

Annual Report of the Academic Services Committee 2009-2010
Submitted by Cameron Tyson, Committee Chair
September 21, 2010

The following persons served on the committee during the 2009-2010 academic year:

Doug Britton, GTRI	Andy Jones, SGA
Nancey Green Leigh, ARCH	Myrtle Turner, GTRI
Peter Hesketh, ME	Marlit Hayslett, GTRI
Cameron Tyson, CHEM	Helena Mitchell, PUBP
Margaret Loper, GTRI	Robert Fox, Executive Board

The committee met twice in the fall of 2009 and twice in the spring of 2010 to set the agenda for the term and receive presentations from various representatives on the Georgia Tech Campus. Presentations included:

Fall 2009 (September 2009): Organizational Meeting

Cameron Tyson was elected as incoming chair and Peter Hesketh as committee secretary. Fall agenda ideas were set by the committee.

Fall 2009 (December 2009):

Gail Potts, Director of Graduate Admissions
Rick Clark: Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Ms. Potts described how the GT Graduate Office serves 6 colleges, 74 Masters programs, 63 Doctoral Programs, 8 Distance Learning, and 4 Professional Masters programs for the main and international campuses. In 2008, 11,778 applications were received for graduate study; 1933 graduate students matriculated. Ms. Potts provided an estimate of 12% more applications in 2009 as well as push by the Institute to reach a population of 2:1 (undergraduate: graduate students). Ms. Potts also described the frequency of communication required to convert applicant into matriculant. The office of graduate studies also oversees Institute graduate requirements (minor requirement, thesis submissions, candidacy documentation, etc) and communicates frequently with the registrar's office. In 2009, the following graduate degrees were granted: 467 PhDs, 1429 MS (compared to 255 PhD and 1366 MS in 2008). Ms. Potts described how increasing her staff size would improve her office's ability to provide high quality service associated with increasing numbers of graduate applications and the growth of the GT graduate student body.

Rick Clark: Mr. Clark provided an overview of the Office of Undergraduate Admission. He indicated that approximately \$1M in application fees are garnered each year though their operations budget did not increase. For Fall and Summer 2009, 11,500 new freshmen applications (up 11%) and 1850 transfer applications were received (up 30%). A class of approximately 2400 students is expected for Fall 2010. Most transfer applications are new applications (not previous GT rejects). The Office of Undergraduate Admissions hosts approximately 13,000 visitors to campus. Retention related to HOPE for freshmen and sophomores were discussed. Demographics of the freshmen and transfer students were also provided. Activities to further educate High School Guidance Counselors (College Week Live) were also presented.

Spring 2010 (February 2010):

Donna Llewellyn, Director of the Georgia Tech Center for Enhancement of Teaching (CETL)
Karen Tucker, Director of the Georgia Tech Language Institute

A presentation on Options for International Students at Georgia Tech was provided to the committee. Dr. Llewellyn and Ms. Tucker discussed the coordination between CETL and the Language Institute to offer courses to train international students on academic writing, oral communication skills, and presentation skills (CETL 8722, 8793, 8795). Both presenters indicated that the courses do not adequately meet the growing need to train international (particularly graduate) students on the GT campus. The result was the <1% of international students are able to take the courses which results in a waitlist each term. Dr.

Llewellyn and Ms. Tucker also presented data on the effectiveness of the CETL courses and proposed solutions for current/future students. These solutions included departmental funded courses through CETL; Language Institute customized courses for departments; Language Institute pilot communication center, and students enroll in non-credit courses offered by the Language Institute. Long-term solutions rely on identifying non-native speaking student who need ESL coursework before starting his/her academic studies and encouragement of incoming students to take ESL courses at Georgia Tech (regardless of his/her TOEFL scores). The committee supported the advice made by Dr. Llewellyn and Ms. Tucker but added that low cost ESL options for GT international students should also be offered.

Douglas Britton, Georgia Tech Research Institute
Committee Report: Facilities Use Policies and Free Speech Webinar

Doug provided the committee with a summary of a presentation by the National Association of Colleges and University Attorneys regarding facilities-use policies and free speech. An emphasis in the presentation was for university officials to apply discretion and maintain complete content neutrality. Recurring drafting issues have focused on insurance and indemnification, alcohol usage, free speech zones, “fronting” and other abuses, time/place/manner restrictions, restricted attendance, and “heckler’s veto” provisions. Discussion on these issues is currently under review with the Institute Office of Legal Affairs. GT officials should consult with Georgia Tech Office of Legal Affairs for clarifications on facilities use and free speech policies.

Fall 2010 (September 2010): Organizational Meeting

Helena Mitchell was elected as incoming chair and Amy D’Unger as committee secretary. Fall agenda ideas are currently being solicited from the committee.