SGA proposes JFC policy changes

By Craig Tabita
Contributing Writer

A new policy to govern the allocation of student activity fees by the Student Government Association’s (SGA) Joint Finance Committee (JFC) was recently proposed and passed in the undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the Graduate Student Senate (GSS). However, the two passed different versions of the bill and will have to work out the differences starting this week with a conference committee.

The student activity fee, a mandated fee paid by all currently-enrolled students carrying four or more credit hours, funds student organizations and activities and supports other services benefiting students. The JFC receives bills submitted to UHR and GSS requesting funds and JFC makes recommendations according to policy.

“The new policy is supposed to be more easily understandable and give everyone an opportunity to participate. A lot of things were not clearly defined, organizations could not use the policy, it was inconsistent within itself, so a lot of the changes are along those lines,” JFC member said.

It’s a culmination of us looking at this document and sitting in UHR and GSS meetings and being confused by certain statements. We have gone through and tried to clarify some of the very confusing aspects.

Brain Train pursues support, funding

By James Stephenson
News Editor

A new mass transit system that will stretch from downtown to Athens and will connect several of the major universities in the metro area is seeking funding from the state and federal government to build the project. Dubbed the Brain Train because of its proximity to several of the city’s universities, the project has created the College Board for the Brain Train comprised of representatives from each of the universities, in order to promote the project on the various campuses and to gain support to show Congress.

“It’s a culmination of us looking at this document and sitting in UHR and GSS meetings and being confused by certain statements. We have gone through and tried to clarify some of the very confusing aspects.

Diversity Forum opens campus dialogue

By Corbin Pon
Contributing Writer

The semester’s first meeting of the Tech Diversity Forum took place on Sept. 14, bringing together representatives from student organizations, academic departments and university staff to discuss issues of diversity on campus.

“We strive to promote dialogue by providing an open forum where individuals can raise and explore a broad range of diversity issues impacting our campus,” said Oscar Vargas, the vice chair of the Diversity Forum. Currently chaired by Charles Brown, the Diversity Forum was first created by Larry Stewart in 1996. Representatives drawn from student, faculty and staff organizations all participate in this monthly discussion.

“We then take the discussion and relay [it] to the office of the [undergraduate] student body president, Alison Graab. If the president feels like there is a pertinent issue to address, then that would generate a program to engage that issue,” Vargas said.

The other half of the Diversity Forum consists of hosting town hall meetings where current topics are discussed between experts and the campus community.

“A huge [town hall meeting] held in the past was over the Georgia State Flag. There was a senator for changing the flag and a senator against changing the flag. Typically that’s one way we set it up. You have an issue and you bring in two people defending each side of the issue. It is an open forum to ask questions and get answers,” Vargas said.

According to Vargas, there needs to be more of a flow of information to the students.

“The administration has some ideas trying to push this [concern], but there is a small disconnect [on the impact for the student body]. I would like to see diversity talked about more in the classroom. At our institution, we have a lot of group projects, and I think that is a perfect place to start dialoguing in the ideas of. Finding Common Ground,” Vargas said.

Finding Common Ground, hosted in October, is a large-scale project initiated by SGA, in coordination with the Diversity Forum.

“It’s going to be a series of dialogues. 50 students each, with consultants that will help facilitate dialogue. Questions [will be] posed to the students on student responsibility for interaction, promoting communication between different faces of the community and similar topics,” Graab said.

According to Graab, being able to have dialogues and civil discourse is important.

Auto show travels to Ga. mountains

The Tech Auto Show is having GT Ride Thru the Mountains Saturday Oct. 14. The event will allow students to drive their vehicles around the north Ga. mountains and show off their vehicles to other car and motorcycle enthusiasts.

Students with cars of all shapes and sizes, as well as motorcycles, are encouraged to participate.

CoC finds new way to prevent spam

The College of Computing (CoC) conducted a research with a database of more than 10 million spam messages to find that internet providers could fight spam better on a network level than using current methods of message content filters.

The CoC also tried two other methods for improving the security of the Internet’s routing infrastructure and developing algorithms to identify computers’ membership in botnets, which are groups of computers that are compromised and controlled remotely to send large volumes of spam.

Panel discusses Atlanta Race Riot

The Ivan Allen College Student Advisory Board, the Ivan Allen College Office of the Dean and the Honors Program are having a panel discussion to bring awareness to the centennial anniversary of the Atlanta Race Riot.

The race riot lasted from Sept. 22 until Sep. 25, 1906. A total of 27 people died as a result of the violence.

The event will be held in the Library East Commons Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See Policy, page 5
Salsa Fever

Dance Party at Georgia Tech

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Venue: Student Center Ballroom
Date: 30th September
Time: 9:00 PM

Beginner Salsa Lesson at 8:00 PM

Salsa Music by MACUBA

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$3 - GT students (With Buzz)
$5 - General Admission

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Website: http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/salsa
Or email
salsa@gatech.edu

From the files of the GTPD...

Campus Crime

Larceny-theft
9/15/2006
13:47:00 hrs.
Location: North Campus Parking Deck
Incident: Report of a stolen license plate.

9/15/2006
17:57:00 hrs.
Location: Perry Residence Hall
Incident: Report of a stolen bicycle.

9/15/2006
19:16:00 hrs.
Location: Field Residence Hall
Incident: Report of a stolen bicycle.

Recovery
9/18/2006
7:50:00 hrs.
Location: Peters Parking Deck

Alarm
9/16/2006
19:29:00 hrs.
Location: Student Services Build-
ing
Incident: Report of a false alarm

Information
9/15/2006
20:12:00 hrs.
Location: 300 block Tech Parkway
Incident: Report of a suspicious person.

Lost property
9/16/2006
16:38:00 hrs.
Location: 251 Tenth Street
Incident: Report of a lost cell-
phone.

Entering auto
9/16/2006
11:22:00 hrs.
Location: Peters Parking Deck
Incident: Report of a gold '01 Mer-
cury Cougar that was entered and items stolen.

sliver
www.nique.net/sliver

Friday Ultimate Players - love!
He puts the O in Odneal.
BIG GULP
BIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIG GULP
MAY = QB 4 EVAR
esteban mayo
i brought a snow globe!
ZOMG
BIG GULP ftw
GeRumCow is coming out
soon!
bush = osama
bush = hitler
Crypto is the suxor
I like to think of sine as male
and cosine as female
Beka is the hottest alumnus
ever!
JJB <3 Ryan Seacrest
My symmetric encryption
algorithm is leaking plaintext
all over the ground
Wang chung in my pants
McSliver!
I heard Tech is opening the
Chuck Norris school of Nin-
janeering
1908
They killed the wasp... "Just kill
the beast! KHILLTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT!
the American way of solving
problems
The Box Office staff would ap-
preciate it if you would look for
any posted signs before asking
questions
i love jaimini
drinking through finals week
is fun. i don't remember my
entire freshman year.
Sliver me timbers!
the Red Jesus in a Pink Hat???
birmingham on volleyball is
hot
why dont they wear deoder-
ant???
Kris J ROCKS!!!
Brody Ruckus is a fake! Long
live the dream!
Am i hallucinating or the dilbert
strip in the latest edition same
as the previous one!
Craig l loves you too (and all
other men)
oh my god, the gt flag girls are
so ugly that I am reconsider-
ing whether to go to football
games
See page 5 for more Slivers!

www.nique.net/sliver

Friday Ultimate Players - love!
He puts the O in Odneal.
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MAY = QB 4 EVAR
esteban mayo
i brought a snow globe!
ZOMG
BIG GULP ftw
GeRumCow is coming out
soon!
bush = osama
bush = hitler
Crypto is the suxor
I like to think of sine as male
and cosine as female
Beka is the hottest alumnus
ever!
JJB <3 Ryan Seacrest
My symmetric encryption
algorithm is leaking plaintext
all over the ground
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oh my god, the gt flag girls are
so ugly that I am reconsider-
ing whether to go to football
games
See page 5 for more Slivers!

Tell us at www.nique.net

This week's question:
What do you think about the proposed Brain Train?

Venue: Student Center Ballroom
Date: 30th September
Time: 9:00 PM

Beginner Salsa Lesson at 8:00 PM

Salsa Music by MACUBA

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**GSS passes new activity fee allocation policy**

By James Stephenson
News Editor

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) met on Tuesday in the Flag Building. One bill was passed.

The only bill brought before the Senate was the Joint Student Activity Fee Allocation Policy. The policy is a 17-page document that modifies the former Joint Finance Committee (JFC) policy in several ways. The policy adds a timeline with more set dates for budgets and submissions. The capital expenditure becomes more like a budget, which, according to Claudia Jones, chair of the JFC, helps in the planning of the policy.

See GSS, page 4

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The project will cost $400 million to complete and, according to Morsberger, he expects a large percentage of that bill to be funded by Congress. "The $400 million is next to nothing, considering the size of the project," Giles said.

The second step is that the state hires contractors to set up stations and add additional rail. The line will only connect to MARTA and other transit lines downtown.

"The line will end at Five Points Station where a person can go from this central station to MARTA or Amtrak," Morsberger said.

There are plans to expand the transit line after this initial project has been completed. "Atlanta has seven spokes radiating out [from downtown]. The line to Athens is just one of those spokes. We are looking to expand to another spoke as soon as we get this one up and running," Morsberger said.

"The Brain Train Group is looking for support from the universities directly affected by the proposed transit system. We are seeking support from Tech's student body. We are setting up brain train clubs on the various campuses to get student support and involvement in the project," Morsberger said.

There will be events held on Tech's campus to promote awareness for the Brain Train. "We'll be having a couple awareness programs to get feedback from students. There's a lot of potential there. The region needs more connectivity," Vivian said.

"The line will dramatically improve connectivity," Vivian said. "[The train] would take classes at other universities."

Woody Giles
College Board for the Brain Train Member

"Students will benefit by being able to cross-enroll at other universities. It's a form against the proposed policy, for a bill to be passed in a form against JFC policy, it would require a two-thirds vote in both houses. The most important aspect of the proposed policy, according to Jones, is the fact that the policy clarifies several things that were unclear before and lead to confusion and inconsistency." Consistency is what we are looking for [with the proposed policy]."

Mitch Keller
Graduate Student Body President

"Consistency is what we are looking for [with the proposed policy]." Mitch Keller, graduate student body president.

The proposed policy also had a built-in appeals process.

"[The train] would allow students to take classes at other universities."" Consistency is what we are looking for [with the proposed policy]."

Mitch Keller
Graduate Student Body President

The amendment had several forms before the final form that was proposed by Jess Chandler, graduate senator from ME, stating, "Following any change in tier status by the JFC, the vice president of finance shall submit any such change to the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) and the GSS for approval by a majority vote by both UHR and GSS." The amendment was passed.

The overall bill passed the senate.
Policy from page 1

that used to exist in that document to make it easier for students and organizations who are requesting funding to understand our process," said Mitch Keller, graduate student president, who composed the initial draft of the policy with Jones.

One major set of changes had to do with the types of activities and organizations that were eligible to receive funds. "We came up with careful definitions of religious activities and political activities that allow us to fund the broadest spectrum of activities we can fund under state and federal law," Keller said.

According to Keller, JFC tried to broaden the scope of what SGA can fund to the greatest extent and provide the greatest access to student activity fee money for "Tech student organizations.

Keller denied that these changes were influenced by a recent lawsuit filed against Tech by the Alliance Defense Fund in March. "We began this process far before the lawsuit at all. We had taken back in Jan., and there were some discussions last fall about this," said Keller.

"I would not say it is reactionary to the lawsuit at all. We had taken steps to look at the policy before the lawsuit. We took some steps to make sure what we were saying was legal," I would say that was changing and that’s not specifically unique to our college. There’s a trend that is talking about differences and similarities and how to have civil discourse on difficult issues. It’s important for students to understand, there are resources on campus relating to diversity and helping students connect to other students," Grab said.

One resource is associate dean of students and director of Diversity Programs Stephanie Ray. Ray’s position was directly created by the early efforts of the Diversity Forum, and she served as an advisor to the forum in years past.

The next meeting for the Diversity Forum will be held in October. “We had several individuals representing different organizations and departments on campus. We are still searching for more individuals to represent student organizations or departments on campus,” Vargas said.

"We came up with careful definitions of religious [and] political activities," Mitch Keller
Graduate Student Body President

Another change to the policy is that for planned, non-emergency expenses organizations will now be required to request funding in the fall, though emer-

gency requests will still be processed whenever they come up. "The committee that drafted the policy felt it would give UHR and GSS an opportunity to assess the totality of the capital requests for the year all at once," Keller said.

For non-emergency requests for funding, the cost will only be covered to two-thirds of the expense and the organization must supply the remainder on their own. "There has always been an expectation that the organizations funded but there’s never been an amount that we tell them. The way the budget process in the past has worked, it’s been disadvantageous for them to save up money for future capital expenses," said Keller.

According to Keller, organizations that saved money for future expenses might be less likely to have some of their short-term requests for funding granted on account of already having enough money on hand to be able to pay for them.

"We are still here to assist them with that, but we want to be clearer about our expectations that they are going to be funding part of this themselves," Keller said.

Also new in the policy is an appeals process to hear disputes relating to JFC decisions. "It provides a route for SGA to look at the decision and decide if there was really bias involved in our decision and how we go about making our decision," Keller said.

The bill was passed in different versions by UHR and GSS. Because the two passed versions are different, the bill will be sent to a conference committee to settle the differences between the two houses.

The bill will be re-submitted to the houses and voted on during their meetings next week.

Forum from page 1

important outside of Tech, as well.

"It’s important because we’re teaching leaders in the technological world, it’s important because of current world issues. You will be more successful if you can understand other people’s perspectives and utilize those to be a more well-rounded individual," Grab said.

According to Grab, Tech is the main impact on the document," Jones said.

The JFC policy has been changed before without requiring the approval of UHR and GSS, but a purposeful effort was taken this time to involve them in this process. "It’s going to be adopted by UHR and GSS, so there is a stronger buy-in from the two legislative bodies. Because they represent the student body as a whole, there is a student body buy-in to the document that way," Jones said.

"We came up with careful definitions of religious and political activities," Mitch Keller
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"Koinonia" (dinner, contemporary worship) – 6:00 PM, September 25th
"A Look at the Book" Bible Study: Jeremiah – 11:00 AM, Tuesday, September 26th
"Joan of Arcadia" Study – 6:45 PM, Tuesday, September 26th
"Arton" – 11:00 AM, Thursday, September 28th
(Prajna/communion service, free lunch served)

Weekly puzzle: What eight-letter noun -- containing the letter “B” -- is pluralized by inserting an “S” immediately before the “B”? (Find the answer at http://www.gtfw.org/puzzle.htm.)

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