

Academic Technology Advisory Board Annual Report

2017-2018

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, 2017

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.

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

Activities, Initiatives, and Collaborations

ATAB meets monthly for ~90 minutes. Meetings typically include:

- Presentations by former recipients of ATIGs or ETGs
- 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 meets with the committee at the last meeting of the year. Reciprocally, the ATAB Chair represents ATAB and academic concerns at the ITS Project Review Committee and ITS Advisory Board meetings.

BC Libraries

Kimberly Kowal, Associate Librarian for Digital Initiatives and Services, represents the BC libraries at ATAB meetings and discusses library collaborations with ITS and new or revised policies and projects impacting faculty. The Library's Digital Scholarship Group is working with faculty on multiple projects and leading a faculty cohort on Geospatial Information Systems.

CTE

Cristina Mirshekari is the Director of Teaching and Learning Technologies in the CTE. She gives monthly updates on projects underway in the CTE. Reciprocally, Michael Connolly serves on the advisory committee for Canvas.

FTCs

The Faculty Technology Contacts (FTCs) are a subcommittee of ATAB that includes ~20 faculty members. The FTCs meet monthly 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 Mirshekari represent ITS and the CTE, respectively, at FTC meetings.

ATAB grant programs and special projects

ATAB sponsors 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. There are two calls for ATIG proposals. The spring call, which is open to all full-time faculty, awards grants with a maximum of \$40,000. The fall call is restricted to new investigators, designed as faculty who had not received an ATIG grant within the last 3 years. The maximum award for new investigator grants was set at \$20,000. The charts below summarize ATIG awards made during the past academic year.

**Academic Technology Innovation Grants (FY18)
(Fall, 2017, call for new investigators)**

| Investigator | Dept. or School | Project Title |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Kristen Bottema-Beutel | LSOE | Building capacity for geospatial mapping research in LSOE |
| Babak Momeni | Biology (MCAS) | Compiling an interdisciplinary online database of microbial interactions |
| Mary Cronin | CSOM | Innovating university teaching across disciplines with smart voice-activated devices like Amazon Echo |
| Jon Wargo | LSOE | Building a better teacher: Exploring the nexus of makerspace technologies and problem-based learning |

**Academic Technology Innovation Grants (FY19)
(Spring, 2018 call)**

| Investigator | Dept. or School | Project Title |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| G. Michael Barnett | LSOE | Exploring climate change impacts through the design and exploring of smart greenhouses |
| Christina Matz-Costa | GSSW | The living database project: Engaging students in hands-on data collection |
| Erik Owens | MCAS | Global engagement portal |
| Terry Regan | Economics | Online experiments in micro principles |

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. Five ETG grants were funded in FY18. These projects are summarized in the table below.

Exploratory Technology Grants 2017-2018 Academic Year

| Investigator | Dept. or School | Project Title |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
| Can Erbil | Economics | Virtual reality exercises for principles of microeconomics |
| John Gallaughier | CSOM | Travel to conference about Swift/iOS programming |
| Ann Lucas | Music | Audio-visual library of Middle Eastern ensemble performances |
| Gustavo Morello | Sociology | Website for international collaboration among scholars of religion |
| | CTE/Libraries | Domain of One's Own |
| Joseph Nugent | English | Podcasting project for English Dept. |

Faculty cohorts

ATAB supports faculty cohorts who are using academic technologies to prepare course materials. Faculty members receive a \$2500 stipend for their participation. ATAB also provides a resource budget to support the cohort activities. During FY18, ATAB supported a cohort of 8 faculty members who used learning analytics to analyze Canvas data, with the goal of enhancing student learning in their courses. Cohort activities were facilitated by the CTE.

In FY19, ATAB will support a cohort of 8 faculty members who will use geospatial information systems (GIS) for research and teaching. The cohort will be facilitated by library and ITS staff.

| Participant | Department |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Samantha Teixeira | GSSW |
| Richard Sweeney | Economics |
| Michael Barnett | LSOE |
| Michael Hartney | Political Science |
| Lauren Honig | Political Science |
| Kevin O'Neill | History |
| Jon Wargo | LSOE |
| Andres Castro Samayoa | LSOE |

Other initiatives

When funds are available, ATAB supports projects from the CTE and/or MTS that directly impact large numbers of faculty and students. In 2018, ATAB purchased an enhanced camera and the equipment needed to permit mobile filming for videos. These items will be used for online course development. The CTE has experienced a sharp increase in requests for online course development.