

Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee

Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2013

Present: Craig Tovey (ISyE), Greg Nobles (Honors Program), Trevor Lindsay (UG Student), Sue Ann Allen (ChBE), Arjun Meka (UG Student), Chuck Mulford (Scheller College of Business), Reta Pikowsky (Registrar)

Visitors: Carol Payne (Bursar), Paul Kohn (VP, Enrollment Services)

1. Following brief introductory remarks, the guest Carol Payne, took questions about student fees. The highlights of the discussion included the following points.
 - a. There are two kinds of fees, mandatory fees and elective fees.
 - b. Carol pointed out that the message from the Chancellor's Office is that any increase in fees is strongly discouraged this year.
 - c. 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.
 - d. The web site of the Budget office is another good resource for information on tuition and fees (<http://budnet.pbf.gatech.edu/>).
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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.
 - h. 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, Paul Strouts, would be a good person to contact about him or someone

he would recommend attending the meeting to talk in more detail about housing.

- i. Carol also recommended that it might be very helpful to invite Jim Kirk from the Budget office to talk about fees. She also suggested that Sandi Bramblett from Institutional Planning and Research would also be a good guest speaker to share data about the broader institutional picture.
 - j. 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. Howard Wertheimer the Director of Capital Planning and Space Management is a good contact to request an overview of the long-term campus plan.
2. Committee members once again raised a question about areas in which the Committee could have an impact. There are questions of admissions and enrollment that Dr. Kohn feels are important and that the Committee should address, possibly having some input on future decisions.
 3. Other guest speakers.
 - a. Howard Wertheimer, Capitol Planning and Space Management
 - b. Lisa Mitchem, Scholarships and Financial Aid
 - c. Susan Cozzens, Graduate Education and Faculty Affairs
 - d. Paul Strouts, Campus Services.
 4. Next Meeting: December 2, 2013, 11:00 AM.

Submitted by,
Reta Pikowsky