

# Academic Technology Advisory Board Annual Report

**2016-2017**

*Clare M. O'Connor, 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, the B.C. Libraries 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, 2016***

In keeping with the charter, members are appointed by the Provost for 3-year terms which can be automatically renewed for an additional 3 years after which, by mutual agreement, an additional 3-year term can be served.

- Akua Sarr (Provost's Office) - *ex officio*
- Stephanie Berzin (GSSW) - *2nd year of 1st term*
- Michael Connolly (A&S, Slavic/Eastern & FMRC) - *ex officio via FMRC*
- Clare O'Connor (A&S, Biology, Chair) - *1st year of 2nd term*
- Mei Xue (CSOM) - *2nd year of 1st term*
- Robert Signorile (A&S, Computer Science) - *3rd year of 1st term*
- John Stachniewicz (Law School) - *3rd year of 1st term*
- Filippa Anzalone (Law School) - *3rd year of 1st term*
- Kimberly Kowal - *ex officio via BC libraries*
- Amy Smith (CSON) - *2nd year of 1st term*
- John Rakestraw (CTE) - *ex officio via CTE*
- James Slotta (LSOE) - *1st year of 1st term*
- Dunwei Wang (Chemistry) - *1st year of 1st term*
- Scott Cann (ITS) & Cristina Joy (CTE) attend as non-voting members

Some new appointments will be needed for the 2017-2018 academic year.

- Bob Signorile has announced his intention to retire within the next 3 years.
- The School of Technology and Ministry is not represented on the board. John Stachniewicz served as the STM representative prior to his transfer to the Law School.
- The Woods College is not represented on the board.

## ***Activities, Initiatives, and Collaborations***

The 90-minute monthly ATAB meetings typically include:

- Presentations by former recipients of ATIGs or ETGs, during which they report on successes, challenges, and opportunities to parlay those grants into larger external funding by federal or private agencies.
- Updates from ITS and the CTE on current and planned projects that have implications for academic activities on campus.
- Progress reports on faculty cohorts working with the CTE
- Discussion of grant proposals for ATIGs and ETGs
- ATAB business matters (schedules, solicitations, priorities, special projects, etc.)

### ***ATAB Collaborations***

#### *ITS*

Scott Cann (ITS) attends all ATAB meetings, and he informs ATAB of all new ITS initiatives that might impact academic technology at BC. ATAB also enjoys a close relationship with Michael Bourque, BC CIO, who presented at the June, 2017, ATAB meeting. Reciprocally, Clare O'Connor (ATAB Chair) represented ATAB and academic concerns at the ITS Project Review Committee meetings. Stephanie Berzin represents the faculty on the classroom technology sub-committee of ITS.

#### *BC Libraries*

Kimberly Kowal represents the BC libraries at ATAB meetings and discusses library collaborations with ITS and new or revised policies and projects impacting faculty. The Library has expanded its Digital Scholarship which is working with faculty on several projects.

#### *CTE*

Cristina Joy is the Director of Teaching and Learning Technologies in the CTE. She gives monthly updates on projects underway in the CTE. Some examples include the Canvas learning management system, Panopto lecture capture, Zoom video conferencing and personal response systems. Reciprocally, Michael Connolly and Clare O'Connor serve on the advisory committee for Canvas.

#### *FTCs*

The Faculty Technology Contacts (FTCs) are a subcommittee of ATAB that involves approximately 20 additional faculty 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 faculty technology users and discusses some of the larger technology initiatives that the university undertakes. Scott Cann and Cristina Joy represent ITS and the CTE at FTC meetings.

## ***ATIGs, ETGs, and Special Projects***

One of the major activities of ATAB is the evaluation of faculty proposals for Academic Technology Innovation Grants (ATIGs), special projects, and Exploratory Technology Grants (ETGs).

### *ATIGs*

ATIGs are typically 2-year grants. Funds for the second year are carried forward into the next fiscal year's budget. The accompanying tables summarize ATIG grants (FY16) that were completed in spring, 2017, ATIG grants awarded in spring, 2016 (FY17) and newly awarded ATIG grants for FY18. The budgets for FY18 are being finalized.

ATAB plans to hold a second fall call for grants that will be targeted to faculty members who have not received previous ATAB support.

### *Special projects*

ATAB has supported faculty cohorts who are using academic technologies to prepare course materials. The cohort activities are supported by the CTE staff. Faculty members receive a \$2500 stipend for their participation. ATAB also provides a resource budget to support the cohort activities. During FY17, ATAB supported two cohorts. Members of these cohorts and their projects are listed in the accompanying tables.

- A cohort of 13 faculty members used Media Kron to develop course resources.
- A cohort of 9 faculty members are developing hybrid (combination online and face-to-face courses).

In FY18, ATAB will support a cohort of 9 faculty members who will use learning analytics to enhance student learning in their courses. The group will make use of the detailed data provided by Canvas on a daily basis.

### *Exploratory Technology Grants*

ETGs are capped at \$3,000 and are reviewed on a rolling basis. ETG projects must be completed within four months, and the budgets do not carry forward to the next fiscal year. The number of ETGs vary widely. Only one ETG was awarded in FY17 to Kathleen Bailey. This ETG introduced simulation exercises into her political science class. This ETG was highly successful and has provided the basis for a FY18 ATIG.

### ***Other ATAB initiatives***

Due to a change in accounting practices for ATAB funds, ATAB was able to purchase equipment that will support a variety of technology projects on campus. These include

- Updated video equipment for recording studio
- Captioning support for online videos used in courses
- Solstice wireless projection pilot
  - 25 wireless units
  - installation of digital projector in Higgins 465 seminar room
- Four video home loaner kits for faculty use (camera, microphone, teleprompter)
- Hardware to support Berzin ATIG

**Projects supported by ATAB funding in FY 17**

**Year 2 ATIG projects originally funded in FY16 - completed**

| <b>P.I.</b>                  | <b>Funded</b> | <b>Title</b>   |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Brian Quinn (Law)            | \$18,000      | Corporations - Modules - LLC   |
| Richard Jackson (LSOE)       | \$7012        | BC UDL initiative - Building a model for leadership  |
| Rebecca Lowenhaupt (LSOE)    | \$17,900      | Using technology to prepare instructional leaders for K-12 schools   |
| Mandy Li (CSOM)              | \$13,000      | Technology enhanced teaching: Animated visual demonstration of statistical concepts and animation                        |
| John Michalczyk (Fine Arts)  | \$5,200       | Digital innovations in sound and animation   |
| Henrick Hagdvedt (CSOM)      | \$9500        | Consumer insights panel  |
| Thomas Crea (GSSW)           | \$28,000      | Action learning for research: Building groups to bridge research and practice  |
| Mike Barnett (LSOE)          | \$35,000      | Connecting youth and mentors: Improving the STEM career pipeline through mobile e-mentoring technology                   |
| John Rakestraw (CTE)         | \$20,000      | Personal response system modernization pilot   |
| Kafka (EES)/Barnett (LSOE)   | \$25,000      | Engaging Boston College undergraduates in communicating science to the public  |
| Michael Russell (Psychology) | \$7,000       | Exploring the use of TAO to support teaching, learning and research on assessment  |
| Michael Noone (Music)        | \$39,950      | The encoded Franciscan antiphoner first book of Masses: an open access digital source for music pedagogy and scholarship |

**Exploratory technology grants funded in FY17 - completed**

| <b>P.I.</b>     | <b>Funded</b> | <b>Title</b>  |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| Kathleen Bailey | \$3,000       | Introducing simulation into the Comparative Politics of the Middle East |

## Projects supported by ATAB funding in FY 17

### Year 1 ATIG projects - in progress

| <b>P.I.</b>                      | <b>Funded</b> | <b>Title</b>   |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Joseph Nugent (English)          | \$19,626      | Immersive Ulysses  |
| Steven Runge (Library)           | \$8,213       | Online library instruction program   |
| Martin Scanlan (LSOE)            | \$17,650      | Universal design for learning leadership   |
| Jean-Luc Solere (Philosophy)     | \$8,000       | Mapping Spinoza's ethics - stage 2   |
| Dunwei Wang (Chemistry)          | \$14,000      | Thermal imaging studio: Engaging non-science majors in energy analysis with technology                     |
| Mike Barnett (LSOE)              | \$23,542      | Invention studio: Where students solve problems through technology   |
| Stephanie Berzin (GSSW)          | \$35,000      | Harnessing technology for homeless families  |
| Sheila Gallagher (Fine Arts)     | \$6,310       | Expanded practices in animation and web design: An integrated approach between studio art and film studies |
| Robert Muller (Computer Science) | \$25,400      | Code: From algebra to algorithms   |

## Projects slated for ATAB funding in FY 18

| <b>P.I.</b>                         | <b>Title</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Kathleen Bailey (Political Science) | Simulation Exercises in the Classroom  |
| Belle Liang                         | MAPP (Meaning and Purpose App): Digitizing Habits of the Mind, Heart and Imagination                     |
| Donald McKaughan (Philosophy)       | Animating HPS: Connecting Undergraduates to the History and Philosophy of Science                        |
| Mike Barnett (LSOE)                 | Next Generation STEM Learning: Blending Materials Science, Electronics, and the Internet of Things       |
| Joshua Hartshorne (Psychology)      | Using machine learning and computational linguistics to facilitate student placement in language courses |
| Alan Kafka (Earth Env. Sciences)    | The Pulse of the Earth: Classroom Simulation Technology for Teaching Seismology in Geoscience Courses    |

## Faculty cohorts - 2017 academic year

### Media Kron projects

| <b>Faculty member</b> | <b>Department</b> | <b>Course project</b>   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Daniel Bowles         | German            | History of German Literature  |
| James Bretzke         | STM               | Cross-cultural Christian Ethics                                       |
| Cynthia Torres        | Romance Languages | Crossing Borders: Frontiers and Identity in Latin American Literature |
| Belle Liang           | LSOE              | Adolescent Psychology   |
| Ernesto Livon-Grosman | Romance Languages | The Latin American Democracy  |
| Karen Miller          | History           | Montgomery Bus Boycott  |
| Katherine Mooney      | STM               | Pope and the Papacy   |
| Christopher Polt      | Classics          | Virgil  |
| Nelson Portillo       | LSOE              | Gender Roles  |
| Rita Rosenthal        | Communication     | Persuasion  |
| Sarah Ross            | History           | Europe in the World I   |
| Samantha Teixeira     | GSSW              | Human Behavior and the Social Environment                             |
| Robin Wood            | CSON              | Health Assessment across the Lifespan                                 |

### Hybrid Course projects

| <b>Faculty member</b> | <b>Department</b>            | <b>Course project</b>                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Jessica Black         | GSSW                         | Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience in Life |
| Vincent Cho           | LSOE                         | Research Design I                             |
| Mary Cronin           | CSOM                         | Digital Commerce                              |
| Ikram Easton          | Slavic and Eastern Languages | Elementary Arabic                             |
| Nicole Eaton          | History                      | Europe in the World II                        |
| Larry Ludlow          | LSOE                         | Interpretation and Evaluation of Research     |
| Sam Richardson        | Economics                    | Principles of Macroeconomics                  |
| Laura Rumbley         | LSOE                         | Regional Perspectives on Higher Education     |
| Martin Scanlan        | LSOE                         | Topics in Catholic Education                  |