

ATAB Summary, 2009-2010

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, 2009:

- 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)
- Robin Wood (CSON)

Activities and Initiatives:

The ATAB Chair (Alec Peck) served on the university search committee for the new B.C. Chief Information Officer, which culminated in the promotion of Michael Bourque to that office. ATAB enjoyed a close relationship with the new CIO after he took office, including 2 meetings with all ATAB members, regular updating of progress on IT efforts related to various projects effecting academic technology, and a monthly meeting with Don Hafner, Rita Owens, and Alec Peck to discuss academic technology issues.

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.

ATAB decided to change its meeting structure this year so that it could have private viewings of projects that have been funded by ATAB under the Academic Technology Innovation Grant (ATIG) program over the past few years. Each monthly meeting was scheduled for a new site where the results of an ATIG could be shown

to the members. This should prove useful in discussions of future ATIG proposals, since members can better relate to the impact of projects after viewing them. The ATAB also received status reports and provided feedback on a variety of topics impacting academic technology on campus, including:

- Portal issues (timeout, login response, web launcher, class lists)
- Directory search issues (authentication, multiple searches)
- Course listing issues (service consolidation, MyCourses)
- Portal customization
- Blackboard Vista timeout
- MS Exchange portlets
- Class location information
- Course offerings display

The rollout of the Microsoft Exchange server and e-mail conversion was a major IT project which impacted academic users, and the ATAB was updated on the progress of the rollout at each meeting. Similarly, the data security project under the direction of Rita Owens was a topic about which ATAB was regularly updated.

ATAB put out an earlier Call for Proposals for Academic Technology Innovation Grants (ATIGs) in December 2009, with a due date of March 15, 2010. Two significant changes to the process were implemented in order to avoid inappropriate submissions of applications. First, the application was placed on-line, and was formatted so that applicants had to respond to each major criterion that ATAB members use when evaluating proposals. Second, 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'11		
Name	Title	Total
Jenny Baglivo	Enhancing Students' Understanding of Modern Statistical Concepts	\$32,724
Ann Burgess	Forensic Science Lab Using Computer Game Technology	\$65,670
Seung-A Jin	Leveraging fNIR Technologies for Health Communication and Consumer Research	\$61,820
Elida Laski	Probing Children's Learning with Technology	\$44,550
Total Approved		\$189,584
Budget FY'11 + Rollover		\$376,703
Left Over (ETG and Fall Call)		\$187,119

ATAB also decided to set aside monies for 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 \$1000. Money was set aside to fund up to 10 ETGs during 2010-11. An evaluation of the impact will be made at the end of that academic year.

The second annual "ATIG Event" was held for faculty who were interested in applying for ATIGs. The luncheon and description of projects previously funded (see video at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/instruction/atig2010-final.mov>) was followed by an announcement of new awards and an opportunity for faculty to meet with technology consultants to begin planning new ATIG proposals. Approximately 75 people attended the event.

Four issues of the Faculty Technology Newsletter, edited by Peter Olivieri, were produced during the 2009-10 academic year. This on-line newsletter keeps faculty abreast of new developments and opportunities to use technology in their teaching and research.

Alec Peck and Rita Owens participated in a meeting with other faculty and administrators who sponsor on-campus grants programs. Pat DeLeuw convened the meeting for the purpose of coordinating application procedures and due dates, as well as discussion of the purposes of programs.

The ATAB membership for 2010-2011 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)
- Peter Olivieri (CSOM)
- Rita Owens (Office of the Provost)
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