

Georgia Institute of Technology
2013-2014 Annual Report
Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee

Tuesday, October 21, 2014
3-5:00 p.m.

Student Center Theater

Fall Meeting of the Faculty, Faculty Senate, & Academic Faculty Senate

Members:

Allen, Sue Ann	[10-16]	ChBE
De Catanzaro, Christine	[11-14]	Library
Mulford, Charles	[13-16]	Business
Nobles, Greg	[11-14]	Honors Program
Perez, Ruperto M. #		Counseling
Pikowsky, Reta †		Registrar
Tovey, Craig *	[09-15]	ISyE
Lindsay, Trevor	[13-14]	U Student
Meka, Arjun	[13-14]	U Student
Koh, Daegene	[13-14]	G Student
Turner, Debby #		Executive Board Liaison

*Committee Chair for 2014-2015

† Secretary

#Without Vote

U = Undergraduate

G = Graduate

[xx-yy] service period

Meetings: The Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee met 3 times during the 2013-2014 year. It conducted much of its business via email, particularly in relation to requests for excused absences and athletic travel schedules.

Dr. Craig Tovey served as Chair of the Committee. The business of the Committee is related to academic policy matters and financial matters that impact students throughout their careers at Tech. The Committee also oversees the excused absence policy and travel schedules of teams with the GT Athletic Association.

The following areas were discussed/addressed by the Committee.

- Excused absences
- Schedules of athletic teams
 - The Committee conducts a great deal of business in this area by email.
 - There was continued concern about any athletic team that requests more than 10 days in its travel letter. This means that there are excused absences approved for 10 class days.

- Although this does not mean that the student-athletes are missing 10 class sessions because not all members of a team travel to all events and not all of the team members have class sessions on all ten days, but it does remain a concern for the Committee.
- Student fees
 - The Bursar was a guest at the November 18, 2013 meeting and covered the following topics:
 - There are two kinds of fees, mandatory fees and elective fees.
 - The Bursar pointed out that the message from the Chancellor's Office is that any increase in fees is strongly discouraged this year.
 - Tuition and fees are laid out in detail on the Bursar's web site (<http://www.bursar.gatech.edu/tuiandfee.php>). It is helpful to peruse this site to better understand the kinds of fees, different rates, the refund schedule, etc. There is also cost of attendance information on this site.
 - The web site of the Budget office is another good resource for information on tuition and fees (<http://budnet.pbf.gatech.edu/>).
 - A question was raised about a possible mental health fee. Some institutions have started to charge such a fee and we might see such a proposal here at Tech. It was noted that the need for mental health services on campus has increased dramatically and although Health Services has hired more staff, there is still an apparent back-log of need.
 - Graduate student stipends are of concern given the substantial increase in fees. Stipend levels are set by the individual schools. There is no Institute-level policy about which to make recommendations. That makes the concerns of this Committee difficult to act on. It may be that the most this Committee could do would be to facilitate communication.
 - A question was raised about possible costs of distance learning programs and how those would play out for students not in residence on campus. Current needs are being addressed, but as online programs expand, the need for support services for these students might need to be examined.
 - Housing costs are a significant concern. Rising costs for housing is not unique to Tech. There is a concern for what students are getting for the money. After some discussion, it was recommended that the Vice President for Campus Services, would be a good person to contact about him or someone he would recommend attending the meeting to talk in more detail about housing.
 - It was also recommended that it might be very helpful to invite someone from the Budget office to talk about fees. It was also suggested that someone from Institutional Planning and Research

would also be a good guest speaker to share data about the broader institutional picture.

- The larger issues about Space Planning might be interesting for the Committee to hear about, including future building that might include residence halls or apartments.
- Student advising
- Retention and programs in place to support efforts in this area

Submitted by,

Dr. Craig Tovey, ISyE
SAFAC Chair 2013-2014