

ATAB Summary 2006-2007

1. Dr. Garza approved the ATAB Charge and Structure.

The ATAB, a committee of the Office of the Provost, is the voice of the faculty in all matters related to academic technology. Toward that end, the ATAB will develop strategic plans for instructional and academic needs, ATAB will address concerns raised by the faculty and the ATAB will provide funding via the Academic Technology Fund for creative/innovative uses of technology by faculty. To implement this charge, the ATAB will partner with ITS and other technology providers to plan, implement, and evaluate academic technology initiatives.

2. ATAB made recommendations for the Academic Technology Funds for 2006-2007 in the Spring of 2006 and ITS distributed the equipment beginning in June 2006. Approximately \$800,000 of equipment was distributed to the academic units from the ATF funds.

3. Faculty Technology Contacts (FTCs)

Under the leadership of Michael Connelly, a ATAB subcommittee, composed of FTCs, was appointed and began month meetings to help provide communications between ATAB and the academic units. This subcommittee for very useful for ATAB, by providing information about problem issues in the academic units and providing academic units with updated IT information.

4. Research Cluster

ATAB worked with Barry Schaudt of Research Services to bring up a major IT resource for academic research, a computer cluster, with about 100 processors. An faculty subcommittee of ATAB, chaired by Evan Kantrowitz, governs the policies of usage. Since going on line in January 2007 faculty usage has been very high. (see the website <http://www.bc.edu/offices/researchservices/cluster.html>)

5. 3-year Technology Plans

Each of the academic units was asked by ATAB to submit 3 year Technology Plans. These plans were collected, and the information compiled by Barry Schaudt, Chris Lavalley, and Beth Clark. A report was prepared and submitted to the Provost. The purpose of these plans was to help determine the academic IT needs of the academic units.

6. Research Software for Graduate Students

ATAB approved the purchase this year of software for research by Ph.D students.

7. New Plan for Dissemination of Academic Technology Funds

ATAB worked the Provost Office to devise a new plan for academic technology funds in future years. For the 2007-2008 year, \$500,000 of ATF funds for 2007-2008 and \$100,000 of 2006-2007 carry-over will be distributed to the academic units for their technology needs. There will no longer be a call for ATF proposals as in past years. \$300,000 of the former ATF funds will be used in 2007-2008 to fund grants for the innovative use of technology. Proposals will be due in the late Fall of 2007.

8. Implementation of New ATAB Structure

Based on the Charge and Structure document approved by Dr. Garza some changes to the composition of ATAB have been made. Kathleen Carney, Dale Herbeck and Filippa Anzalone finished their terms as of the end of the 2006-2007 academic year. They have been replaced by Irene Good (Law School), Ed Tallent (Library) and Michael O'Leary (CSOM). The terms of Michael Connolly, Anne Norris and Barbara Viechnicki will be expiring during the 2007-2008 academic year. To reduce the number of members of ATAB, only 2 of these 3 members will be replaced.

9. Begin discussions of Tech Plan recommendations.

10. Clicker Implementation for 2007-2008

ATAB has been activity involved with Beth Clark's group regarding the University-wide implementation of a single clicker system for the next academic year, as well as the needed conversion to the Vista version of WebCT.

11. Improved Communications with ITS

ATAB has had problems in good communications with ITS over this year. To improve communications for next year, representatives for ITS will be involved in the planning meeting preceding each of the ATAB meetings.

12. Schedule for 2007-2008

ATAB will met on the following Fridays in Gasson 006 at 11:30. Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, 2007, and Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, 2008.

13. Some ATAB Initiatives for 2007-2008

- (a) Innovative use of technology grants. ATAB will be involved in finalizing the call for proposals, the review and ranking of proposals and selection of those

to be funded. Currently, only one call of proposals is planned (Fall), but another call in the Spring may also occur.

- (b) Media Center – For a number of years ATAB has talked about the need for a Media Center to foster group use of technology within departments such as Fine Arts and Communications. We will further consider the need for a Media Center.
- (c) Role of the Technology Consultants. As technology as well as the university continues to grow, the TCs do not seem to be as effective as they once were. ATAB will partner with ITS to evaluate new TC models for BC.
- (d) Software Updates. There is a need to have a mechanism for Faculty to update software on their computers. In particular software titles that are not provided as part of the Desktop replacement, but rather titles required for specific applications such as web development, software development, and common tools such as Photoshop and Illustrator and Stata. ATF funds in the past have not been used for software unless it was part of a larger project.
- (e) Backup of Computers and Data. ATAB will again review this issue, since no backup solution has been provided by ITS for desktop Mac computers, to date, or computers in the academic units that are not part of the desktop replacement project. As many of us know, some of the most important data that needs to be backed up does not reside on desktop workstations.
- (f) Recommendations from the Tech Plans. ATAB will put forward a set of recommendations for improvements to the technology infrastructure that are common among the Tech Plans.

10 August 2006

TO: Bert Garza, Academic Vice President

FR: Academic Technology Advisory Board

RE: Charge and Structure of the ATAB

The Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB) was constituted in 2001 and charged with advising the Associate Academic Vice President for Technology on matters related to academic technology. The old Academic Technology Services (ATS) organization was integrated into Information Technology Services (ITS) last year, hence it is appropriate to revisit both ATAB's charge and organization.

MANDATE

The original charge for the ATAB was limited to the ATS organization. When the integration of ATS into ITS was first proposed, the ATAB drafted a report arguing for an expanded role for the faculty in decisions related to academic technology. As an alternative to appointing an entirely new board to represent the faculty, the ATAB evolved to fill this function during the 2005-2006 Academic Year. Looking to the future, the ATAB's charge might be broadened as follows:

The ATAB, a committee of the Office of the Provost, is the voice of the faculty in all matters related to academic technology. Toward that end, the ATAB will develop strategic plans for instructional and academic needs, ATAB will address concerns raised by the faculty and the ATAB will provide funding via the Academic Technology Fund for creative/innovative uses of technology by faculty. To implement this charge, the ATAB will partner with ITS and other technology providers to plan, implement, and evaluate academic technology initiatives.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The original Academic Technology Advisory Board (ATAB) had eight members serving for indefinite terms. Six of the original eight members remain on the board, two members left when their job titles changed, and five new members have been added. The appointment process is best characterized as informal, but the Academic Vice President approved all of the appointments. The result was an eleven-member board with at least representative from each of the schools or colleges with the exception of the College for Advancing Studies.

After due deliberation, ATAB would like to offer three recommendations that would regularize the appointment process, create staggered three-year terms, and clarify the question of who the board members represent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: The chair and members of the ATAB should be appointed by the Provost in consultation with the Council of Deans and the ATAB.

Recommendation #2: The ATAB should be composed of nine faculty members serving staggered three years terms. No faculty member should serve more than three consecutive terms on ATAB.

Recommendation #3: The ATAB should be broadly representative of academic interests. The goal should be a board with the necessary technological expertise, even if that means the ATAB does not have a representative from each of the different schools or colleges.

Recommendation #4: A designate from the Provost office, such as the Associate Academic Vice President for Technology will serve as a de facto member of the board.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The ATAB is presently composed of Anne Norris (Nursing), Barbara Viechnicki (A & S Dean's Office), Dale Herbeck (A & S), Evan Kantrowitz (A & S), Filippa Anzalone (Law), Kathleen Carney (Library), Michael Connolly (A & S), Michael Russell (LSOE), Peter Oliveri (CSOM), Quingwen Xu (GSSW), and Rita Owens (AVP's office). In the interest of continuity, we propose implementing our recommendations over the next three years as the terms of existing board members are completed. Since the original appointments were made without terms, the following schedule would be appropriate:

Terms (3) expiring in 2006: Kathleen Carney (original), Dale Herbeck (original), and Filippa Anzalone

Terms (4) expiring in 2007: Michael Connolly (original), Anne Norris (original), Barbara Viechnicki, and Rita Owens

Terms (4) expiring in 2008: Evan Kantrowitz (original), Peter Oliveri (original), Michael Russell, and Quingwen Xu

Since the new ATAB will be composed of faculty members, the administrative members should not be replaced when their term is complete. If followed, this schedule would achieve the desired size and achieve rotation without disruption or loss of institutional memory.