Task force named for water usage and conservation

President Wayne Clough has appointed the Campus Water Conservation Task Force, which has been charged with addressing what Georgia Tech can do beyond what has already been done through the campus master plan and sustainability program goals to conserve water and respond to the 10 percent water restriction recently announced by the Governor. The task force is comprised of representatives from across campus, including students, faculty, recreation, athletics, Housing, Facilities, GTRI, Student Affairs and others.

Provost’s will be announced later that will have a more academic and research orientation to address broader water conservation and sustainability issues as part of Georgia Tech’s mission to be the defining technological university of the 21st century, as well as to assist the state with the broader challenges it faces.

The Campus Water Conservation Task Force will report its preliminary recommendations in mid-November, working to comply with Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue’s request to reduce water usage by 10 percent. Marcia Kinstler, in charge of Government Relations. "It will help the campus plan ahead for the Georgia General Assembly’s new year.

The Tech Alumni Legislative Network’s fall dinner held Oct. 25 for alumni, faculty and staff will meet to plan ahead for the Georgia General Assembly’s new year.

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The 2007-2008 academic year will bring new challenges for the University of North Carolina, a group of universities, including Georgia Tech, and others.

The Campus Master Plan and Campus Landscape Plan. Because of the water shortage, we are evaluating a wider and a faster implementation schedule.

The task force will have from 15 to 20 core members, and is expected to include additional subcommittees.

Kinstler says. Some steps that can be taken right away include reducing water usage, especially in restrooms, being vigilant in looking for water leaks in the system and conducting community outreach. She adds the task force has "typical water-usage charts" showing water usage patterns for residence halls, research laboratories, households and office buildings.

"Most people wonder why the water-saving tips focus so much on the bathrooms, but that is a major usage, whether in a residence hall, apartment or house or in an office or a laboratory," Kinstler said. "Using less water per flush, or even avoiding two to three flushes per person per day, takes us a long way toward the 10 percent reduction in water. The other major restroom strategy is to limit your shower to 5 minutes a day."

Drought, continued, page 2

ILRC tops Tech's legislative agenda

Robert Nesmith
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Prior to the football game against the University of North Carolina, a group of alumni, faculty and staff will meet to plan ahead for the Georgia General Assembly’s new year.

The Tech Alumni Legislative Network’s fall briefing, to be held Nov. 17 in the Student Success Center’s Clary Theater, will feature Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle as the guest speaker. The meeting’s focus will be to inform Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle as the guest speaker. The meeting’s focus will be to inform Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle as the guest speaker. The meeting’s focus will be to inform.

Headlining the group’s agenda is the proposal of Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC), the location for all science labs for freshmen and sophomores.

"The foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities," says Rene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities," says Rene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities," says Rene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities," says Rene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities," says Rene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities," says Rene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and activities."
**Correction**

In the Oct. 22 article “Provost names McLaughlin to International Initiatives,” it was incorrectly stated that Steve McLaughlin would oversee Tech’s satellite campuses. McLaughlin will instead provide leadership and strategic direction to the Office of International Education, which includes education-abroad programs. The Whistle regrets the error.

**“QUOTE-UNCQUOTE”**

“That is the cheapest and easiest way to get hydrogen today, but we’d be trading dependence on one form of fossil fuel for another.”

—Tom Fuller, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professor and a former director of fuel-cell engineering at United Technologies, referring to obtaining hydrogen from natural gas.

Drought, cont’d from page 1

“We anticipate identifying how Georgia Tech can reduce its use of city water by the amount we’ve been asked to do,” Nisenter says. “And we are working on outreach programs and volunteer efforts where we can help those who need it the most. We hope the students, faculty and staff will work to reduce water use on three fronts: their own daily lives, their families and friends and also do outreach to others who don’t have the knowledge or other resources to implement low-flow fixtures or otherwise reduce their water usage.”

Georgia Tech began its water conservation efforts as part of the Institute’s sustainability efforts in 1992 and continues to implement and expand them today. Facilities, Housing, Athletics and others have taken several steps to reduce consumption—many before the extreme drought hit the region. Infrastructure changes, such as low-flow fixtures in campus rest-rooms and residence halls, as well as maintenance improvements to the Institute’s central plant, have helped to staunch significant water usage. Over the last five years, upgrading and repairing the chiller systems has boosted efficiency 25 to 30 percent. Facilities has a Utilities Committee which works with Housing, GTRI, Athletics and others across campus to identify ways to save water and energy.

And with all of this, the Institute has made managing water usage a part of its growth and sustainability strategies. In 2001, nearly 350 million gallons of water served 10 million square feet. For fiscal year 2007, the water usage has remained the same, while the campus has grown an additional 3 million square feet.

More advanced improvements also have come to the fore in the last few years as sustainable buildings, which adhere to federal benchmarks of energy, water and materials usage, contribute to conservation.

Georgia Tech is a respected leader in sustainability, and was enlisted as a partner in 2002 when Atlanta was examining its aging water infrastructure. “This water shortage is part of a long-term situation,” Kinstler said. “The second committee being formed at Georgia Tech will focus beyond our campus and on a longer term solution to the water shortage and other sustainability issues. Policy and Planning aspects of water management and usage will also be fundamental to solving these issues long-term,” she said.

“Research and Technology are a key to our planet’s and society’s long-term sustainability. These are Georgia Tech’s strengths.”

It’s easy being green

Thanks to the staff of Facilities and Operations, Tech was named the runner-up in the universities category of the Green Cleaning Award, a joint recognition between American School & University magazine, the Green Cleaning Network and the Healthy Schools Campaign to recognize environmentally-friendly cleaning practices. Left, Berika Osekre makes sure the windows shine. The department will be featured in the magazine’s December issue.

Legislative, cont’d from page 1

students be more successful, which will make them more likely to return and go on to graduation.”

An $85 million project, the 230,000-square-foot building will be located near Skiles and the Student Center. The Institute is requesting $50 million from the General Assembly. The other $35 million will come from non-state or donor funding.

Legislative network members are charged with contacting their state representatives and senators to lobby personally for those items that directly benefit the Institute. “The message resonates in a stronger way when our network member and his or her legislator have a conversation,” said Betsy Jackson, assistant to the director of Government Relations. “It’s on a more personal level.”

Other items on the network’s agenda for 2008 are support legislation that would allow universities to roll over some funds to the next fiscal year and a request of funds for the university system’s Major Repairs and Rehabilitation program.

“The Board of Regents provides funds for deferred maintenance on all 35 campuses across the state,” Sheehane said. “Like others, we have roofs, elevators and HVAC systems that need lending. We rely on the state to keep those systems up and run-

For more information, visit www.facilities.gatech.edu

Georgia Tech mascot Buzz takes to the floor of the General Assembly as Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle presides. “The University System will request $70 million, half in cash and half in bonds, to be allocated to the 35 institutions.”

The Legislative Network Fall Briefing is open to faculty and staff. To attend, RSVP to Jackson at betsy.jackson@dev.gatech.edu. An online newsletter chronicling the legislature’s progress will be available during the 2008 session.

For more information...

Staff photo
Jacobs said. "With this, the faculty would choose a question or topic that the campus tries to answer—energy, for example," Jacobs said. Academic programs across all disciplines would work this concept into their curricula, fostering "interaction between the schools and the faculty, and between the faculty and the students.

"We could move from just being academic to more intellectual," he said.

Regarding the Institute's academic calendar, Jacobs said there could be room for an intersession—an intensive, shortened course offered before the spring and fall semesters—or even a "mini-semester" course, which would be offered for a few weeks during an existing semester.

Another goal in expanding the curriculum is breaking down established barriers to allow for more modularity and choice in courses. Students would then more easily be able to select minors or even double majors. "We'll never be able to 'dictate,' but we can work on providing opportunities," Jacobs said.

"This would help our students to pick minors or allow for some 'mini-minors.' Students could then select different subjects (outside of their major course), and this would allow for more interdisciplinary studies, but less rigid—more à la carte," he said, referring to the Threads program in the College of Computing. "It helps that we're so big—everyone doesn't have to go at once.

"A significant minority of faculty are very well-engaged with these ideas," Jacobs added. "That's what is so great about Georgia Tech. We don't need a majority to make this work. We just need a critical mass of the faculty to get moving."

While one goal is to remove rigidity in course programs and subjects, Jacobs insists that is not in the plan for the Institute overall. "We need to come up with a way to keep that Tech rigor, but allow for breadth and flexibility."

For co-curricular learning communities, similar to the International House, would consist of an academic group of faculty and students from different disciplines and programs. They would meet and discuss a topic or subject independent of the Year of Engagement.

"Tech has a rich legacy in interdisciplinary programs, miles ahead of any other technologically-institute," said Industrial and Systems Engineering Professor Leon McGinnis, who heads up the interdisciplinary committee. "Let's look at the things we do pretty well and see if we can't do them better."

His group also was charged with presenting a range of questions, which he says were broken down into several issues for discussion. As the group members of the task force were drawn from the interdisciplinary task force delving into a subset of the issues identified.

"What came out of the off-site was a need for the students to take all the ideas and filter and screen them to establish which ones would work best. By this week, he said there will be anywhere from six to 10 committees. The overall product direction. For more information, visit www.chemistry.gatech.edu/gtsf.

IN BRIEF:

Auction items sought

The Georgia Tech Women’s Forum seeks donations for its annual silent auction, to be held Nov. 28 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Ballrooms. Products requested for auction include gift certificates to restaurants or retailers, tickets for sporting or cultural events, arts, crafts and memorabilia. For more information, visit www.chemistry.gatech.edu/gtsf.

Architect Ventulett honored

The American Institute of Architects awarded Thomas W. Ventulett III the 2007 Southern Association of College and University Business Officers Best Practices Competition at its 2007 meeting. Presented SACUBO by Jim Bark and Steve Head, the program allows departments to develop and amend their budgets throughout the year. For more information, visit http://budnet.pbi.gatech.edu.

Wireless partnership planned

Alcatel-Lucent and Georgia Tech are in negotiations to establish on campus the Alcatel-Lucent Center of Excellence, which would provide ultra-high bandwidth to develop jointly “augmented reality” applications and massive multiplayer online games for mobile platforms. The partnership, funded by Alcatel-Lucent, is supported by the Georgia Tech Broadband Institute. For more information, visit www.broadband.gatech.edu.

Thomas lends voice to security

AirDefense Inc.’s vice president of product strategy David Thomas joined the advisory board of the Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) Oct. 15. AirDefense is recognized for its innovation in launching the wireless LAN security market. Thomas is responsible for the company’s overall product direction. For more information, visit www.gtisc.gatech.edu.

Budgeting solution honored

Internet Budgeting Solution, developed internally by the Office of Budget Planning and Administration, was chosen as a finalist in the 2007 Southern Association of College and University Business Officers Best Practices Competition at its 2007 meeting. Presented to SACUBO by Jim Bark and Steve Head, the program allows departments to develop and amend their budgets throughout the year. For more information, visit http://budnet.pbi.gatech.edu.

In the spirit

The Library’s Collections, Acquisitions and Management department won the annual Halloween decoration contest for their 'phal-tema' display, providing ultra-high bandwidth to develop jointly “augmented reality” applications and massive multiplayer online games for mobile platforms. The partnership, funded by Alcatel-Lucent, is supported by the Georgia Tech Broadband Institute. For more information, visit www.broadband.gatech.edu.