SACS’ Reaffirmation QEP Selection Underway

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The 10-year reaffirmation of Georgia Tech’s accreditation is in full swing, with a major component — the selection of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for Student Learning — being addressed right now.

Five QEP concept papers were presented to the QEP Advisory Committee on Feb 11. Another round of consultation will be held on Feb. 18. Reaffirmation is the process by which Tech must prove to a review team from peer institutions via the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) that the Institute is qualified to continue to award academic credit. SACSCOC, the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the nation’s Southern states, works closely with the U.S. Department of Education.

Tech’s official reaffirmation process began last June and will continue through the end of 2015, with the on-site visit scheduled for March 2015. The Compliance Certification and the QEP for Student Learning are the two main components of the effort through which Tech reviews all policies, procedures, and programs, and chooses a special high-impact project for the next five years.

The purpose of the QEP is to enhance the quality of student learning outcomes and the environment of learning. The QEP also should be directly and traceably related to the Institute’s strategic plan. The QEP will be a funded mandate, and once selected, will result in a detailed implementation plan and budget for five to 10 years of support. More than 80 percent of the on-site review will focus on the QEP.

“For an idea to succeed as a QEP, it requires widespread buy-in from the campus community.”

The purpose of the QEP is to enhance the quality of student learning outcomes and the environment of learning.

Faculty Classification Initiative Moves Ahead

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A faculty subcommittee charged with clarifying the classification of employees at Georgia Tech has received the green light for a public reading and vote.

At last week’s monthly meeting of the Institute’s Executive Board, subcommittee chair Jeanne Balsam delivered a presentation on recommended changes to the faculty handbook that will alter the existing definitions of faculty members who can participate in faculty governance. If approved, nearly all job titles will fit one of four categories: academic faculty, research faculty, administrative officer, or staff.

Changes to the faculty handbook require two separate readings and votes of the General Faculty, the first of which is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. in the Student Center Theater. The second reading follows on April 22. All General Faculty members are allowed to attend the meeting and vote.

Though relatively straightforward, the ramifications of the reclassification proposal is approved, nearly all job titles will fit one of four categories: academic faculty, research faculty, administrative officer, or staff.

Dates Announced for President’s Spring Town Halls

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

As part of his commitment to ongoing communication, Tech President G.P. “Bud” Peterson will conduct several town halls with faculty and staff this spring.

For each, he will give a 30-minute campus update, including progress on the Institute’s 25-year strategic plan, followed by a Q&A. This is a continuation of his town hall meetings in spring 2013. The president’s ongoing communications also include a spring update in April highlighting Georgia Tech’s accomplishments for the year, which is published on his website. And each August he gives an Institute Address for the campus community. In fall 2013, he also hosted a town hall for students.

The spring 2014 town hall dates include the following:

• Feb. 20 — College of Computing, 11 a.m.-noon
• March 11 — College of Architecture, 11 a.m.-noon
• March 18 — College of Engineering, 11 a.m.-noon
• April 1 — College of Sciences, 11 a.m.-noon
• April 8 — College of Computing, 11 a.m.-noon

President Peterson’s spring town halls are scheduled for a variety of locations across campus from late February through May.

Town HALLs, continued on page 3
THE WHISTLE

ARTS & CULTURE

February 14-22
DramaTech Theater presents the premiere of the play Radical Love at the DramaTech Theater, Ferst Center for the Arts. Visit the following website for ticket info and times:
http://dramatech.org

February 20
The School of Music presents the Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band at 7:30 p.m. at the Ferst Center for the Arts. Admission is free.
www.music.gatech.edu

February 21
The final of the annual Margaret Guthman Musical Instrument Competition will be held at 7 p.m. at the Klaus Atium Advanced Computing Building.
http://guthman.gatech.edu

February 24
The Ferst Center for the Arts presents Henry and June, a children’s musical based on Cynthia Rylant’s book series, at 10 a.m. for information and ticketing, call 404-498-8000.
www.ferstcenter.gatech.edu

February 28-
March 15
www.africaatlanta.org

March 1
DramaTech Theater presents the 10th annual improv Black Box Comedy Festival at 8 p.m. at the DramaTech Theater, Ferst Center for the Arts.
http://dramatech.org

SEMINARS & LECTURES

February 20
Taby Ahlan of Tulane University will present a talk on “Engineering Biomechanical Cues to Control Stem Cell Fate” at 11 a.m. in room 1103, Whitaker Building.
www.ibb.gatech.edu

February 24
As part of the School of History, Technology, and Society Speaker Series, Susan Birell of the University of Iowa will speak on “The News from Everett” at 4 p.m. in room 104, Old EE Building.
www.hts.gatech.edu

February 26
As part of the PolicyTech Speaker Series, Margaret Kosel of the School of International Affairs will discuss her experiences in policymaking and advising the Department of Defense at noon in the Ferst Room, Library.
http://c.gatech.edu/12bf90

Campus News

Musical Competition Set for Feb 20-21

In the world of new musical instrument design, the name Guthman has become synonymous with innovation.

With this annual competition, Georgia Tech offers Atlanta a rare opportunity to come and experience advancements in musical instrument design, engineering, and performance.

The Margaret Guthman Musical Instrument Competition, which is open to the public and will be held Feb. 20-21, brings entrants from all over the world to Tech to compete for $50,000 in prizes.

The finals will be held on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

The competition is just one event that will be held as part of the Tech Arts Festival. It is sponsored by the Center for Music Technology, the School of Music, and the College of Architecture.

Twenty-two inventors, composers, and designers, representing 14 nations, were selected to present their new instruments at this year’s competition. They were selected from a pool of more than 80 applicants from 20 countries — the most competitive pool in the history of the competition.

Instruments will be judged on their musicality, design, and engineering by an expert panel comprised of David Ziparelli (founder and CEO of Cycling 74), Chris Moore (composer, performer, and Tech professor), and Young Guru (Grammy-nominated engineer to Jay-Z).

The instruments featured in the 2014 competition range from cutting edge to bizarre and all expand the notion of what a musical instrument can be.

And creative inventors from all over the world will have their ideas evaluated by our expert panel.

Wired.com has called it the “X-Prize for music,” and contestants have likened it to a TED Conference for new musical instrument designers.

Peter Kern of Create Digital Music observed that in “the crowded world of new instrument design, the Margaret Guthman Musical Instrument Competition has emerged as a key prize for the best work, with creations battling fiercely for attention.”

http://guthman.gatech.edu

10 Facts About Reaffirmation

• The efforts are being chaired by Dean Catherine Murray-Rust, SACSCOC liaison for Georgia Tech.
• The two main components are Compliance Certification and a Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for Student Learning.
• Five QEP concept papers were presented in February 2014.
• A QEP will be selected in March 2014.
• A compliance report is due in September 2014.
• The formal reaffirmation will take place October-November 2014.
• The QEP and response to the report from an off-site review is due December 2014-January 2015.
• The onsite SACS visit will be March 9-12, 2015.
• The formal ruling on reaffirmation will occur in December 2015.

10 Facts About Reaffirmation, continued from page 1

such a change will also lead to modifications in governance at Georgia Tech. Each faculty group, for example, will have its own body — an Academic Faculty Senate and a Research Faculty Senate — for reviewing policies and practices specific to their institutional role. They will also meet collectively on matters of mutual interest, and as such, will constitute the Faculty Senate.

The subcommittee has also advocated for the creation of a staff council and a postdoctoral association. Each of these proposed entities has its own working group developing a proposal for leadership review.

The changes are meant to clear up lingering ambiguities surrounding the “general faculty” status, a designation not traditionally recognized within academia. The subcommittee first devised definitions for academic and research faculty then, with the Office of Human Resources, reviewed every job title and job description and sorted positions accordingly. Anyone losing general faculty status will retain their current rate of leave accrual and, if serving on an elected faculty committee, complete their term of service.

These changes don’t represent an end point in how Tech enacts faculty governance,” said Balsam, also principal research associate at GTRI. "It is one step in a process. While our focus has been on addressing faculty categories, our hope is for greater advocacy among all segments of the community.

For example, she said, the creation of a staff council will be the first organization representing this cohort. In addition, there are suggestions to create a task force to represent postdoctoral and visiting faculty, two groups who have previously had no formal voice or representation.

Find a draft of the 2014 Faculty Handbook at http://c.gatech.edu/MLX7QU

CLASSIFICATION, continued from page 1

10 percent of faculty). And the concepts all traced directly back to the strategic plan — which was the result of deliberations by thousands of faculty, staff, and students over a period of a couple of years.”

The Student Government Association and other student constituencies are being consulted and will be fully involved in the refinement and definition of the QEP, according to Potts.

“There are already obvious ties to many student societies, majors, and labs, as well as outreach to external organizations,” he added. “I’m confident that the QEP that emerges will reflect the One Georgia Tech message.”

The QEP will be defined by early March and is due to SACSCOC by December 2014. The current QEP Advisory Committee will grow and change in membership once a QEP is selected. By September 2014, Tech will provide a self-study of its compliance — 93 core requirements and principles — encompassing the spectrum of activities on campus. The gathering of this information will be managed by a Compliance Steering Committee of campus administrators.

“The purpose of the reaffirmation process, which justifies all the time and effort by the hundreds of people involved, is to make Georgia Tech a better, stronger institution of higher learning,” said Catherine Murray-Rust, vice provost for Learning, Dean of Libraries, and Tech’s SACSCOC accreditation liaison. “In addition to a clear reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC at the end of 2015, our goal is to have a very clear action agenda for improvement, which is aligned with the strategic plan.”

Events continued on page 3

Published biweekly throughout the academic year and the summer by Georgia Tech Student Communications. Calendar submissions emailed to editor@cemm.gatech.edu, or faxed to 404-894-7214, must be sent at least 10 days prior to desired publication date. Classified ads are run in this section or representation.

http://c.gatech.edu/MLX7QU

http://guthman.gatech.edu

http://guthman.gatech.edu

http://guthman.gatech.edu
Instructors Wanted for Fall GT1000 Sections

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Lynda Byrne volunteers to teach GT1000 because it provides her with an opportunity to interact with students — something she generally doesn’t get to do as the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering national education program manager.

“I have been an instructor for my entire professional career; until recently,” she said, “In my new position, I work with K-12 educators, university faculty, and corporate sponsors; however, I found more and more that I missed the interaction with students that can only come from being in the classroom. So, last year, I read about GT1000 in The Whistle and applied to be one of the volunteer instructors for fall 2013.”

If you’re interested in teaching a section of the GT1000 Freshman Seminar in fall 2014, now is your chance. The Center for Academic Enrichment is currently seeking faculty and staff members to teach.

The one-credit seminar helps new first-year students adjust to college life, learn about their majors and related careers, and introduces them to campus resources. Each section has between 20 and 25 students, and instructors are assisted by students known as “team leaders,” adds Nirmal Trivedi, director, Academic Transition Programs.

“We welcome people from any department at Georgia Tech; provided they have a minimum of a master’s degree in any field, have been employed at Tech for a year as of this summer, and have the support of their department,” he said. “If a staff member has a bachelor’s degree, he or she may serve as a co-instructor in a section, provided we can find a primary instructor who has a master’s degree.”

Stephanie Johnston, executive assistant to the Institute’s president, also taught her first GT1000 class this past fall.

“I volunteered because I wanted to connect with the student community, learn more about Georgia Tech, and feel involved with campus,” she said. “I think watching the students evolve from nervous freshmen to confident college students was the most satisfying part of my experience.”

The Center for Academic Enrichment provides the course curriculum, resources, and training, and the time commitment is usually a minimum of two to three hours per week — an hour of class and one to two hours of administrative work.

During the summer, the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the Center for Academic Enrichment hosts a training program for all new and returning instructors.

“For me, I found being back in the classroom personally satisfying,” Byrne said. “Working with Dr. Trivedi and others associated with GT1000 was a pleasure. They work hard to make the instructor’s transition into the program as seamless as possible.

The deadline to apply is April 18, but applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information, email Trivedi at gt1000@gatech.edu.
www.gt1000.gatech.edu

Buzzworthy Achievements

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

These employees and units have received honors in recent months:

• Bob Canada of the Department of Housing received the Procurement Officer of the Year award from the Governmental Procurement Association of Georgia.

• Marilyn Somers, director of the Living History Program, received the 2013 Award for Excellence in Alumni Relations from the Georgia Education Advancement Council.


• Ravi Bellamkonda, the Wallace H. Coulter Professor and Department Chair in Biomedical Engineering, has been selected to receive the Society for Biomaterials’ Clemson Award for Applied Research.

• Baabak Ashuri, assistant professor in the School of Building Construction, was recently named to Engineering News Record Southeast’s “Top 20 Under 40” List for 2014.

• Cheryl LaFoy, director of event operations for the Georgia Tech Athletic Association, received a Georgia Tech Police Department Community Partner Award.

• Kelly Comfor, an associate professor in the School of Modern Languages, won a Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award for 2013.

• The College of Computing won the 2013 Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award for an Outstanding Department.

• Matt Nagel, director of media relations and issues management in Institute Communications, has been selected to join the National Press Club.

• Byong-Hwang “Fred” Juang, Motorola Foundation Chair Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

• Ellen Zagura, professor in the College of Computing, has been named an Association for Computing Machinery Fellow.

• Mark Edward Hay, professor in the School of Biology; Hang Lu, professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering; Suresh Menon, professor in the School of Aerospace Engineering; and Henrik Christensen, professor in the School of Interactive Computing, have been elected American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows.

Award information is accepted on an ongoing basis. Provide name, title, unit, and honor (spell out acronyms) to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

TOWN HALLS, continued from page 1

Technology Square Research Building auditorium.

- Feb. 27 — College of Architecture, 11 a.m.-noon, Reinsch-Pierce Auditorium, Architecture East Building.

- March 4 — Biomedical Engineering, 11 a.m.-noon, Room 1103, Whitaker Building.

- March 11 — Materials Science and Engineering, 4-5 p.m., Room 3515, Manufacturing Related Disciplines Complex.

- March 12 — GTRI, 11 a.m.-noon, location TBD.

- March 13 — EIL, 4:5 p.m., Hodges Room, Centergy Building.

- April 3 — Ivan Allen College, 11 a.m.-noon, location TBD.

- May 14 — Town hall open to all staff, time and location TBD.

http:// president.gatech.edu
The Court to the Classroom: Mary McDonald

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

A coach — that’s what Mary McDonald dreamed about becoming when she was a little girl. And for about nine years of her career, she made that dream a reality.

“I was a college basketball player, so it made sense to go into coaching and negotiate women’s basketball,” said McDonald, the Homer Rice Chair in Sports and Society in the School of History, Technology, and Society (HTS). “What I really loved was to get to see people learn and progress. What I didn’t enjoy was recruiting.”

McDonald always felt students should attend a university because it was a good academic fit — not because of athletics. Also, she was a “budding sociologist” who was increasingly interested in the implications sports had on society.

“So, I left my position as head coach of the women’s team at Bemidji State University to go to the University of Iowa and earn my Ph.D.,” McDonald added. “Since I grew up in the era right after Title IX was established, I was really interested in how gender impacts sports, so that became my research focus and has been for more than 19 years."

After spending several years teaching in the Sports Studies Program at Miami University in Ohio, McDonald was invited to head Georgia Tech’s new initiative in sports, society, and technology in HTS.

She arrived in Atlanta in fall 2013 and has already been successful at creating an academic minor in sports studies for undergraduates. Read on for more about McDonald and her Tech experience.

Describe your job.

“I’m currently teaching an undergraduate course on gender and sports a few times a week. Since the class topic is the focus of my research, it’s an enjoyable one for me to teach. In addition to working with students, conducting my research, and serving on various Institute committees, I spend a lot of time trying to connect people at Tech who are doing sports-related research. I’m trying to put together more panels and lectures that highlight what we’re doing.”

Tell us more about your research focus.

“Have you ever stopped to think about the fact that sports are one of the last areas of our society that are segregated by gender? Thinking about the whys of this are what fascinate me and led me to focus on this question of how gender and sports influence each other.

What is one of the misconceptions people have about sports?

“For most universities, college sports aren’t a huge moneymaker. As a matter of fact, only a handful of universities bring in more money than what they spend on their sports programs.

Where is your favorite spot on campus?

“I love to hold meetings at Highlander Bakery. It’s a comfortable space with great food."

What is the greatest risk you’ve ever taken?

“Making the transition from coaching to teaching, I didn’t know if people in higher education would take me seriously — but thankfully, they did."

Where is your favorite place to eat lunch?

“Della’s Chicken Sausage Stand, and I usually order something that I can only describe as chili dog-like."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

“I enjoy traveling. Paris is one of my favorite spots. Eating is also a favorite activity, and I have to say that I love the collard greens around here. Growing up in Ohio, I was deprived. And you can also find me in front of the TV watching Mad Men or Downtown Abbey.”

Mary McDonald came to Tech in fall 2013 to head the new initiative in sports, society, and technology in the School of History, Technology, and Society.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

“The FSAP is not an emergency service, McSorley explained, too, that the practice of never acknowledging clients should be known — having been in the business for so long, McSorley said. And she should know — having been in the business for so long.

Though FSAP is primarily an assessment and referral service, there is the option for an employee to receive counseling beyond the three face-to-face sessions in one year. At that point, FSAP refers the employee to external resources for continued care.

“Through FSAP is primarily an assessment and referral service, there is the option for an employee to receive counseling beyond the three sessions from FSAP interns satisfying their critical hours requirement. With regard to management’s involvement, McSorley says if a manager feels an employee may benefit from FSAP support, the manager can reach out to FSAP to offer an employee encouragement and referral. When an employee feels better, they can then be referred to an external resource."

“We empower the manager to empower the employee,” McSorley said.

The FSAP is not an emergency service, though, so employees are urged to call at the earliest sign of a concern. That way, the situation can be assessed and a plan of action determined before the situation becomes a crisis."

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS POPULAR EMPLOYEE BENEFIT

BRITTIGE ESPINET
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

With confidentiality at its core, the Faculty Staff and Assistance Program (FSAP) may be one of the best-kept secrets around campus. But not really.

According to FSAP Director Anne McSorley, the assessment and referral counseling program is well utilized throughout the Tech community.

“Even beyond the academic institution arena, we’re actually above industry average in terms of usage,” McSorley said. And she should know — having been in the business for some 25 years.

To what does she attribute the popularity of Tech’s program? That same core tenet: “The FSAP is not an emergency service, McSorley explained, too, that the practice of never acknowledging clients should be known — having been in the business for so long.

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REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES

3BR/2.5BA bonus room (2 SBA) 2.54 sq. ft. in Sandy Springs, 30305. Master bedroom is a quiet neighborhood. Rent is $1,250 or $1,795,000, available now. Customer-driven technology localization, Hardwood and neutral plush carpet; privacy-fencing backyard; master and laundry on main. Only 17 miles from Tech (1-2.5). Call 404-384-5571.

3BR/2.5BA peaceful, furnished, waterfront cottage along the south side of Lake Lanier (Morsehead City, N.C.). $750/week, Wi-Fi, central A/C, W/D, hammock, and 400-foot dock. Boat slips. NO SMOKING OR PETS. More info available at http://travelagentexperts.com/usa/154 or email justnady@gatech.edu.

2BR/1BA condo in Andmore Park, Midtown/Buckhead area, $100K Central A/C, heat, wood floors, washer/dryer, and two off-street parking spaces. Walking distance to restaurants/museums. Call Rhonda at 678-366-7846.

Roommate needed to share 2BR/1BA condo in Sky Lotts in West End. Gated with underground parking. Washer/dryer in unit, stainless steel appliances, and hardwood floors. $625 plus electricity. Call 404-627-9196.

Wanted: Single bedroom apartment near MARTA station from May 1 to June 30, 2014. Email lisheara@gmail.com.

MISCALLANEOUS

Xerox ColorQube 8570 laser printer with extra set of CMYK, sold in blocks. NEARLY NEW. Works great for office, home, and school. Contact www.krazyaboutkats.com, jgiles@cc.gatech.edu, or marilyn.smith@ae.gatech.edu.

Canondale Mountain/Road Bike. Magnum model, Wheel pinion release, Derailleur drivetrain, warranty, more. Purchased about 2000 and rarely used. Seat has had a lot of use. $450 OBO. Call 678-642-691.


URC registered XL pitbull tan and blue pups for sale. Four males and five females. Born on Jan. 13. Starting at $2,000 (vegetable). Both parents on premises. Contact Vic at 678-468-5246; vicdevalia@gmail.com.

Almost new Kate Spade hard shell case for iPhone 4 and 4S, black with white polka dots on back and hot pink and black on sides. No scratches. $20. Email alsavoil@gmail.com.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

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