**Faculty Senate approves grade substitution policy for fall 2005**

By Michael Handelman  
Staff Writer

The Academic Senate voted Tuesday to approve a grade substitution policy for Tech students, effective beginning fall semester 2005.

The policy, in its approved form, will allow students that fail classes during their first semester to retake up to two of those classes in a subsequent semester.

Grade substitution will only apply to incoming freshmen this fall and will not be retroactive. The policy will not apply to incoming fall 2005 transfer students.

Overall, the faculty and staff member who have drafted the policy are pleased with the final version.

"I am quite happy with what the Rules and Regulations Committee came up with... it doesn't offer as many opportunities for grade substitution, but it broadens the scope of the policy for what it does allow for courses at any level, and I think that is a great benefit," said Kent Barefield, chairman of the Student Regulations Committee.

One goal of the newly implemented policy is to increase freshmen retention rates.

"The committee understood that this was one way to address the problem of students who need some help in making the adjustment to Georgia Tech," said committee member Richard Burke, associate dean of the Ivan Allen College.

"A lot of people are not fully prepared for Tech students, so if we give them that flexibility, we aren't being overly generous, but it's a way to give people deserving of help," he added.

**Swimming head coach resigns**

Swimming and Diving Head Coach Seth Baron resigned this week after being put on administrative leave. Baron departs from his position after eight years of coaching the Aztec swimmers.

With his contract expiring at the end of June, Baron wanted to “take time away from the pool before making the ultimate decision to resign,” he said. After a 15-year coaching career, Baron said he had a desire to explore other professional options that will allow him to spend more time with his wife and children.

"Lots of factors went into this decision," Baron said.

This season saw the men's program finish third in the Atlantic Coast Conference and tie for 32nd in the 2005 NCAA Championships, while the women's team placed sixth in the ACC, and sent individuals to the NCAA meet but did not score.

**SGA executive apps available**

Applications for appointments to undergraduate executive study, government positions are now available online. Interested students may visit sga.gatech.edu or pick up an application in the SGA office.

Open positions include: vice president of campus affairs, vice president of administrative affairs, vice president of finance, chief of staff and all committee chairmanships.

The application deadline is next Wednesday, April 27, at 4 p.m. Questions may be directed to David Anderson at g3g39b@mail.gatech.edu or 770-404-0960.

**Andersen wins presidency**

By Nikhil Joshi  
Staff Writer

David Andersen captured the presidency of the undergraduate student body with 2,107 votes in the runoff election. His opponent, Andrew Howard, earned 944 votes, giving Andersen a margin of nearly two to one.

The runoff election was required because no candidate received a majority of student body support during the initial election last week.

Andersen said that he looked forward to performing his duties next year.

"I'm very happy with the outcome of the election, and I can't wait to get started. I want to commend my opponents for having run a good race, and they all deserve credit for bringing worthy student issues to the forefront," he said.

"I credit a large amount of my success to those who supported me, and I'm very grateful for the outpouring of support I received from campus leaders," Andersen said.

**RIAA, MPAA to subpoena 25 students**

By Stephen Baehl  
News Editor

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) last week announced a new wave of lawsuits against students. Both have cited Internet Protocol (IP) addresses associated with Tech students in their claims.

These suits are directed at users of i2hub, an application available to users with Internet2 access. Primarily used by college students, Internet2 links various American universities and corporations by means of a superior high-speed connection.

According to Tech Chief Legal Advisor Randy Nordin, the RIAA sent a letter to Tech with notification of suspected illegal file sharing on a campus. The letter was followed shortly by a filing from the RIAA.

Nordin said the filing “is one huge complaint, and I mean literally six inches of paper.” He said the complaint was directed at 25 Tech students, all unnamed at this point. Rather, it lists 251 IP addresses associated with Tech.

Nordin said the address list is preliminary and that the same IPs may or may not be cited on the subpoena when it comes.

Still, some students have discovered that their IP addresses have been targeted in this round of lawsuits by way of an unofficial listing found at www.dapm.com/files/checkip.php, a site that one Tech student who has used the i2hub found from a link at www.trendyblog.com.

"On the list online, I'm number one," he said. The student asked not to be identified. "I shared 35 gigs, sure, but I was barely on there.”

"As soon as I get the subpoena, I'll be able to get the final list and tell them what I know," Nordin said.

Nordin said that Tech would “almost certainly” have to release the names of students associated with these addresses.

**Tuition to rise eight percent next year**

By Stephen Baehl  
News Editor

In its meetings Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, the Board of Regents decided to increase tuition at all state universities next year.

The total increase for in-state students will be $135 per semester, an eight percent increase over the current $1,684 per semester.

Out-of-state students will see a tuition increase of $660 per semester, also an eight percent increase over the $8,324 per semester currently charged for out-of-state tuition.

The hike comes as a result of increased tuition over the past five years. In that time, state tuition has risen 32 percent and out-of-state tuition has increased 56.7 percent, knows that share make more have been noted by either the RIAA or MPAA.

Nordin said that he has been contacted by students who have seen their IP addresses on the unofficial list. He said he is not sure that list is accurate, however. "I'm telling them that I can't really tell them much, because I haven't seen the actual list," he said. "As soon as I get the subpoena, I'll be able to get the final list and tell them what I know."

Nordin said that Tech will “almost certainly” have to release the names of students associated with these addresses.

David Andersen captured next year’s undergraduate student body presidency in this week’s runoff election with 2,107 votes.

**See RIAA, page 4**

**See President, page 7**

**See SGA, page 7**

**Tuition to rise eight percent next year**

The HOPE scholarship will increase funding to students to cover the in-state tuition increase.

The Board was pleased to keep the increase in the single digits. "We pressed hard to keep tuition well below the double-digit mark, and our funding partners helped us achieve that goal," said Thomas Meredith, University System of Georgia Chancellor, in a press release.

Board of Regents Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs William Bowes cited total of $1.8 billion in funding that the University System received this year for the relatively low tuition increase. "Overall, the Board voted for an 8.5 percent increase in our operating budget this year," he said, calling it the largest increase to the system's budget in nine years.
From the files of the GTPD...

**Campus Crime**

**Baseballs hit car twice**

On April 7, a male student reported his vehicle was struck twice by a baseball from Chandler Stadium. His vehicle was parked on Fowler Street in front of the Fiji House.

**Telephone calls persist**

On April 9, GTPD responded to a report of using a telephone for annoying purposes. A male student said that a man has been calling and harassing him. The student has told the man to stop calling, but he has not.

**Counterfeit money used**

On April 12, a theft by deception was reported at the West Side Market. A man had purchased an item with a counterfeit 100 dollar bill from the manager. The manager said that the man exited the store before he realized the bill was counterfeit. The bill was collected as evidence.

**Missing toilet paper**

On April 9, an unknown person vandalized a men’s bathroom in Skiles. Five toilet paper dispensers were broken, toilet paper was missing and one paper towel roll was removed. A 35mm disposable camera was found on the floor and placed into evidence.

**Student snatches computer**

On April 14, a male student found an unidentified male holding his roommate’s laptop computer. The Towers Hall resident had propped his door open and walked down the hall to brush his teeth. When he returned, he found the trespasser, who claimed that the student’s roommate owed him money. The student snatched the computer away from the man when he tried to leave. The trespasser ran from the scene.

**Corrections**

- Due to an interview transcription error, an article in last week’s issue incorrectly identified the Bill Moore Tennis Courts as the Biltmore Tennis Courts.

Technique welcomes your comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be emailed to nique@gatech.edu. Letters to the editor may be directed to the same address, or to opinions@technique.gatech.edu.

By Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Technique Online
Voice your opinion!

Last issue’s question received 60 responses.
What do you do with your used text books?

- Give them to friends - 5%
- Keep them - 33%
- Sell them to the Tech Bookstore - 18%
- Sell them online - 27%
- Sell them to the Engineer’s Bookstore - 17%

This week’s question:
How do you feel about the tuition increase?
Tell us at www.nique.net

Sell them to the Engineer’s Bookstore
Sell them online
Keep them
Give them to friends

**The South’s finest college newspaper**
The Undergraduate House of Representatives passed an unusually high nineteen bills and failed three bills in its last meeting of the semester this Tuesday.

Ambika Bumb began the meeting with her final report as treasurer of UHR. “We’ve done a good job this year of being fiscally responsible,” she said. “It’s been a pleasure working as your treasurer.”

After the executive reports, Representative Chris Rankine, a member of the Joint Campus Organizational Committee (JCOC), began the meeting with a motion to slate all twelve “Joint Chartering” bills on the agenda, with the exception of two that were not previously approved by the JCOC. The following organizations were all granted charters: Pi Epsilon Phi, IAESTE, Pre-Dental Society, Victory Campus Ministries, Airsoft Club, M Company, Mars Society, Reformed University Fellowship, Engineering Students Without Borders, Semper Fi Society, Students for Progressive Transit and Society of Women in Business. A joint allocation to the Industrial Design Society of America and a joint allocation to Students for Fun were reviewed, and two were passed. A joint allocation to Mars Society, which requested funding for an organizational trip to a conference in Boulder, Colo., was amended per the Graduate Senate and passed. The second of the passed financial allocation bills, an allocation to FrēSGA, also failed.

The third of these bills failed—a joint allocation to Students for Fun generated many responses among representatives who worried about the ambiguity of the title. According to author Stephanie Benti, the bill did not request funding for a specific organization but asked for $200 to go towards “water guns and water balloons” for Fronts for a water fight on Tuesday during the week before finals.

The House passed its final bill of the semester, Joint Approval of Constitutional Amendments for the Iranian Student Organization at Georgia Tech, by unanimous approval.
the implicated IPs once the subpoena does come, which Nordin expects will be this or next week. He added that the legal department will notify students that they are giving their contact information out. The legal department will also send students contact information to possibly find legal representation, though Nordin said students may seek to settle directly with the RIAA or MPAA if they choose to.

Still, Nordin said, “Just the fact that they’ve been named in a lawsuit doesn’t mean they did anything wrong.” The Tech student who found his IP address online said his friend contacted the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) on his behalf. In a response email, the EFF noted www.subpoenadefense.org as a defense resource for those named in these subpoenas. The email also indicated that RIAA cases are typically settled for an amount between $2,500 and $5,000, with little room for negotiation.

“I’m probably not going to fight it,” the Tech student said. “I’m probably going to settle.” He said that he and other students and administrators he has contacted are waiting on further official word before making any final decisions.

The EFF further noted that some students have contacted them with concerns regarding how the RIAA accessed the i2hub to gather their information. The EFF, however, said the RIAA would not reveal its investigation techniques. Nordin advised students to be cautious in their online activity. “The industry is going to become more and more active in these kind of lawsuits, and they apparently have very good software for tracking people,” he said. “So my advice would be stop doing it if you’re doing it.”

ResNet plans campus
HDTV implementation

By Amanda Dugan
Staff Writer

ResNet recently introduced alpha testing of high definition television (HDTV) and increased the upload bandwidth cap for residents. HDTV programs are digitally encoded and give a crisper image and better sound. Current programming options are limited, but HDTV has other advantages. “HD will let us use cable channels that we currently left blank because of interference. It also has a better aspect ratio,” said Adrian Smith, ResNet Program Manager.

“We routinely check to make sure that ResNet is providing the best service possible comparable to what residents could receive off campus or at peer institutions,” Smith said.

ResNet is the contact for all Department of Housing technology services, including telephone, network and television.

“We had to ask what the next step with cable television is and we are moving forward with the next step as HDTV,” Smith said.

Residents were alerted to the alpha testing based on responses to the ResNet satisfaction survey. “We alerted those that said they had an HD ready television and asked for feedback,” Smith said.

ResNet has started alpha testing by using one major programmer at a time. “We used CBS in initial testing because of March Madness and we are now testing Fox,” Smith said. NBC, CBS, Fox and ABC all offer programs in HD.

There have only been limited responses to the HD alpha testing, but students have asked about its availability at FASET. “We started having questions about HD at last summer’s FASET sessions,” Smith said. “Students wanted to know if we had HD available, and we think we’ve found a way to do it cost effectively,” Smith said.

However, he added, “There doesn’t seem to be a tremendous amount of interest. We haven’t gotten much feedback,” Smith said.

A student only needs a compatible television to access the current HD programs being tested. “Right now it is broadcasting on channel 68. It was blank due to interference, but we can use it now because the digital encoding gives a beautiful image,” Smith said.

The current ResNet timeline has the four network channels being introduced sometime during fall semester. “The cost is pretty low and right now we’re only thinking about introducing the main four channels. In the future we’ll look at other formats such as ESPN or HBO. The movie channels have the biggest effect in HD,” Smith said.

In addition to testing HDTV,
SGA approves activity fee budget

By Haining Yu  
Assistant News Editor

After five weeks of discussion in the Graduate Student Senate and four weeks of discussion in the Undergraduate House, the Student Activity Fee budget for next year has finally been passed through both houses. Before going to Conference Committee, two large points of contention lay between the Graduate and Undergraduate versions of the budget.

One area concerned the funding of a graduate assistant who would serve as a web developer exclusively for the graduates. The position had been cut and then reinstated by the graduates themselves, while the undergraduates cut the position entirely. According to undergraduate treasurer Ambika Bumb, the problem regarding that position was more of an issue of communication between the two houses than an issue of funding.

In the end the position was cut out by the conference committee. According to graduate secretary Mitch Keller, the conference committee recommended that the position be jointly appointed by the undergrads and grads, and that both houses could consider funding that position using prior year or legislative reserve funds to help provide some accountability.

The second point of contention involved funding licensing fees for music played around campus. A number of organizations had requested the fees, including WREK radio, the Music Listening Room, and the band and orchestra.

According to Keller, that fee also included music played at athletic games and in offices around campus. The graduates had voted to keep licensing fees out of the budget, while undergraduates had kept them in. In the end, licensing fees were kept out of the budget until more information could be gathered.

“It turned out that we were doubting up on some of the licensing fees,” Keller said. “We’re going to work on that over the summer and try to determine what we feel is appropriate for SGA to pay.”

The fees will have to be paid, Keller said, but due to the varied nature of the fees, SGA plans to look into the possibility of getting other departments, such as the Athletic Association to cover some of the costs.

According to SGA President Amy Phuang, the budget process for this year went a lot more smoothly than last year. “A lot more people trusted JFC’s work,” Phuang said. “If something was…cut out, there was a line explaining why.”

“We wanted to make the process more fair and more efficient,” said JFC Chair David Andersen. “In the past, JFC has made recommendations that the houses didn’t necessarily understand.”

According to Andersen, this year JFC has also tried to get more student feedback than before. That feedback, Andersen said, helped immensely when it was time to make decisions that the houses didn’t necessarily understand.

“According to Andersen, this year JFC has also tried to get more student feedback than before. That feedback, Andersen said, helped immensely when it was time to make decisions that the houses didn’t necessarily understand.”

Annual safety walk highlights high-risk areas around campus

By Haining Yu  
Assistant News Editor

This past Tuesday, members of the administration, staff and students went on the third annual Campus Safety Walk. Sponsored by SGA and RHA, the walk aimed at bringing student safety concerns to the attention of the administration and staff.

The ranking representatives of Parking, Facilities and Housing, as well as Institute President Wayne Clough, were on hand for the tour.

In order to cover ground more quickly, the walkers split into two groups, with one group heading toward east campus and the other to west.

“It’s important to walk with the students,” Clough said, “because they are the ones that are in the places…on a daily basis. Students takes shortcuts that sometimes we don’t think about…it’s important to see where students are walking and what their concerns are and to do something about it.”

While not all concerns brought up during the walk can be addressed, according to Clough, "every time we’ve done [the walk] there is a follow-up list and we make sure that over a certain number of months we get all those things done."

Issues brought up this year during the walk on west campus ranged from minor details such as broken lighting, overgrown shrubbery, or cracks in the road to larger campus concerns such as car break-ins and pedestrian safety.

According to Eric Southard, SGA Planning and Development Committee chair and leader of the east campus group, the main areas of concern found were along Fowler, where droopy power lines and a dark crosswalk on Fourth and Fowler were noted.

Walkers also identified various dark alleys in the Greek sector and noted that conditions at the Third St. Tunnel had greatly improved.
Grades

Academic Senate with little opposition.

“Members of the Senate were quite favorably disposed—there was some discussion about some points, but I would say that they were not at all critical, and in fact, supportive,” Barelfield said.

During the discussion of the policy, much of the criticism was heard from students instead of faculty members. “I think that everybody has opinions, and I have heard from time to time some other vigorous discussion among students…. but those were mostly last year, and I think that everybody’s either resigned to it, or happy with the outcome,” Barelfield said.

Overall, the policy encountered few amendments throughout its approval and confirmation process.

“We had essentially formulated the policy as it currently reads at the end of spring term last year,” Barelfield said.

Barelfield feels that the newly implemented policy will also increase sophomore retention rates, since students would have an opportunity to retake courses in their sophomore year. “It could turn out that the greatest impact could be on people in their sophomore year,” he said.

Yet, incoming freshmen should not count on the grade substitution policy to redeem poor academic effort.

“This policy will not ‘save’ students who do not take care of business and who fail to get academic help when they need it,” said Bob McMacht, vice provost. “I’d like to think that this policy, plus several other current initiatives centered on core courses and the good work of students themselves, will improve our retention and graduation rates.”

Nonetheless, John Stein, director of Student Success Programs, has begun preparations to inform incoming freshmen of the new policy.

“Through FASET, students should be introduced to this policy,” he said. “Our freshman seminar instructor would know the policy and know it well enough that if a question comes up in freshman seminar, they are giving students accurate information,” Stein said.

Budget

JFC’s policies for next year.

Overall, according to Andersen, Tier III organization funding increased roughly 50 percent over last year, though the total amount funded was still under half of the amount requested. Funding to sports clubs went up roughly 50 percent, while funding to culture clubs went up nearly 100 percent. More money was also set aside for next year.

Greater detail in the Tier I budget helped as well, said Bumb. The CRC gave us very broken down details of their budget. Last year we asked for numbers and they basically gave numbers without justifying them, so it was hard to really question what things we could cut and what things we couldn’t.

For the majority of Tier III organizations, the biggest change in JFC policy this year involved the funding of travel costs, Bumb said. Last year travel costs were cut across the board in face of the budget crunch. This year, travel requests were granted while limits were put on other things such as publicity.

The budget passed is based on the assumption that the $15 increase in the Student Activity Fee will be approved by the Board of Regents. The increases had been requested in order to cover the costs of running a much larger CRC. It is unlikely, Phuong said, that the Board will refuse that request, though SGA will not know for certain until May.

According to Bumb, this $15 increase should last for the next few years. “We think that this is the last increase that we will ask for, for a number of years.”

President

Charges pending from last week against one of the candidates whose name was not released will probably be dropped, according to Chris Rankine, chair of SGA’s Elections Committee.

The accuser had not made contact with the committee as of Wednesday.

The committee also looked into campaign financing violations over the last week, and found no inaccuracies.

“We were not able to get financial reports from both candidates last Wednesday night, which is why we could not look into them,” Rankine said.

“However,” he added, “we reviewed them as soon as we got them, and found no problems.”

Andersen said that he would pursue the objectives he laid out in his campaign upon entering office.

“As president, my first priority will be to appoint an executive branch that reflects the many different types of students on campus...”

David Andersen

Undergrad President-elect

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