ATAB Summary, 2010-2011

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, 2010:

- Stephanie Berzin (GSSW)
- Michael Connolly (A&S, Slavic/Eastern Languages and FMRC)
- Evan Kantrowitz (A&S, Chemistry)
- Clare O'Connor (A&S, Biology)
- Peter Olivieri (CSOM)
- Rita Owens (Office of the Provost)
- Alec Peck (LSOE, Chair)
- Robert Signorile (A&S, Computer Science)
- Barbara Viechnicki (A&S, Dean's Office)
- Thomas Wall (University Libraries)
- Amy Smith (CSON)
- Mary Ann Neary (Law)

Activities and Initiatives:

ATAB enjoys a close relationship with Michael Bourque, Boston College CIO, and he attended 2 meetings with all ATAB members during 2010-11. 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, Rita Owens, and Evan Kantrowitz participated with Mike Bourque and three other members of IT in a meeting at Apple headquarters in October, 2010 to discuss potential future academic technologies at Boston College.

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 was scheduled for a new site where the results of an ATIG could be shown to the

members. 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
- research server support
- new Citrix proposal
- new Learning Management System pilots
- renovated Gasson Hall classroom technology
- e-portfolios

Regular updates were also given on the data security project (under the direction of Rita Owens), the status of the new student e-mail rollout (eventually delayed till 2011-12), and the status of various projects funded by ATIGs and ETGs (discussed below.)

ATAB put out an online Call for Proposals for Academic Technology Innovation Grants (ATIGs) in December 2010, with a due date of March 15, 2011. 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'12		
Name	**Title**	**Total**
Serena Moseman	Campus Tree and Carbon Inventory: An Interactive Website and greenhouse gas sensors for studies that link Plant Ecology, Tree Demography and Phenology to Climate Change.	$49,500
Jeremy Clarke	Beyond Ricci: digital presentation of Jesuitana collection	$39,600
Ashley Duggan	Digitizing the Process of Collecting, Editing, and Examining Behavioral Data	$33,000
Mike Barnett	Touch TreeL Increasing Particpiation in the Environmental Science by seeing the Value of the Forest and the Trees	$76,623
Paul Lewis	Forgotten Chapters of Boston's Literary History	$15,400
Stephanie Berzin	Technology for Social Justice: The Social Innovation Initiative	$71,038

ATAB also set aside monies to pilot a subset of grants, called Exploratory Technology Grants (ETGs). The purpose of ETGs is to encourage faculty to explore, on a pilot basis, 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.

Ten ETGs were funded during this 2011-12 pilot, and the response from faculty was very positive. Fourteen proposals were received during the year (a few of which may be carried over into FY 2011-12.) In early May, 2011, an online qualitative evaluation of the project was conducted with grant applicants, and the overwhelming positive feedback led to a unanimous vote by ATAB members to continue the ETGs on a regular basis.

Due to adjustments in the funding cycle for ATIGs, the ATAB decided to postpone the third annual "ATIG Event" for faculty who are interested in applying for ATIGs. A luncheon and description of projects previously funded will be scheduled for October, 2011, followed by an announcement of new awards and an opportunity for faculty to meet with technology consultants to begin planning new ATIG proposals. Announcements concerning funding of these proposals will be made in March, 2012.

Three issues of the Faculty Technology Newsletter, edited by Peter Olivieri, were produced during the 2010-11 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 2011-2012 will be:

- 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)
- Fillippa Anzalone (Law)
- John Stachniewicz (STM)
- Thomas Wall (University Libraries)