the task force and remind him of ASC's interest in the issue and commitment to participating in the process. Dr. Ervin stated that he would be putting together the group soon, with a goal of meeting the week before spring break. Amy asked him to make sure to keep her and Denise in the loop so that ASC can be represented. Denise asked if we had outlined some of the issues that we wanted covered in the survey and Helena referred her to previous meeting minutes and the reports put together for the presentation to the Executive Board. Amy suggested that they work on drafting a document that include 3 – 4 key areas of concern with several questions for each area.

Amy then discussed the efforts to get Georgia Tech to become a member of ICPSR. The Dean of the Ivan Allen College has sent a letter of support, but Amy said she is still waiting on Associate Dean for Research Susan Cozzens to send out the email and survey that she (Amy) created several weeks ago. She continues to remind Dr. Cozzens via email. Both Raj and Doug reached out to Steve Cross and Raj spoke with Ravi Bellamkonda. Raj said that it was on the agenda to be discussed at the Monday, 2/13 meeting of the Associate Deans for Research across the Institute. He was in attendance at the meeting but had to leave early, so he was not sure if it had been discussed. He will follow up to see if the issue was discussed at the meeting.

Helena discussed the faculty club and noted that former faculty member Steve Dickerson and Joe Irwin, VP of Alumni Affairs, are both very supportive. They have reached out to Howard Wertheimer and are in the process of scheduling a meeting with Ron Bohlander, Steve Dickerson, Joe Irwin, Howard Wertheimer, Jackie Herndon, and Helena. Helena said that the current discussions focused on a facility that featured casual and fine dining, but no housing. Nancey suggested also reaching out to John Carter of the Georgia Tech Foundation and all agreed that was a good idea. Raj also suggested framing the argument for a faculty club in terms of the Strategic Plan and the focus on collaboration and partnership that is emphasized in the SP. All members of the ASC were supportive of moving forward with these efforts and concurred that amenities are important in attracting and retaining faculty.

Raj then presented some items of interest from the most recent Executive Board meeting. He noted that President Peterson was one of a handful of university leaders invited to the World Economic Forum and that several countries, mostly in Asia, had already reached out and were ready to set up satellite campuses of Georgia Tech. Other items discussed included:

- a group on campus is looking at ways of making the university more family-friendly,
- President Peterson and Provost Bras are doing a series of town hall meetings with all of the colleges,
- campus security and the new Jacket Guardian emergency notification system,

- a new committee initiated by Dr. Peterson to centralize all policies into one location (Raj's group is building and managing it), and
- changes to the conflict of interest policy

John then gave his presentation on the Student Government Association, in his capacity as the Chair of the Curriculum and Institute Policies Committee, which is one of four committees under the SGA Vice President of Academic Affairs. He outlined each of the four committees and the main projects/foci of each of them. They are as follows:

1. Student Faculty Interaction (mentoring partnerships between students, between students and faculty, and the creation of a J-mester)
2. Educational Enhancement (online database of research opportunities for students, service learning)
3. Academic Support (database of all course syllabi, open courseware, Techburst, Center for Twenty First Century Universities)
4. Curriculum and Institute Policies (X degree, GT 2000, expanding HPS 1040 to include PE, dead week policies)

Amy mentioned that there was a database of research opportunities with faculty members on the old UROP website, created by Karen Harwell, but she was not sure if it was still in existence. Doug asked if the proposed GT 2000 class was similar to the VIP program, but John was not sure. John presented additional information provided by Marcel Said, who is the VP of Academic Affairs for the Graduate SGA. He said that the major work being done this year was on the GT Research and Innovation Conference and competition, which just happened. There was a lot of work and money involved in the conference/competition and a very high level of graduate student involvement. The full Powerpoint presentation given by John will be placed on the T-Square site for those who want to reference it.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of how scheduling and note taking will be handled while Amy is on leave. Helena's secretary Joy will take notes at the meetings and transcribe them into minutes. Amy will (tentatively) schedule the March meeting, but someone else will have to take over scheduling for April and May. March 13th was proposed as the date for next month's meeting. Amy will send out a poll to make sure that it works for the committee. The March meeting is supposed to include a member of the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, so Raj and Helena will coordinate on what exactly we're looking for from our guest speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.13 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,



Amy D'Unger
Secretary, Academic Services Committee