

Based on the provided comparison summaries and supplementary search results, here is a consolidated master summary of the five project management tools for your university's consideration.

Feature Comparison Summary

Feature	Freshservice	Asana	Monday.com	Smartsheet	ClickUp
Primary Focus	IT Service Management (ITSM) with an integrated project module	General-purpose work and task management	Highly visual, customizable "Work OS"	Spreadsheet-like work management with powerful data handling	All-in-one productivity platform aiming to replace multiple tools
Ease of Use	Moderate (IT-centric interface)	High (Very intuitive and user-friendly)	High (Visual and intuitive)	Moderate (Requires comfort with spreadsheets)	Low-Moderate (Feature-rich, requires significant setup and onboarding)
Key Strengths	Seamless integration with IT service desk (tickets, changes, assets)	User-friendly interface, robust reporting, and AI features	Strong visual planning, resource management, and portfolio features	Excellent for managing budgets, research data, and complex timelines with familiar spreadsheet tools	Feature-rich, highly customizable, and often the most cost-effective for the number of features
Key Differentiator	Best for IT-centric teams already using Freshservice	Excellent for general academic committees due to ease of adoption	Ideal for high-level progress tracking and cross-departmental visual planning	Combines the familiarity of spreadsheets with powerful project management	The "Everything View" is a pro and con; excellent for power users but overwhelming for casual ones

Non-Profit & Educational Discounts

All five platforms offer some form of discount for educational or non-profit institutions, though the specifics vary.

- **Freshservice:** Offers discounts for educational institutions and non-profits. You are advised to request this pricing directly from a sales representative.
- **Asana:** Provides a **50% discount** on paid plans (Starter or Advanced) for eligible non-profits, academic institutions, and libraries.
- **Monday.com:** Offers a significant education discount, reportedly between 50-90% for educational institutions and 10 free Pro-tier seats plus a 70% discount on additional seats for non-profits.
- **Smartsheet:** Offers education pricing, though the specific discount is not publicly specified and requires contacting their sales team. They also provide a free student program.
- **ClickUp:** Offers an academic discount, but the exact amount is not publicly specified and must be requested by contacting their help team.

Final Recommendation

- **For High Faculty Adoption & Ease of Use:** Choose **Asana**. Its intuitive interface makes it the least intimidating option for non-project managers.
- **For Managing Complex Budgets or Data:** Choose **Smartsheet**. It is an industry standard for data-heavy work, though it has a learning curve for those not familiar with spreadsheets.
- **For the Best Feature-to-Price Ratio:** Choose **ClickUp**. However, assign a "Champion" to handle the initial setup and workflow conventions to prevent it from becoming confusing for others.
- **For IT-Centric Project Management:** Choose **Freshservice**. It is only recommended if your primary need is to link projects directly to IT service desk operations.

Given your use case of university committee task and project tracking, **Asana** or **Monday.com** are likely the most natural fits, balancing ease of use with robust features and clear education discounts.