Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

GTS Task Force Report:
Defining a Path Forward for Georgia Tech-Savannah

Appendix C: GTS Faculty Off-site Meeting, Subgroup Discussion Summaries

During the discussion at the off-site meeting in November 2010, questions were explored by three subgroups and shared at the end of the day. The discussion summary of each group is provided in below.

1a. What should be the role in undergraduate (UG) education, if any, given the degree offerings in Atlanta and the local region?

- There was no agreement / consensus on mission for GTS.
- **For all suggestions below there should be a feasibility study.**
- Fundamental and sweeping change to mission is desirable; marginal changes will be ineffective
- In order to continue successful undergraduate education we need:
  - Better recruiting
  - Retention
  - Expand MOUs with other schools from around the state
  - **Offering more pre-engineering courses that would ease transition to Savannah**
  - Offer more (or ideally all) courses in Savannah
  - **Significant improvement to campus to provide traditional educational environment**
    - **in current location and/or**
    - **relocate partly or wholly to Armstrong Atlantic State University, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, or downtown area**
      - Give up lease on current location to remain revenue neutral
- Possible new directions for undergraduate program
  - Given limited resources, we should focus on either undergraduate or graduate education and limit focus to one narrow technical area.
  - Offer large-scale distance learning program with GT brand
  - Georgia Tech-Lorraine-style summer on the coast program

  - Various faculty models that would allow for GT/GTS faculty rotations at both campuses
  - Create a high-quality GTS campus that would only admit the cream of the crop students (create top tier perception)

1b. What are the opportunities for graduate education? Should only graduate programs be offered?

- **For all suggestions below there should be a feasibility study.**
- Local research opportunities: naval architecture, autonomous vehicles, marine science, logistics
- Joint terminal master's program with Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) — sustainable design, human-computer interaction, etc.
- Recruit senior world-class 'celebrity' faculty member to build program
- Allow current faculty to leave GTS and go to Atlanta or stay at GTS to help shape new environment.

1c. What are the opportunities for professional master's programs?

- **For all suggestions below there should be a feasibility study.**
- Concern about offering professional education in a less populated area
  - Question: can it be done online? If so, why Savannah rather than Atlanta?
  - Could be complementary to other programs offered.
- More autonomy required to offer new programs

2. What are some strategic partnerships for GT in the region?

- The development of "Centers" is a critical component in establishing successful long-term collaborations with industrial, governmental, and service organizations.
- We should be leveraging our very successful K-12 outreach programs to expand our academic and research opportunities at GTS
- We should focus strongly on developing those strategic partnerships that specifically augment our infrastructure and student services

3. What organizational structure and resources would be needed support this new educational mission?

- We need both more autonomy and also more connection with Atlanta (on different fronts/issues).
- We need autonomy to get proposals supported, to support Savannah-specific student issues, and for faculty hiring.
- No one serving on Institute's reappointment, promotion and tenure (RPT) committee. Frequently have Savannah representation on the college-level RPT committee. Need consistent representation.
- ECE model for RPT process (with an advocate, typically not from Savannah) is one potential improvement for mentoring and evaluation.
- Can we have a matrix structure, where in one sense we appear within GT as a unit, and in another sense as a collection of researchers?
- Need coordinated control and resources to select and deliver courses from both campuses.
- Savannah should be rewarded for success of Savannah faculty.

- Course scheduling and workload management are problematic and overly prescriptive. We need more autonomy than, for example, the workload assignment scheme imposed by ECE in Atlanta.
- Local (Savannah) authority for solution of student issues.
- Staff perspective: Registrar, registration, facilities, HR – Savannah issues get pushed to the back burner by Atlanta authorities. Need a single responsible party in Savannah.
- Majority of faculty feel that retaining current faculty reporting lines is desired. More shared faculty governance in Savannah is needed.
- General agreement that moving part or all of our operation to one or more new locations would be beneficial (downtown, Armstrong, Skidaway).