

Academic Services Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2010

Committee Members Present: Doug Britton, Amy D’Unger, Marlit Hayslett, Helena Mitchell, Tyler Walters, David White (Executive Committee Liaison)

Committee Members Absent: Nancey Green Leigh, Peter Hesketh, Margaret Loper, Caitlin Manley

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM by chair Helena Mitchell.

Helena began the meeting with a recap of the General Faculty Assembly. She stated that President Peterson addressed the progress of the Strategic Plan, the five year capital campaign (with a target of \$1.5 billion), the resumption of hiring, STEM research, the potential for an engineering program at UGA, and the potential for additional budget cuts of 4, 6, or 10%, which may be offset by student tuition raises. Various standing committees also shared their yearly reports. These include the following highlights of particular interest to the Academic Services Committee (ASC):

- The Faculty Honors Committee requested that faculty remember to nominate themselves and their colleagues for the wide variety of awards given on campus. Nominations can now be completed online.
- The Faculty Handbook is being updated, with particular attention to how procedure impacts policy.
- The previous chair of the Academic Services Committee reported that it had spent the year looking at the Strategic Plan and how ASC might work to serve that.
- Campus welfare and security is of concern, with a particular focus on concealed weapons on campus and the timing of various stoplights. The City of Atlanta has denied Tech’s request to change some of the timing of lights in the Fifth Street area. Campus security has been upgraded, with a 20% increase in Georgia Tech Police officers.
- The Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee reported that it had heard 481 petitions and denied approximately 100 of them. Institute Graduate Curriculum Committee heard 404 petitions and acted on 94 of them.
- The student code of conduct is being examined and revised, paying particular attention to “Dead Week” and academic integrity. Financial crises are also a concern for current students.

- Fifty-one new student organizations were given charters in the past year.
- The Faculty Grievance Committee reported that three grievances were handled at the school level, and all three were denied. A committee member pleaded for these grievances to be taken more seriously in the future.
- The issue of student computer ownership was addressed, particularly with regards to problems with classroom technology and the challenge of being a “virtual campus” when software is not accessible in some rooms.
- There was a 53% increase in the number of incoming African American students in the 2010 entering cohort of freshmen.

Doug added that the issue of reclassifying faculty and staff was also on the agenda, but not addressed at the General Faculty Assembly meeting. Faculty are being reclassified to more accurately reflect Board of Regents protocol, as well as to move staff members such as postdocs and athletic coaches out of the “faculty” category.

David gave an update from the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. The new provost discussed the issue of UGA adding degree programs in engineering, the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and the upcoming retreat for academic units that will focus on this issue. David indicated that the next Executive Committee is next Tuesday (11/30/10). The committee agreed that a report from David on the Executive Committee should be included on the agenda for each ASC meeting, and that there should also be room for the discussion of new business that committee members might want to bring to the table.

David reported that the provost is assembling a working group on the role of GT Savannah and how to increase its profile and better integrate it with GT Atlanta. The group intends to have a plan in place by the end of the 2010 – 2011 academic year.

The committee then moved to new business—establishing the meeting dates, topics, and speakers for the spring semester. The committee selected the following dates for the spring 2011 semester. The meeting time will be 9:30 – 10:30 AM unless otherwise noted. All are Thursdays.

January 13, 2011

February 10, 2011

March 10, 2011

April 7, 2011 (9:30 – 11:00 AM, to discuss final committee report)

May 19, 2011

To select the topics, the committee began with the seven general areas of concern generated in the October ASC meeting. These areas are:

1. Library issues (ICPSR)

2. Graduate and undergraduate student experience
3. The Strategic Plan
4. The Nanotech Building
5. The intersection of space planning and OIT
6. Free speech
7. The creation of new centers and relationships among faculty

The committee decided that the December meeting should be on the Strategic Plan, and that Chet Warzynski from Organizational Development should be invited to present. Helena agreed to email Chet and invite him to the meeting, which is scheduled for 9:30 – 10:30 AM on Wednesday, 12/15 in ICPST (located on 10th Street, catty-corner to the Office of Special Programs). The following topics were selected for January – April:

- **January:** Budget and library issues (Tyler will invite Dean of the Library, Catherine Murray-Rust)
- **February:** Space planning and OIT, particularly the new computer use policy (invite Jim O'Connor of OIT and Howard Wertheimer of Capital Planning & Space Management)
- **March:** The creation of new centers (invite Steve Cross, Executive Vice President for Research)
- **April:** Relationships among faculty and the creation of a “Campus Climate” committee (invite Narl Davidson, Faculty Ombudsman)

Committee members agreed that speakers would have 30 minutes for their presentations, followed by 15 minutes for Q&A and 15 minutes for ASC committee members to discuss new business.

It was also agreed that an additional ½ hour will be added to the April meeting so that we can discuss the Academic Services Committee report for the year, which will be drafted by Helena and Amy. The May meeting will be devoted to the report.

Helena requested that we send her any specific points that we would like speakers to address so that she can inform them before the meeting. Please send her questions for the 12/15 meeting no later than Monday, December 6th.

The committee then discussed the issue of student absence from meetings. Marlit noted that getting consistent student participation has historically been a problem for the ASC. The committee decided that if it continued to be a problem, we would approach the SGA about replacing the undergraduate student member with a graduate student member. Marlit reminded us that we should also let Ron Bohlander (Secretary of the Faculty) know about the issue if it persists. Doug also suggested that we attend both an undergraduate and graduate SGA meeting to inform them of our agenda for the year. All concurred that was a good idea.

The committee ended the meeting by coming up with action items for December, which include the following:

- Helena will email Chet Warzynski about presenting at the December 15th meeting,
- Committee members will email Helena prep questions to send to Chet no later than December 6th,
- Committee members can email Amy questions for any of the speakers or that address any of the meeting topics and she will compile a “question” bank to refer to upcoming meetings,
- Tyler will email the Dean of the Library about attending the January meeting, and
- Amy will compile the minutes for the meeting and disseminate them to committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Amy D’Unger
Secretary, Academic Services Committee