The administration of Georgia Tech’s ninth president, John Patrick “Pat” Crecine, was the most controversial in the school’s history. The period from 1987 to 1994 would become marked by much change and significant accomplishment, but also be accompanied by a high level of conflict. In the minds of many, the ideas put forth by the former Senior Vice President from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh represented the vision needed to propel the Institute into the 21st century; others interpreted Crecine’s perceived “my way or the highway” approach as too high a price to pay, and weighed his leadership as being more destructive than constructive. As with most historical judgments, truth rarely resides on either extreme. This talk will focus on the major reorganization of the campus in the period 1988-1990 as a case study for evaluating Pat Crecine’s presidency. It will explain how the current organizational structure of the campus developed historically, and attempt to highlight the nature and extent of the conflict that surrounded the process.

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