

Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB) Annual Report, 2011-2012

Alec Peck, ATAB Chair

The Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB) is the voice of the faculty in matters related to academic technology at B.C. As a committee of the Office of the Provost, ATAB partners with ITS and other technology providers to plan, implement, and evaluate academic technology initiatives. ATAB also distributes funds from the Academic Technology Fund in response to proposals for creative and innovative uses of technology by faculty.

Membership of ATAB as of September, 2011:

- Stephanie Berzin (GSSW)
- Michael Connolly (A&S, Slavic/Eastern Languages and FMRC)
- Evan Kantrowitz (A&S, Chemistry)
- Clare O'Connor (A&S, Biology)
- Mei Xue (CSOM)
- Rita Owens (Office of the Provost)
- Alec Peck (LSOE, Chair)
- Robert Signorile (A&S, Computer Science)
- John Stachniewicz (STM, Dean's Office)
- Thomas Wall (University Libraries)
- Amy Smith (CSON)
- Fillipa Anzalone (Law)

Activities and Initiatives:

ATAB enjoys a close relationship with Michael Bourque, Boston College CIO. Mike attended 2 meetings with all ATAB members during 2011-12. Furthermore, regular updating of progress on IT efforts related to various projects effecting academic technology occurred during monthly meetings with Don Hafner, Rita Owens, and Alec Peck, convened specifically to discuss academic technology issues. Alec Peck and Rita Owens also represent ATAB on the IT Project Review Committee. Finally, Alec Peck was the keynote presenter at the all-ITS annual meeting in June, 2012.

The Faculty Technology Contacts (FTCs) are a subcommittee of ATAB that involves approximately 20 additional members of the B.C. faculty in monthly meetings to discuss academic technology issues. Under the leadership of Michael Connolly, the committee hears from users about the day-to-day issues that impact technology users and discusses some of the larger technology initiatives that the university undertakes.

Continuing a practice which began during 2009-10, each monthly ATAB meeting hosted a previous ATIG grantee who demonstrated the results of their ATIG. This proved useful in discussions of new ATIG proposals since members were better able to understand the potential impact of proposed projects after viewing some of those that had previously been funded.

The ATAB also received status reports and provided feedback on a variety of topics impacting academic technology on campus, including:

- student e-mail proposals
- implementation of the new MediaKron project
- implementation of the Citrix proposal
- new Learning Management System pilots
- use of tablet computers for teaching

ATAB members also devoted one meeting this year to reviewing the nature and status of all previous grants. (See data below.) The purpose of this review was to investigate the distribution of grants across schools and departments, the general purpose of grants previously awarded, and to ascertain whether a shift in funding priorities had occurred over time. Overall, the ATAB felt that distribution had been equitable across schools and that there was a reasonable mix of research and teaching grants. However, it was decided that a new format for proposals will be instated in 2012-13, one which will clearly ask faculty to address ATAB's priority for proposals that impact students in some way.

ATAB_funded Proposals, 2007-2012

Recipients	School	Department	Year	Type	Category
Barnett, Michael	LSOE	LSOE	Fall 2007	ATIG	Tool
Bruner, Stephen	A&S	Chemistry	Fall 2007	ATIG	Tool
Frappier, Amy	A&S	Geology	Fall 2007	ATIG	Product
Gallagher, Sheila	A&S	Fine Arts	Fall 2007	ATIG	Website
Jin, Seung-A	A&S	Communications	Fall 2007	ATIG	Product
Kantrowitz, Evan	A&S	Chemistry	Fall 2007	ATIG	Tool
O'Connor, Clare	A&S	Biology	Fall 2007	ATIG	Tool
Wood, Robin	CSON	CSON	Fall 2007	ATIG	Product
Signorile, Bob	A&S	Computer Science	Spring 2008	ATIG	Product
Lee, Kathy	A&S	Romance Languages	Spring 2008	ATIG	Product
Livon-Grosman, E.	A&S	Romance Languages	Spring 2008	ATIG	Tool
O'Leary, Michael	CSOM	CSOM	Spring 2008	ATIG	Product
Olivieri, Peter	A&S	Computer Science	Spring 2008	ATIG	Tool
Wood, Robin	CSON	CSON	Spring 2008	ATIG	Product
Liang, Belle	LSOE	LSOE	Spring 2008	ATIG	Website
Nugent, Joe	A&S	English	Fall 2008	ATIG	Website
Rusch, Debbie	A&S	Romance Languages	Fall 2008	ATIG	Website

Karmely, Maritza	LAW	Law	Fall 2008	ATIG	Product
Kantrowitz, Evan	A&S	Chemistry	Spring 2009	ATIG	Tool
Ebel, John	A&S	Geology	Spring 2009	ATIG	Product
Peck, Alec	LSOE	LSOE	Spring 2009	ATIG	Product
Hesse-Biber, S.	A&S	Sociology	Spring 2009	ATIG	Product
Mathieu, Paula	A&S	English	Spring 2009	ATIG	Product
Naughton, Michael	A&S	Physics	Spring 2009	ATIG	Product
Simonelli, Mary C.	CSON	CSON	Spring 2009	ATIG	Product
Livon-Grosman, E.	A&S	Romance Languages	Spring 2009	ATIG	Tool
Baglivo, Jenny	A&S	Math	Fall 2010	ATIG	Tool
Jin, Seung-A	A&S	Communications	Fall 2010	ATIG	Product
Burgess, Ann	CSON	CSON	Fall 2010	ATIG	Website
Laski, Elida	LSOE	LSOE	Fall 2010	ATIG	Product
Berzin, Stephanie	GSSW	GSSW	Spring 2011	ATIG	Product
Clarke, Jeremy	A&S	History	Spring 2011	ATIG	Website
Lewis, Paul	A&S	English	Spring 2011	ATIG	Website
Duggan, Ashley	A&S	Communications	Spring 2011	ATIG	Product
Barnett, Michael	LSOE	LSOE	Spring 2011	ATIG	Tool
Moseman, Serena (Hitchcock, C.)	A&S	Biology	Spring 2011	ATIG	Product
Nugent, Joe	A&S	English	Spring 2012	ATIG	Tool
Martinez, Ana	LSOE	LSOE	Spring 2012	ATIG	Product
Jackson, Richard	LSOE	LSOE	Spring 2012	ATIG	Tool
Noone, Michael	A&S	Music	Spring 2012	ATIG	Website
Shirley, Dennis	LSOE	LSOE	Spring 2012	ATIG	Website

ATAB put out an online Call for Proposals for Academic Technology Innovation Grants (ATIGs) in December 2011, with a due date of March 15, 2012. Continuing the process begun in 2009-10, applicants were asked to contact Cristina Joy early in the proposal development process so that a technology consultant could be assigned to the project. This resulted in proposals that were less likely to request technology that already was in use elsewhere on campus.

After review and discussion by ATAB, the following proposals were accepted:

ATIG FY'13		
Name	Title	Total
Ana Martinez Aleman	Promoting first-generation college student success: Using online social networking, digital gaming, and iPad2 technology to enhance academic support and engagement in Options	\$67,000

	Through Education (OTE) students.	
Richard Jackson	Boston College UDL	\$36,174
Michael Noone	Toledo Cathedral's Polyphonic Choirbooks: An Online Catalogue and Interactive Instructional Website	\$31,500
Joe Nugent	Digital Dubliners	\$3500
Dennis Shirley	The Mindful Teacher	\$51,500
		\$189,674

ATAB also set aside monies for 2 “focused projects”. These projects had separate competitions for small grants to participate in the use (and evaluation) of an innovative new technology.

The first focused project was the “iPad Project”. Twenty-seven faculty from departments across the university were selected and were given iPads for use in their courses during the Spring term, 2012. They also participated in ongoing discussions of the use of the device, and attended monthly training / discussion sessions. ATAB learned much about the value of these devices in the teaching environment, and decided to allocate a small amount of additional funding to continue aspects of the project in Fall 2012.

The second focused project was a MediaKron support project. While most of the funding for MediaKron at BC is received from the Davis Foundation, ATAB recognized that there was a need for some small faculty incentives and graduate student support for BC faculty who were undertaking MediaKron projects.

A new focused project for 2012-13 will be an iBooks Author project. This competition has already been held and grant recipients have been selected, but the project is actually a 2012-13 project and will be reported in that year's annual report.

Finally, ATAB decided to continue funding Exploratory Technology Grants (ETGs), which had previously been funded on a pilot basis. The purpose of ETGs is to encourage faculty to explore emerging technology or the development of what could become a major ATIG project. These small grants differ from ATIGs in significant ways. First, they are limited to no more than \$3,000. Second, they require a brief on-line application that is evaluated by ATAB within a few weeks. Third, proposals are accepted year-round. Finally, funds may be used for a summer stipend of up to \$1,000.

Five ETGs were funded during 2011-12, and the response from faculty was very positive. Six proposals were received during the year, a few of which may be carried over into FY 2012-13.

Three issues of the Faculty Technology Newsletter, edited by Richard Jensen, were produced during the 2011-12 academic year. This on-line newsletter keeps faculty abreast of new developments and opportunities to use technology in their teaching and research.

The ATAB membership for 2012-2013 will be:

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- Michael Connolly (A&S, Slavic/Eastern Languages and FMRC)
- Evan Kantrowitz (A&S, Chemistry)
- Clare O'Connor (A&S, Biology)
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