

**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
**2011-2012 Annual Report**  
**Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee**

October 23, 2012

3-5:00 p.m.

Student Center Theater

Fall Meeting of the General Faculty, General Faculty Assembly, & Academic Senate incl.  
Standing Committee Annual Reports

**Members:** Sue Ann Allen (ChBE), Christine De Catanzaro (Library), Greg Nobles (Honors Program), Craig Tovey (ISyE), Bing Wang (Library), Reta Pikowsky (Registrar), Ruperto Perez (Counseling Center), Alex Lober (UG Student), Shinjini Das (UG Student), Marcel Said (GR Student), Sonit Bafina (Executive Board Liaison)

**Meetings:** Dr. Craig Tovey served as the Committee Chair and Reta Pikowsky served as the Committee Secretary. The Committee met on August 25, 2011, October 11, 2011, November 8, 2011 (without a quorum), January 10, 2012, and March 13, 2012.

**Discussion of Policies, Procedures, and General Concerns of the Committee**

The general topics that were discussed by the Committee during the past year included: undergraduate admissions and financial aid, the enrollment plan including how the transfer policy fits into the overall strategy, the SAFAC charter, policies on academic standing, academic versus “life” advisement to students, the various academic honors and prizes that exist at Tech, and the Institute Approved Absence policy.

The Committee received updates from the Registrar and others related to academic standing policies and the lawful presence verification process which is new, mandated by the Board of Regents.

**Actions Taken**

1. The Committee reviewed its 2008 document that addresses procedures related to Institute approved absences. The Committee voted to retain the document as it exists with a minor change to reflect that in general, excused absences will not be approved for the final examination period, but SAFAC may be petitioned to grant exceptions. Link to the final [Institute Approved Absences Procedures](#).
2. The Committee specifically reviewed travel schedules of student-athletes and determined that a more thorough discussion of these schedules is necessary each year and that the guidelines in the 2008 document must be applied consistently. This was also discussed in relation to NCAA Division I rules and other Georgia Tech policies. Pursuant to that decision, the Registrar will send to the Committee for review each team travel schedule as soon as they are issued at the start of fall in August.

3. The Committee approved the new [Competitive Admissions Policy](#) presented by Dr. Paul Kohn. The policy was last revised in 2007 and was due for another review. The new policy was approved with one friendly amendment related to the rewording of a sentence.
4. The Committee voted, via email, on several requests for Institute Approved Absences from students who had individual events they wished to attend.
5. The Committee acted on an Institute Excused Absence that was not being honored by a professor. The Committee Chair followed up as needed and resolved the issue.