

Georgia Institute of Technology
2014-2015 Annual Report
Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

3-5:00 p.m.

Student Center Theater

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

Members:

Name	Affiliation	Role
Tom Conte	College of Computing-CS	Voting Member
Charles Mulford	Scheller College of Business	Voting Member
Greg Nobles	Honors Program	Voting Member
Ruperto Perez	Counseling Center	Non-Voting Member
Reta Pikowsky	Registrar	Secretary, Voting Member
Anne Pollock	Literature, Media, Communication	Voting Member
Craig Tovey	Industrial & Systems Engineering	Voting Member, Chair
Jennifer Abrams	UG Student	Voting Member
Trevor Lindsay	UG Student	Voting Member
Hira Rizvi	GRAD Student	Voting Member
Carrie Shepler	Executive Board Liaison	Non-Voting Member

Meetings: The Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee met 6 times during the 2014-2015 year.

Meeting dates were:

- August 27, 2014
- September 3, 2014
- October 1, 2014
- December 3, 2014
- January 29, 2015
- April 21, 2015

It conducted much of its business via email, particularly in regard to requests for excused absences and athletic travel schedules. It should be noted that the work of approving excused absences continues to grow and occurs throughout the year, with far fewer during the Summer term.

Dr. Craig Tovey served as Chair of the Committee. Reta Pikowsky served as Secretary 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.

1. The Mens's Golf travel schedule was addressed at some length due to its length and the number of class days that this team typically misses in a given season.
2. The Committee also considered topics for review including the profile of the incoming freshman class, financial aid, graduate student enrollment, the question of who is overseeing awards on campus, and any concerns related to Title IX compliance.
3. The Golf Coach, along with the Associate Director of Athletics, met with the Committee to talk about the travel schedule for the Men's Golf team, why it operates as it does, and factors, such as facilities, that impact the team's ability to influence its travel commitments. A review was also provided of team members' academic performance and measures that are taken to ensure as much study time as possible in and around competitions. The Coach also talked about how golf tournaments, by nature, differ from other athletic events in regard to the time of day and amount of time needed to complete a competition.
4. The Committee once again considered the 10-day travel limit that it has used for some time now as a guide for approving athletic travel schedules. The Committee tried to identify and sort out the various factors and issues to determine if there is a better way to go about evaluating these requests each year.
5. It was noted that the Standing Committees are going to be reviewed and the issue again was mentioned as to why this Committee would be charged with overseeing awards on campus.
6. The Men's and Women's Indoor/Outdoor travel schedules were discussed in some detail. The head Coach and the Associate Director of Athletics attended a meeting to explain how the travel schedules are set and how the teams operate as they do. The concern again is about understanding the number of class days missed and why that is the case.
7. An important business process improvement was made by the Committee and carried out by the Registrar's Office. A new tab was created on the Registrar's Office website to serve students who need to request an individual excused absence. A form was created which will help to ensure that all the necessary information is provided so that an informed decision can be made by the Committee.
8. The Committee also discussed means of tracking individual requests for excused absences so that some evaluation can be done of how many of them are reviewed, how many approved or denied, and when the peak periods occur.
9. Looking ahead, the Committee identified the following topics for possible research/discussion: the new student center; services for student-veterans on campus; tuition and fee increases; enrollment projections; establishment of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter on campus; and how well our students are performing in relation to critical thinking.

Submitted by,
Dr. Craig Tovey, ISyE, Chair