

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE FACULTY,  
FACULTY SENATE, AND  
THE ACADEMIC FACULTY SENATE**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 3:00  
Student Center Theater**

**MINUTES**

1. Dr. Chaouki Abdallah, EVPR opened the meeting at about 3:05 PM. He thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the returning and newly elected faculty members.
2. Dr. Abdallah shared the following information.
  - a. President Angel Cabrera: We have a new president at Georgia Tech and the Investiture will be on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the First Center. The BOR and members of the University Community will be here. He graduated with MS and PhD from Georgia Tech. He said we can still request general admission tickets to the event.
  - b. Searches:
    - i. Dean Searches: Two are ongoing for Ivan Allen College for Liberal Arts and the Library. There have already been two Town Halls that are recorded and can be watched from the Provost's site.
    - ii. Enterprise Innovation Institute (EII): they have launched the search for the new VP of EII. Karen Fite is the Interim Vice President.
  - c. Strategic Plan: the President has announced an effort for a new Strategic Plan. This is a natural cycle as it has been ten years since the last strategic plan with changes and much achieved. Three phases with the first phase as a visioning phase that has already started. There will be many opportunities for the campus community to participate with focus groups, events, meetings, campaign forms, virtual groups, etc. Ms. Juana Cunningham from Strategic consulting is here today to share more information later in the agenda.
  - d. Board of Regents: Met on Oct 16 and has approved proposal to establish a Master of Science in Cyber Security.
  - e. Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR): office of the President is accepting nominations for a new FAR who must be a member of the academic faculty. It is a part time administrative position with a three-year appointment.
  - f. International Activities: The Office of International Initiatives launched a GT Guide for Responsible International Activities and a website that shares information received from NSF, NIH, and DOD. This is to facilitate and help ourselves and all engaged in activities in order to make sure the research can be conducted within the rules.
  - g. Ethics Awareness Week: Nov 11-15 is part of GT Ethics First Campaign. This is a weeklong activities with guest speakers and information sessions.
  - h. Kendeda Building: This building for independent sustainable design will be dedicated and officially opened on Thursday, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.

- i. GT Lorraine Campus: GT-Lorraine in France was recognized for boosting economic development and awarded the French-American Chamber of Commerce's Crystal Peach Award.
3. The EVPR asked for the minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting to be approved. He indicated that the minutes were posted on the faculty governance web site and no additions or corrections had been received. (See [Attachment #1](#) below for web site reference). **The minutes were approved without dissent.**
4. Dr. Abdallah called on Professor Karen Head, Ms. Serena Wallace, and Dr. Erick Maxwell, Co-Chairs of the Charitable Campaign, to explain the campaign this year. The website is in [Attachment #2](#). Professor Head introduced herself and the other co-chairs and stated their positions are for three-year terms representing different constituencies. Prof Head said the 2018-19 campaign raised more than \$324K and supported many charities. GT has a long history of successful charity campaign and has won the Governor's Cup 17 time and finally have sent it permanently to reside at GT. All the donation's go directly to the charities that are selected. All the charities listed have been vetted. The campaign runs from Sept 26 through Nov 26. With the Workday conversion, everyone has to reselect their charities and there is a hard deadline of Nov 26<sup>th</sup> because of the HR conversion. The co-chairs asked that we all participate in this year's campaign and help the Institute reach our goal of \$350K.
5. Dr. Abdallah called on Dr. Bonnie Ferri Professor, vice-Provost Graduate Education and Faculty Development to share update, final report, and recommendations for the Teaching Effectiveness Task Force. She used the presentation in [Attachment #3a](#) and referenced the final report in [Attachment #3b](#). She said this is a report back of the activities of the Task Force and a follow-up from the information presented at the April Faculty meeting. Dr. Ferri stated the final report is very detailed and is linked to the agenda; she recommended that everyone read it. She stated the methodologies used were discussions and focus groups with students, faculty, and administrators; as well as town halls; statistical analysis, and a literature survey. The effort started when students requested that the CIOS comments be released to school administrators. The task force did not go with that recommendation as they wanted to determine the underlying cause; they determined that there are problems with some teaching. The majority of students believe the teaching at GT is very good. There is a small percentage that believes there is a problem. We need accountability for poor teaching and need a process of teaching assessment that is based on a solid rationale and is defensible. They have recommendations:
  - a. Modify the CIOS core questions
  - b. Encourage the use of mid-term evaluation to improve instruction during the semester
  - c. For Schools: improve consistence and quality of teaching by utilizing program-level metrics and peer evaluation; and create an alternative to CIOS for students to give feedback on broader topics to the department.

Prof Joe Hughes, Chair of the Faculty Executive Board, made a statement to follow up after the April Faculty meeting. He made a commitment at the April meeting that this topic would be taken back to the FEB; it was discussed at the May 7<sup>th</sup> FEB meeting. As mentioned, the recommendations are not actions for the faculty as they can be handled by administration. He did state that if a decision is made to change the standard for promotion and how teaching

is evaluated, then that would go through the faculty governance process to be considered before requesting an update to the *Faculty Handbook*.

6. The EVPR called on Ms. Juana Cunningham, Strategic Consulting, to share information about the processes, phases, and timeline for developing the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Consulting Office is supporting President Cabrera's strategic planning process. He announced the planning process at his Town Hall when he first arrived on campus. The process will have broad campus engagement; there will be a difference in the methodology for collecting the information. The process will use an appreciative inquiry as the framework to focus on the positive aspects of the campus. There are three phases: visioning phase, goal setting phase, and then planning and implementation phase. Currently in the visioning phase with the launching of the website tomorrow and communications for information about information sessions. This process is for faculty, staff, students in Atlanta and those abroad in other campuses and in field offices. They are also seeking input from community partners and alumni.
7. The EVPR then called on representatives of each of the Standing Committees of the Faculty as a whole to present their annual reports and any minutes requiring approval. There were no specific action items that needed further approval. In most cases the representatives followed closely the reports in the committees' files on the faculty governance website noted in **Attachment #4** below and so this text is not repeated here. The following is an outline of the material presented showing the representatives that appeared to make the presentations.

#### **Standing Committees of the Faculty**

- a. Faculty Benefits – Prof. Julie Champion, Chair 2019-20, presented the [Annual Report](#). Minutes 09/07/18, 09/21/18, 11/09/18, 02/08/19, 03/29/19, 04/26/19. No action items.  
**Prof Champion moved to have the above minutes approved and the motion passed without dissent.**
- b. Faculty Honors – Dr. Nathan Moon, Chair, 2016-20, presented the [Annual Report](#). No action items.
- c. Faculty Status & Grievance – Prof Andrew Peterson Chair (2017-20) presented the [Annual Report](#).
- d. Statutes – Dr. Chris James, Chair 2019-20 presented the [Annual Report](#). Minutes 08/28/19. No action items other than those already covered above.  
**Dr. James moved to have the above minutes approved and the motion passed without dissent.**
- e. Faculty Services – Dr. Chris Edmonds (Chair 2018-20) presented the [Annual Report](#). Minutes 08/27/18, 09/24/18, 10/22/18, 11/26/18, 01/28/19, 02/05/19, 03/25/19, 04/22/19. No action items.  
**Dr. Edmonds moved to have the minutes approved and the motion passed without dissent.**
- f. Welfare & Security – Mr. Chris Winter presented the [Annual Report](#) for Ms. Patricia Kenly (2016-20). Minutes 08/28/18, 11/15/18, 04/12/19. No action items.  
**Mr. Winter moved to have the minutes approved and the motion passed without dissent.**

8. The EVPR then called on representatives of **Standing Committees of the Academic Faculty** to present annual reports, minutes and action items requiring approval. In most cases the representatives followed closely the reports in the committees' files on the faculty governance website noted in **Attachment #5** below and so that text was not repeated here. The following provides an outline of the material presented showing the representatives that appeared to make the presentations. Where presenters utilized additional presentation materials, they are noted below and provided as attachments.

### **Standing Committees of the Academic Faculty:**

- a. Institute Graduate Curriculum – Prof. Kristie Macrakis, Chair 2018-20, presented the [Annual Report](#) and also covered minutes and action items, including those from the 2018-19 academic year, utilizing the presentation in **Attachment #5a**.  
Minutes: 05/23/19, 08/22/19, 09/05/19, 10/03/19.  
**Action items: From 05/23/19:** CSE/CS/IC: degree mod; Computing/Pub Policy/ECE: degree mod. **From 09/05/19:** CTL: 3 new course; Chem and BME: 4 new course; IC: 1 new course. **From 10/03/19:** Chem & BME; 2 new courses, new stand-alone certificate; ME: 3 new course, degree mod; Mod Lang: 3 new courses; Bldg Construction: 1 new course.  
**Prof. Macrakis moved for the adoption of the action items, it was seconded and passed. She then moved for the approval of the minutes which were seconded and approved without dissent.**
- b. Institute Undergraduate Curriculum – Prof Angus Wilkinson (Chair 2018-20) presented the [Annual Report](#). He also covered minutes and action items from both academic years, utilizing the presentation in **Attachment 5b**.  
Minutes: 05/07/19, 06/11/19, 08/20/19, 08/29/19, 09/12/19, 10/10/19.  
**Action Items: From 05/07/18:** Mod Lang: 3 new courses; CEE: 4 new courses. **From 06/11/19:** Schools of BioSc/Chem & Biochem/Physics/Psych/College of Sciences: Minor modification. **From 09/12/19:** Mod Lang: 6 new courses with humanities attribute; Psych: 1 new course, degree mod; Chem and BME: 4 new courses, degree mod; **From 10/10/19:** Business: 2 new courses, degree mod; Computing: 1 new course; Chem and BME: 2 new courses.  
**Prof Wilkinson moved for the approval of the action items; they were seconded and approved without dissent. He also moved for the approval of the minutes that were seconded and approved.**
- c. Student Regulations – Chair, Prof. Jerry Seitzman (2019-20) presented the [Annual Report](#) and minutes and action items for both academic years utilizing **Attachment #5c**.  
Minutes: 08/26/19, 09/27/19. No action items  
**Prof Seitzman moved for the approval of the action items; they were seconded and approved. He then moved for the approval of the minutes that were seconded and approved.**

- d. Student Academic & Financial Affairs – Prof. Hamid Garmestani (2018-20) used [Attachment #5d](#) to present the [Annual Report](#). Minutes 08/26/19, 09/27/19. No action items.  
**Prof Garmestani moved for the approval of the minutes that were seconded and approved without dissent.**
  - e. Student Activities – Dr. Michael Evans, Chair 2017-19, presented the [Annual Report](#), action items, and minutes of the committee.  
Minutes: 1/14/19, 01/28/19, 02/25/19, 03/04/19, 04/01/19, 04/22/19.  
**Action items:** Approval of all student activity charters and constitution revisions recommended by the committee as documented in their minutes and the annual report.  
**Dr. Evans moved for the adoption of the action items; this was seconded and approved. He then asked for the adoption of the minutes which was seconded and approved.**
  - f. Student Grievance & Appeal – Chair, Prof. Elliot Moore (2015-20) presented the [Annual Report](#).
  - g. Student Honor – Chair, Prof. Ron Johnson, 2018-20, presented the [Annual Report](#).
  - h. Student Computer Ownership– Prof. John Wise, Chair 2018-19, presented the [Annual Report](#).  
Minutes: 09/18/18, 11/15/18, 04/24/19. No action items.  
**Prof Johnson moved for the approval of the Student Computer ownership Guide that was seconded and approved. He then moved for the adoption of the listed minutes; these were approved without dissent.**
  - i. Academic Integrity - Dr. Melinda McDaniel, Chair 2018-20 presented the [Annual Report](#).  
Minutes: 10/03/17, 03/12/18. No action items.  
**Dr. McDaniel moved for the adoption of the listed minutes. These were approved without dissent.**
9. Dr. Abdallah asked Prof. Joe Hughes, Chair of the Faculty Executive Board, to introduce the next item on the agenda. Joe stated this item comes as an action item from the Executive Board to place this on the agenda for the Academic Faculty Senate to consider endorsing a proposed resolution about graduate student fees. The FEB chose to approve that request; Prof Hughes is there on behalf of the FEB to make the motion for the AFS to endorse the resolution. He asked for a second that was made. Prof Hughes stated the FEB did not consider the merits of the resolution, they simply agreed to have it on the agenda.

He opened the discussion and gave the floor to Prof Joshua Weitz, who introduced himself as a Professor in Biological Sciences and Director of the Quantitative Biosciences Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. He detailed the information found in his presentation in [Attachment #6a](#) and the Resolution in [Attachment #6b](#). He stated the fees that our graduate students are asked to pay are a large percentage of the stipends these students earn as GRA and GTAs and leaves these students with very little money each month. He has worked with faculty and received signatures of support for the resolution. Prof Weitz pointed out that graduate students at GT are estimated to pay the highest fees of any AAU institution. Major factors are the Special Institutional Fee (SIF) created in 2009 and the Athletic Fees. The resolution details three requests to 1) reduce the special institutional fee, 2) eliminated the

athletic fee, and 3) request a moratorium on increases to all other graduate student fees, pending an institute-wide re-evaluation of graduate support.

Vice-Provost Bonnie Ferri shared background information about graduate fees seen in [Attachment #6c](#); she said there is a Mandatory Student Fee Advisory Committee (MSFAC) that hears proposals on student fees that include the athletic fee. This student committee makes the decisions about student fees and she is somewhat concerned that the request is to overturn the committee's decisions; she informed the attendees that the SIF is a BOR controlled fee and GT does not have the ability to control that. Dr. Ferri does agree that we all want graduate students that are GRAs and GTAs to be appropriately supported. She said there are current studies on Graduate Student Support by the Graduate SGA, the SAFAC committee, and the VPGEFD.

Prof Weitz stated the resolution is a request. The students have stated that the fact that faculty go on record supporting this initiative sends an important message.

It was pointed out that reducing fees does create a cost and impact to GT. GT does not have control over all the fees. The Provost's Office is committed to being pro-active to positively affect the lives of our graduate students. The white paper from the SGA looks at many approaches to helping the graduate student situation.

With discussions completed, Prof Hughes called for a vote. He stated this came as an action for Academic Faculty Senate members only, so only voting members of the Academic Faculty Senate are eligible to vote. A count of hands was taken with a vote of 18 yes, 1 no, and 4 abstained. The Secretary will send the resolution to the President; information is in the [Addendum](#).

10. The EVPR asked if there was any other business. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Balsam  
Secretary of the Faculty  
November 13, 2019

**Attachments:**

1. [Minutes](#) of the April 23, 2019 meeting of the Academic Faculty, Academic Faculty Senate, and a called meeting of the Faculty.
2. [Website](#) for the Georgia Tech Charitable Campaign
3. Teaching Effectiveness [presentation](#) and [report](#)
4. [Annual Reports and Minutes](#) of Standing Committees of the Faculty
  - a. Statutes [presentation](#)
5. [Annual Reports and Minutes](#) of Academic Standing Committees

- a. IGCC [presentation](#)
- b. IUCC [presentation](#)
- c. Student Regulations [presentation](#)
- d. SAFAC [presentation](#)
- e. Student Honor [presentation](#)
6. Graduate Student Fees [presentation](#), [resolution](#), VPGEFD grad fees background [information](#)

## Addendum

On Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Secretary sent the following to President Cabrera:

Good afternoon President Cabrera,

I am contacting you this afternoon as a result of an action from the Academic Faculty Senate at their meeting yesterday, October 22. They considered a “Resolution to Reduce Graduate Student Fees”.

**Background:** at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Executive Board (FEB), Professor Joshua Weitz requested this resolution be placed on the agenda for the Academic Faculty Senate (AFS) to consider. The FEB chose to approve that request and add it to the agenda.

**Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting:** As Chair of the FEB, Prof Joe Hughes was called on; he stated the agenda item comes as an action item from the FEB for the AFS to consider a proposed resolution about graduate student fees. Joe stated the FEB did not consider the merits of the resolution, they simply agreed to have it on the agenda. Joe made the motion for the AFS to endorse the resolution, it was seconded, and then there was discussion. Professor Joshua Weitz discussed graduate student fees and presented the resolution that includes three recommendations. There was discussion that included background information about fees presented by Vice-Provost Bonnie Ferri. It was pointed out there are other studies being done by the Graduate Student Government Association (Grad SGA), the Student Academic & Financial Affairs Committee (SAFAC), and the Vice-Provost’s office for Graduate Education and Academic Development.

**Vote:** When discussions were completed, Prof Hughes called for a vote. He stated this resolution came as an action for the AFS so only voting members of the AFS were eligible to vote. A count of hands was taken with a vote of 18 yes, 1 no, and 4 abstained (18-1-4).

**Resolution (attached):** I am sending you the resolution endorsed by the Academic Faculty Senate for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,  
Jeanne

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President Cabrera's email response to the Secretary on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>:

Thank you Jeanne for sharing the history and context of this resolution. As I've explained in a separate email, I empathize with the spirit of the resolution and I am committed to looking for possible solutions within our budgetary constraints. Regards, —Ángel

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President Cabrera's email response to Prof Weitz on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>:

Dear Joshua:

Thank you for your message and, more importantly, for your advocacy on behalf of our students.

I appreciate and share your desire to improve the financial situation of our graduate students. I was briefed on this matter during my first day on the job when I met with graduate student leadership. In response, among the annual goals I submitted to the Chancellor earlier this month was a commitment to produce a plan to improve the financial health of PhD students.

I have asked Provost Bras, and EVPs Fortner and Abdallah to appoint a working group to expeditiously evaluate alternatives to improve the financial condition of graduate students.

Provost Bras will reach out shortly in order to seek your input.

Sincerely,

—Ángel

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Ángel Cabrera  
President, [Georgia Tech](#)

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