

Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee
Meeting Notes
October 3, 2013

Student Academic & Financial Affairs Committee

Allen, Sue Ann	[10-16]	ChBE
De Catanzaro, Christine	[11-14]	Library
Mulford, Charles	[13-16]	Library
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

Attending: Craig Tovey, Paul Senft (for Reta Pikowsky), Charles Mulford

1. There was no quorum. Committee members discussed start-up, including electing a chair, and possible topics to be explored this year.
2. Members were reminded to send nominations for the Chair. There was some follow-up after the meeting with Phase II of the election process underway and the Registrar agreeing to continue in the role of Secretary and offering to assist with logistics of finding a good meeting time.
3. There are some topics that we hope to address proactively this academic year.
 - Excused absences.
 - There will be the occasional exceptional case that requires us to hold a careful discussion, but now the great majority of cases can be handled by email. That frees up SAFAC to pursue more important issues. Excused absences used to take about 80% of committee meeting time.
 - Student fees.
 - Have roughly tripled recently.
 - Is there anything that Ga. Tech can do differently to alleviate the burden on students?
 - For example, some funding agencies do not permit graduate student support funds to be used to pay fees. Ga. Tech can't do anything about that.

- On the other hand, are GT Foundation funds permitted to be used for fees? If not, changing that policy might be a way to help students.
- Student advising.
 - Seems to be going well overall.
 - At-risk students are identified during the first semester (are we watching them in mid-semester when midterm grades are released?).
 - Advising focuses on giving students the skills, such as good study habits, that they need. Advising is separate from school teaching, so the pressure to increase retention has not caused pressure on professors to lower standards. There might not be anything significant to improve here, but oversight of advising is a SAFAC function.

Adjourned,

Dr. Craig Tovey, ISyE