Changes proposed for HOPE scholarship

Scholarship might no longer cover certain mandatory student fees but could provide Pell recipients more aid

By Angela Swively
News Staff

The HOPE, or Helping Out-Paying Student College Fund (HOPE), is a scholarship program that provides financial assistance to students in Georgia, with the primary goal of increasing college attendance. This program is funded by the state and is available to students who meet certain eligibility criteria. However, recent proposals by the Georgia General Assembly and the Board of Regents have raised concerns about the future of the program. In this article, we will explore the changes proposed for the HOPE scholarship and their potential impact on students.

The HOPE scholarship program was established in 1996 with the goal of improving access to higher education in Georgia. It has been very successful in increasing college attendance, particularly among low-income students. However, recent proposals by the state government have suggested making changes to the program that could affect the eligibility and benefits for students.

One of the proposed changes is to eliminate the HOPE scholarship for students who do not meet the GPA requirement. Currently, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain eligible for the scholarship. The proposed change is to reduce the GPA requirement to 2.5, making it more accessible to a larger number of students. However, this change has been met with mixed reactions from students and educators.

Another proposed change is to increase the tuition cap for the HOPE scholarship. Currently, the cap is set at $15,000 per year, but the proposed change is to increase it to $20,000. This could make the scholarship more valuable for students who attend more expensive universities.

Pell recipients, who are students from low-income families, could also be affected by these changes. Currently, the HOPE scholarship and Pell grants are complementary, with Pell recipients being able to use both to cover their tuition. However, the proposed changes could reduce the amount of Pell funding available to students, potentially making it more difficult for them to afford college.

Despite these changes, there are concerns about the fairness and equity of the proposed changes. Many argue that these changes could disproportionately affect students from low-income families, who already face significant barriers to attending college. Others argue that these changes could reduce the overall impact of the HOPE scholarship, as more students would be eligible for the program but receive less funding.

In conclusion, the proposed changes to the HOPE scholarship program could have significant implications for students and their families. It is important for policymakers to consider the potential impacts of these changes and to ensure that they are made in a way that promotes access to higher education for all students.

Heating problems leave residents out in the cold

By Angela Swively
News Staff

The recent heating problems at Woodruff, a dormitory on Georgia Tech's campus, have left many residents without heat and hot water. The problems started on Jan. 19, when the heating system was turned off for maintenance. However, the dormitory was not able to get the system back up, leaving residents without heat and hot water until Jan. 23.

The Woodruff heating system is managed by the ULC (University Life Cycle) on Jan. 24. The ULC was able to rectify the situation by Jan. 26, and the heating system was restored.

Some residents were frustrated with the lack of communication from the University Life Cycle and the dormitory staff. They reported that they were not kept informed about the situation and that their complaints were not taken seriously.

Other residents were concerned about the safety of the heating system, as it is a gas-fired system. However, the dormitory staff reassured them that the gas supplier for Tech was able to turn off the gas SAFELY and that the system was not damaged.

The problems at Woodruff are not unique to this dormitory. Other dormitories on campus, such as West Campus, have also experienced heating and hot water issues. However, the problems at Woodruff were more severe and lasted longer than the others.

The Woodruff heating system is one of the older systems on campus, and it has not been updated in recent years. This could be a factor in the problems that have been occurring. However, the dormitory staff and the ULC are working to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.
enough support for this, get enough present petitions to the governor. The SAC is planning a campaign that will include a media blitz, calls and letters to legislators, and a statewide petition drive. On Jan. 26, SAC organized a group of students to call legislatures and talk with the media. On Feb. 28, SAC is planning a rally at the state capitol to encourage all students to call the governor and legislature and let them know how you feel about this [cut].

Beers feels that “if we can show signatures, we can make a difference.” He says that SAC represents 100,000 students in Georgia and he thinks that is enough to make the governor and legislature listen. Tompkins states that he can see the SAC’s point. However, he says that reports stating HOPE is under-budget every year are inaccurate. HOPE is budgeted based on the students entering the schools and HOPE approximately uses all of that money every year.

There is, however, a reserve fund with over $200 million in case the lottery falls short of the budget. However, this situation has never happened. This situation is also highly unlikely due to the 1998 law that made HOPE the top priority for funding, followed by the voluntary pre-kindergarten program for four-year-olds, the reserve, and an instructional technology program. There is no real financial threat to HOPE, since money can be taken from the technology program.

Another reason this situation will probably never occur is that lottery revenues have been increasing every year. The extra money from the increased lottery sales will be used to fund the Pell Offset.

Although Tompkins can understand why students are upset, he feels that these proposals are a positive change for the state of Georgia. The addition of a technology fee in schools that do not have one and the additional aid that will make a big difference for many low income students by allowing them to pay for room and board.

The legislature is currently meeting on this issue. Tompkins states that “anytime college students who are voters in the state of Georgia [speak], they are listened to.” He does not think the protests of SAC will go unnoticed, but is not sure if it will have a large enough impact to stop the proposed cuts.

Beers states that SAC “would encourage all students to call the governors office [and your] state legislature and let them know how you feel about this [cut].”

If you would like to get involved in the campaign at Tech to stop the cuts, email Dave Stopp at gt97386@prism.gatech.edu.

### HOPE

representatives from each of the 34 institutions. Although initially charged with the task of advising the Board of Regents on student issues and opinions, that purpose has been expanded to work for student rights at all levels.

The SAC feels that the promise given to the Georgia voters who approved the lottery of free education to all eligible students is being broken.

Stopp believes that “Georgia currently has the best public merit scholarship in the country… The lottery was created specifically to fund education, and about a fourth of the profits currently go to HOPE. It is almost hard to believe that the state general fund – the lottery – which was created specifically to fund education, and about a fourth of the revenue from the technology program.

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### Semester Conversion

Transfer credit being fixed

By Matt Gray
Assistant News Editor

Although the first term since the conversion to semesters is over, a number of changes are still being made to correct problems caused by the change from the quarter system. Most notably, course numbers and curriculum are still being changed.

Last term was the first semester for Tech since the state-managed conversion took place, and several unforeseen problems became evident.

Course numbers were changed to reflect the changes in subject matter covered, which not only caused some confusion among students, but also led to problems with transfer students.

Credit was given for courses taken at other schools with the same course number, but not always the same material. For example, CS 1301 at Tech was an Introduction to Computing class, which taught pseudocode, while at other schools, 1301 was Introduction to Photoshop. This caused problems for transfer students that enrolled in 1302 that had transfer credit for 1301.

In response, school administrators continued discussions with various academic departments to determine what was good and what needed to be changed about the semester system.

To address the problem of transfer credit for unrelated classes, several course numbers were changed, including most notably CS 1301 to CS 1311. Additionally, curriculum is still undergoing changes to adjust. Several classes are undergoing adjustments to better match the 15 week term.

Bob McMath, Vice President of Academic Affairs, says that the school overall GPA stayed relatively constant, despite semester conversion.

Too many row, row, row your boats!
Ummm, milkshakes instead of newspaper.

By Kim Spuller
UHR Correspondant

Georgia Tech might have had an increased enrollment last year, but it was the only school in Georgia to do so. This has resulted in a $6 million budget cut from the state, causing changes that Tech will have to deal with.

One of these changes is HOPE scholarship. The Georgia Legislature is considering changes that would cause the HOPE scholarship to only cover fees like tuition and student activity.

This would cost each in-state student up to $180 per semester extra. Plus, with the building of SAC II, students will charged an additional $54 per semester to help pay for that.

This additional fee would not necessarily be covered by HOPE scholarship because it’s not an academic fee. It would have to go through another committee before HOPE could cover it. For this reason, the Council passed a resolution that urges the Administration to do more fund raising to cover the cost of SAC II.

UHR granted the Student Retention Committee money to help with a spring concert to be held sometime in April. There are 5 possible bands for this concert. They include Dave Matthews Band, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Live, LL Cool J, and 3rd Eye Blind. The money allocated to the committee depends on which band signs for the concert.

Graduates begin year debating SAC II and Student Activity fee

By David Peters
GSS Correspondant

The Graduate Student Senate has had three meetings to date this semester. Several issues that we have discussed are of concern to all students.

The Senate passed a resolution calling for the administration to find alternate funding mechanisms for the SAC II project until the first phase of the facility is available for student use in Fall 2002. The current administration plan calls for a mandatory student fee of $144 per year starting this Fall semester. GSS feels that inadequate student input was obtained in the implementation of this fee. The proposed fee structure is considerably different than the one proposed in the SAC II planning committee in which there was student representation.

Rodney Weis, the new Director of Parking and Transportation, addressed the Senate and responded to student questions. Questions primarily pertained to the cost of parking permits, which Weis explained is largely a result of debt service, and over the method of prioritizing the different constituencies on campus when allocating parking spaces. Weis said he would be looking into the prioritization issue. He also indicated a desire to improve customer service at the Parking Office.

The Senate debated the annual Student Activity Fee budget. This year’s proposed budget of $2.23 million does not require an increase in the Student Activity Fee. The fee was not increased last year either. Senators voted to table the budget until next meeting so that further debate could occur since this bill is much larger than any other considered by the Senate.

Several allocation bills were also passed by the Senate. Women’s Awareness Month was granted money to bring Joycelyn Elders to campus for a speech.

The African American Student Union was granted money for Black History Month events.

The Student Center was given money to replace a 15 passenger van to replace one that was totaled in an accident. The money was to supplement the insurance money received from the wrecked van.

See UHR, page 4

By Dale Russell
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Undergraduate House of Representative members Sophomore Joey Katzian and Junior Erica Young vote on an allocation at a recent meeting.
Registrar retires next month, replacement search continues

By Matt Gray
Assistant News Editor

On Feb. 1, the current Registrar, Frank Roper, will retire after over 37 years of working at Georgia Tech. To date, a successor has not been found.

The decision as to who will replace Roper is expected to be made soon. Should Feb. 1 come before the next Registrar is announced, an interim replacement will fill in. Due to strong senior leadership in the Registrar’s office, there are not expected to be any problems.

Mr. Roper announced his retirement in late September.

The search began with a large number of applicants, which has now been narrowed down to four candidates.

After numerous meetings, the search committee led by Bob McMath, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, made their recommendations on the candidates.

Two of the remaining candidates are already working for Tech, while the other two are from external sources.

Roper graduated from Georgia Tech with a BS in Industrial Engineering as a member of the class of 1961.

His career at Tech began in the 1960s, first working as an associate Registrar before earning the main position.

He has also served as a faculty member for ISyE and as an Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Admissions in the College of Sciences.

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the other bands, a smaller amount will be granted. In the event that none of these five bands will perform at Tech, the money will be returned.

Some of the money in the new budget is going to be allocated towards a new 600 car parking deck, which will be located somewhere south of Tenth Street. It should be ready to use in about a year.

The Council recognized a new official organization at Georgia Tech, the FUTURE WRECK club.

The joint allocation to the Georgia Tech Sport Parachute Club that was passed in the first week of January came out of Conference Committee and was finally passed at $1221.

The Chess Club was allocated $187 for some startup materials, including chess books, chess sets, and demo boards.

One thousand dollars was allocated to the Student Center Programs Board to help stand up comedian Bernie McGrenahan come and speak about Alcohol Awareness on March 20.

Another allocation, this time of $19,364, was given to the Student Center. This money was to replace a student center van that was wrecked beyond repair this past summer.

UHR allocated $1469 to ODK for the Leadership Conference that took place last Saturday.

Monali Desai, Stuart Lester, Christine McIntyre, Charles West and James Sloan were sworn in as members of the Undergraduate Student Council, representing the Junior Class, ECE, Chem E, CS, and Co-op, respectively. Cobb Pearson was also recognized as he was sworn into the Joint Finance Committee.

Women’s awareness month, March, is approaching quickly. This year’s events include speakers such as Joycelyn Elders, the former U.S. Surgeon General, and Katie Koester, a survivor of date rape who has appeared in TIME Magazine and on the Oprah Winfrey Show. UHR allocated $8750 to fund these two speakers.

Take Back the Night, a candlelight vigil where sexual assault awareness is discussed, will take place again, as it did last year.

Other programs will be a kick-off fair, Myths about Georgia Tech Women, a concert featuring Kessler Campanile, and a film fest featuring female-related films.

Even faster approaching is Black History Month, which takes place in February. The African-American Student Association was allocated $21,730 to fund next month’s various events and materials needed. But, having passed in a different form than in the Graduate Senate, this bill now heads to Conference Committee.
Questions

Student Center room 332. Contact Matt Kucic (Q@gatech.edu) with questions. An information session will be held February 1 at 6 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Cyberbuzz wants help

Cyberbuzz, which brings together events, information, and organizations from across Georgia Tech Campus, is looking for more help in everything from Marketing and Information Gathering to Sys Admin and Coding. An information session will be held February 1 at 6 p.m. in Student Center room 332. Contact Matt Kucic (Q@gatech.edu) with questions.

Announcements? e-mail news@technique

SAC

Foundations of Student Affairs and Community, or SAC, is the umbrella organization for all Georgia Tech student engagement and leadership opportunities. SAC builds and communicates the strategic vision for the student engagement experience at Georgia Tech.

Cyberbuzz, which brings together events, information, and organizations across Georgia Tech Campus, is looking for more help in everything from Marketing and Information Gathering to Sys Admin and Coding.

Water

The current pool, which is bubbled over, will also be enclosed, allowing students to swim for recreation while the actual swim teams practice. A new building with more aerobic and weight conditioning equipment will be added, and a $50 car parking deck will also be built.

All users of SAC agree that a new facility is necessary; however, the funding for such a project can cause controversy. The entire project will cost $41.4 million, of which $22.2 million is to be funded by the students through increased athletic fees. The current idea is that fees will increase per student per semester by $54, starting in the Fall of 2000.

SGA is trying to stall an increased fee for a building that will not be completed for a few years, postponing the increased fee until 2002.

GSS President Caroline Clower feels that "the Institute could have done more to fundraise for this project or find the money up front and reduce the burden on students." Tech has promised to raise at minimum $7 million, which leaves over $36 million to be found elsewhere.

At UGA, the Athletic Association put money up front for their Ramsey Center so that students did not pay for the facility until they had access to it. Currently SGA is working with President Clough to find a compromise for the students.

While most students do not mind a small increase in fees once the facility is open, most also agree with undergraduate Kate McGarity: "We don't want to pay for something we're not going to use." Dr. Lee Wilcox, one of the founders of the SAC II plan, acknowledges this problem: "They [the students] want it but don't want to pay for it."

The state of Georgia does not finance any recreation facility, so all funding must be privately done through Georgia Tech. This situation puts a strain on students and faculty, who have to pay the increased fees, the fundraising committee, who must find committed donors of large sums, and the Athletic Association, which must raise $5.2 million to pay for its part of the project.

Once funding is found, SAC II promises to be an excellent facility comparable to student athletic facilities across the country.

Correction: In last week's issue of the Technique, we ran a photo incorrectly identified as being from last year's AASU Step Show. According to Michelle Martin, the picture was from Powerstep '98, an event sponsored by Real Life Ministries. We apologize for the inconvenience.

If Atlanta City Schools get off, why don't we?
Asian American Student Union Conference ‘Journey’ to technologies

By Matt Grey
Assistant News Editor

On Saturday, Feb. 4 and Sunday, Feb. 5, Georgia Tech will host the tenth annual Atlantic Coast Asian American Student Union (ACAA-SU) Asian American Student Conference. Three hundred students are expected to attend, and registration is still open.

Participants will see performances by Henry Cho, a well known stand-up comedian from Houston, and the Tonight Show, Kai, an Asian R&B group, and hear a speech by Lisa Ling, a morning talk show host for ABC.

The conference is designed to bring students from around the East Coast together and allow them the opportunity to network with other students from different areas of the country. In addition, participants will learn about Asian culture.

“I think it’s a great way for the entire Asian community to meet and come together, and it should be a great cultural experience,” said Deb-nil Chowdhury, a first year ChE student.

This year, the conference coincides with the Chinese New Year, and special activities are planned for the beginning of the year of the dragon.

Every year, the ACAA-SU chooses a different school to host the event. This is the first time that Tech has hosted the conference. In the past, Duke and Emory have hosted the event.

The event starts on Friday, Feb. 4, with registration at 6 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The week-end then kicks off around 10 p.m. with a performance by Kai, an Asian Hip Hop and R&B group.

“They’re the Asian Backstreet Boys,” said Tommy Liu, a student helping with the conference.

Once the performance is over, participants will have the choice of staying either in a hotel or with a student host on campus.

The weekend’s first keynote speaker, Ling, from ABC’s talk show The View, will speak to conference’s participants on Saturday.

After Ling’s speech, the first series of workshops will begin. Topics range from political issues and dating and sex etiquette.

The conference’s closing ceremony is Sunday evening, starting which a series of thank you’s will be given out, including plaques to the companies sponsoring the weekend.

Bela Bhart, an Indian classical music singer, will perform next.

The evening’s keynote speaker, Cho, will perform a standup routine following Bhart’s performance.

Because SGA is sponsoring his performance, non-participants will be allowed to attend.

Registration is still going on, with a cost of $40 until Feb 1. After that, the cost increases to $50.

It is possible to register through the student center or at a booth in the Student Center.

Web-Builder NEEDED API!

To help develop internet business. Must have good skills in creating web pages. Mail Resume with previous work to: Donner @ 2870 Pearl Court Suite 603 Atlanta, GA 30305 Work around class schedule!

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Orkin Pest Control, a leading service company, has a need in our call center off North Druid Hills. Qualified candidates must have at least 1 year customer service experience, enjoy talking to people, have high ethical standards, and be willing to work flexible hours (i.e., evenings & weekends). Interested candidates should fax resume to: (404) 888-2672. We are drug free and an EOE.

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Non-profit organization seeks volunteer writers for teen girl web site. Great experience and your own by-line. Send resume, short writing sample and 3 story ideas. P.O. Box 29446 Atlanta 30329

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