

# **Silver Jackets Meeting**

Tuesday April 11, 2017

Georgia Tech Student Center, Room 343

## **Minutes**

**Members Attending (17)** Jo Freeman (Laser Dynamics Lab), Susan Keenan (Language Institute), Nannette Dooley (Library), Pat Davis ((COS), Jo McIver (Office of the Registrar), Len Parsons (Mgt.), Janis Goddard (OSP), Rekha Patel (ME), Ward O. Winer (ME/COE), Harriet Thuesen (Visitor), Jerry Thuesen (ISYE), Andy Smith (Psych & Provost), Ron Bohlander (GTRI), John Balsam (GTRI), Steve Dickerson (ME), Roger Rupnow (ARCH, City Pl), Sam Shelton (ME), Jim Wallace (Benefits), BeNedra Williams (Benefits)

## **Business Meeting**

**Ron Bohlander, President**, called the meeting to order and introduced BeNedra Williams from OHR who talked about OneUSG, the new benefits administration system for employees, retirees, spouses and their survivors, beginning on June 26. Any benefits through the Aon Retiree Health Exchange will not be affected by this change. Benefits currently administered through OHR and the Bursar's Office will be administered differently but the benefits themselves will not change. That includes, dental, vision, life insurance, and pre-65 health insurance. More information will be provided by mail on how to access the OneUSG Benefits Connect website and the OneUSG Benefits Call Center, and how to update your USG benefit billing information. Further information can be obtained via <http://ohr.gatech.edu/oneusg-retirees>.

Next, Ron Bohlander had everyone introduce themselves and introduced our speaker.

## **Program**

Our speaker was Dr. Charles Isbell, Jr., Senior Associate Dean and Professor, Georgia Tech College of Computing. Dr. Isbell spoke on the OMSCS (Online Master of Science in Computer Science) program, moving from course to degree. The online program is delivered using the MOOC platform and is equivalent to the MSCS program on campus for a cost of \$6,600 vs. the

campus cost of approximately \$42,000. The goal of the program is to educate. The department went through an extensive process involving everyone on campus (from registrar to student integrity) to come up with the cost and a compensation model. They went through an approval process to get campus buy-in and USG approval. Since October 2013 there have been 14,000 applicants; 55% have been accepted to the program. The applicants come from 100 countries, 85% from the U.S. (all 50 states). All of the students are part-time and are allowed to take only two courses at one time. The students are uniquely qualified (doctors, teachers, computer programmers), working and attending the masters program. There have been over 4,000 graduates, many of whom have chosen to walk at graduation. The vast majority of those enrolled have been U.S. residents.

Some of the advantages realized by this program were that it

- Allowed us to accommodate people returning for an advanced degree with a focus on admitting as many as possible who provide evidence of being able to complete the course;
- Provided a spur to improved pedagogy by constructively forcing teachers to rethink what to cover and how;
- Scaled well, allowing us to provide education to a large number of learners at a very low cost.

Ron Bohlander announced that the May 9<sup>th</sup> speaker would be Ms. Jody Thompson, Head of Archives and Records Management, Georgia Tech Library. She will share with us some rare materials from the Library and provide an overview of the function and importance of the GT Library Archives.

Dr. Bud Peterson, President of the Georgia Institute of Technology, will be our speaker on September 12, 2017 and we will be meeting in the GTRI Conference Center at 250 14<sup>th</sup> St. Free parking available there.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Goddard  
Secretary