Tech hosts presidential search team

By Corbin Pon
News Editor

Members from the Georgia Tech Presidential Search Committee, who are charged with selecting candidates for Tech’s next president, spent Tuesday listening to input from faculty, staff and students at the Student Center Theater. During the session for undergraduate students, Willis Potts, chairman of the search committee, and Bill Funk, head of Dallas-based consulting firm of R. William Funk & Associates, took the stage in front of around 30 students.

Although not a member of the search committee, Funk was brought in to help with the process of identifying potential candidates. Funk has conducted searches that have led to selection of presidents and chancellors at nearly 70 universities, including University of Illinois--Urbana and Tulane University.

Potts said the search committee had met with 12 groups over the past few days and plans meeting with every possible constituency in order to understand what the search committee should be looking for in a potential candidate. “I want to ensure...the undergraduate population that the [Georgia Board of Regents] and the chancellor wanted us...to come on campus at the outset of this process and sit and meet with the various constituents, recognizing your important role as one of the primary constituents and gain your feedback,” Potts said.

Over the next 30 to 45 days, the search committee will continue to meet with the different invested parties and will finalize the initial list of potential candidates. Starting at around 100 candidates, the committee will reduce the list to 10 potential prospects. These 10 will be invited to Atlanta to be personally interviewed by the search committee. These 10 will be narrowed down to five nominees, who will then be interviewed by the Board of Regents. From these interviews, the Board of Regents will publish the names of the three finalists, and according to Funk, “We’re almost at capacity,” in which our book is sad, because we’ve been [at] 101 to 103 percent (capacity) the last

Fall 2008 enrollment climbs to historic proportions

By Corbin Pon
News Editor

Tech’s fall 2008 enrollment has hit record levels, topping out at 19,404 students for the first time in school history. The student body is comprised of 12,966 undergraduate students and 6,438 students taking part in graduate studies.

According to Clark, as a result of less predictable acceptance ratios, his office has become more conservative recently. “The downside of [this] is that you have to put more kids on the wait list and you string them along a little bit longer....You lose some kids [this] way too, because they will [take up] offers from other universities,” Clark said.

With the increase in attendance to the university, the number of students deciding to live on campus has also seen a similar rise. For 2008, Housing had an occupancy rate of 99.57 percent, after making available 7,892 beds for those who would wish to live on campus.

“Our mission is likely to increase, because in-state students will weigh the benefit of in-state tuition more heavily.”

However, when considering the current state of the economy, Clark said that number of students is likely to increase, because in-state students will weigh the benefit of in-state tuition more heavily.

In 2006, Admissions underestimated the number of students who accepted offers to attend Tech. This led to Housing tripling some dorm rooms. According to Clark, as a result of less predictable acceptance ratios, his office has become more conservative recently. “The downside of [this] is that you have to put more kids on the wait list and you string them along a little bit longer....You lose some kids [this] way too, because they will [take up] offers from other universities.”

By Siddarth Kantamneni / Student Publications

Wills Potts (left) and Bill Funk (right) listen to questions and input regarding the search for Tech's new institute president.
On Sept. 14, an officer observed a white male sleeping on a bench outside of the Smith residence hall. The officer asked the man to identify himself and determined he was not affiliated with Tech. Checking the man's identification with the Georgia Crimes and Identification Center and National Crimes and Identification Center, the officer found that he had no arrest warrants and a Kentucky driver’s license.

Using PolicePak, the officer learned that the man had been arrested on Sept. 11 when officers saw the man been seen sleeping on a Smith residence hall park bench. On Sept. 13, the man was given another criminal trespass warning for sleeping on the same bench. The officer placed the man under arrest for criminal trespass, and another officer transported him to Fulton County Jail.

Sept. 15, a police officer was notified about an automobile accident with injuries on North Ave. and Fowler St. An ambulance was already on scene when the officer arrived, but he was informed that the person injured from the accident had refused transport. Three vehicles and four persons were involved in the accident. The vehicles were a 2001 Ford van, a 2004 Mitsubishi Eclipse and a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt. One pedestrian witness was on the scene and stated that she was standing at the crosswalk when the Mitsubishi stopped to let her cross. The Chevrolet stopped behind the first car, but the Ford failed to stop, hitting the Chevrolet. The driver of Chevrolet said that the Ford caused her car to hit the Mitsubishi. The driver said that she saw the pedestrian waving and assumed she was saying she did not want to cross. The driver still came to a stop. The driver of Ford van said that she saw the Mitsubishi and Chevrolet stopped in the right lane. The driver said she was distracted by the waving pedestrian and by her passenger yelling at her to stop. Damage to the Ford and the Mitsubishi was not visible, but there was extensive damage to the Chevrolet.

This week’s question: Did you go to Six Flags? Tell us at www.nique.net

Poll graphic by Michael Schneider / Student Publications

NEWS

Campus Crime

By Corbin Pon
News Editor

Distraction

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New events include:

- Guitar Hero Contest
- Homecoming Chalking
- Knockout

Get all the rules and information at www.homecoming.gatech.edu

Most applications due September 26
This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Sept. 16, 2008.

French Club

Passed: Joint Allocation to French Club, received $300 for play tickets. Passed UHR 29-9-1, Passed GSS 26-0-0

The newly formed French Club was requesting funds to see the play Les Miserables on Sept. 27 at the Fox Theater. The organization asked for the money to pay for 15 tickets at $25 per piece, for a total of $375. The bill was passed in a modified form. The bill was introduced last week but modified versions of the bill were passed in the UHR and GSS.

Therefore, the bill was sent to a conference committee to reconcile the differences and produce a compromise version. The new version reduced the number of tickets sponsored from 15 to 12, but paid for the full price of $25 for the sponsored tickets. The conference committee decided they would provide the club $300 and decided the best way was to simply pay for less tickets.

Six Flags

Passed: Joint Allocation to SGA for GT Night at Six Flags, received $13,000. Passed UHR 38-1-0, Passed GSS 24-0-2

The joint allocation bill requested funds to subsidize part of the cost of students tickets to an exclusive Tech night at Six Flags on Sept. 19. The money would subsidize 7,500 tickets at a cost of approximately $1.73 per ticket. The organizational representative stated that the bill would not subsidize the cost of tickets being sold to faculty, staff or alumni. As of the UHR and GSS meetings, just under 6000 tickets had already been sold. The organizational representative said that in the past, they have sold out the remaining lot of tickets in the last week. He also said that last year they made a profit of $8,000, which was returned to the SGA.

As asked about other sources of funding, the organizational representative said that they had received $25,000 from the Student Publications.

Library Printing

Debate took place on the issue of library printing quotas. Several representatives voiced the opinion that the student government body's input was neglected in the decision-making process, as neither the executive or legislative branch was consulted. Representatives said they were confused about why the changes took place, with some suggesting that it was an OIT attempt to make money by limiting printouts to 55 and requiring Buzzcard swiping.

Underage Drinking

There were many proposals on the House floor with regard to underage drinking. The consensus for the representatives was that since it was practically impossible to reduce the extent of underage drinking, it was more advisable to advocate responsible drinking instead. As a response, the UHR created a legislative ad hoc committee of no more than 10 members to investigate the Amethyst Initiative. The committee is required to report its findings to UHR within a month.

Enrollment from page 1

The number of graduate students who have elected to live on campus has also seen a rise in recent years. To compensate for this rise in demand, Housing has reserved two floors in the Cercine residence hall for graduates, adding these rooms to the ones already offered at the Graduate Living Center and Tenth & Home.

According to Black, Tech has capped the number of beds that it will maintain for the near future. This is because Housing has begun the process of formulating a new 10-year master plan that will outline their goals moving forward.

Currently, Housing is in the ninth year of their last 10-year master plan. Members of the Student Government Association, faculty and staff have all had input on the direction of Housing's future, and a report on the new master plan is expected to be delivered in November.

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The acquisition of the North Avenue Apartment complexes in 2007 has eliminated over-occupancy of room for the first time in years.
2008-2009 Student Government Association

SGA elections and committee appointments concluded last week. Check the list below to find out who represents you.
Tech begins organizing an emergency response team

By William Brawley
Assistant News Editor

Tech is receiving two updates to its efforts to ensure the health and safety of campus. The first is that the Office of Emergency Preparedness has partnered with the Atlanta Citizens Emergency Response Team to form a new volunteer program on campus for all students, faculty and staff called the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Tech is also receiving a new crime preparedness officer (CPO), whose job it is to enhance community safety and provide prevention of criminal activity.

Ian Mayberry is replacing Grant Hawkins, who served as the previous CPO. The CPO has the task of organizing health and safety events on campus and works to educate on the issues of personal safety, sexual assault, theft and crime prevention.

“Instead of being after the fact, I want to try to prevent crimes. It’s better than saying ‘I’m sorry’ to a victim,” Mayberry said.

Mayberry will also work closely with the Atlanta Police Department to monitor criminal activity, especially in the areas around campus.

As the CPO, Mayberry will undergo training certification for the CERT and integrate some of his duties with the newly formed program.

Tech’s CERT is part of a larger nationally sponsored government program called Citizen Core formed as part of a presidential directive in response to events such as Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina.

The volunteer-based program is multi-faceted, with its main focus on emergency and disaster response and relief efforts. Volunteers must undergo a five-class training course to become certified CERT members. Once certified, members would be able to improve disaster readiness, conduct disaster damage assessment, teach fire safety, perform light search and rescue operations and various forms of light medical treatments.

“We’ve been trying to do this for a year, but couldn’t get the training organized,” said Jennifer Mattingly, emergency preparedness coordinator. “We want to have about 30 people.”

According to Mattingly, once the Tech team has enough members, they would eventually be
Students help others get registered to vote

By Kaitlin Goodrich
Staff Writer

Students with clipboards in hand were all over the Student Center this Monday through Thursday encouraging passersby to register to vote as part of a campus wide voter registration drive. The voter registration drive was a joint effort from all of the Greek councils and was hosted by Sigma Beta Rho, Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Upsilon.

At the voter registration drive, students, even those from out of state or out of county, can register to vote in the Student Center come November using their Tech mailbox address. Students who have never registered before are especially encouraged to sign up, but even students who had previously registered in their home county or who had signed up for an absentee ballot can fill out a change of address form and vote at Tech.

Sigma Beta Rho and Alpha Kappa Alpha hosted the voter registration drive last year before Super Tuesday, and they decided to hold another drive this year for the election. The other organizations joined in an effort to multiply the effect of the drive on campus. "We realized last year that a lot of people at Tech weren't registered, and we figured that a large scale effort would be the best way to make sure everyone on campus could vote," said Arun Duraiswamy, third-year BMED major and member of Sigma Beta Rho.

SGA is also involved in the effort to register students to vote. The SGA will be manning a table to register students to vote. Fraternity members, College Democrats, College Republicans and members of the SGA are all active in getting out the message to vote.

A member of Sigma Beta Rho hands out voter registration forms. Fraternity members, College Democrats, College Republicans and members of the SGA are all active in getting out the message to vote.

By Zach Krise / Student Publications

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Other drives are being held independently both by College Republicans and College Democrats. Tabling by the College Republicans focuses both on voter registration and recruiting new members to join College Republicans, while College Democrats were previously focusing more on simply encouraging voter registration.

The College Democrats are planning on tabling every Wednesday and Thursday in the Student Center until the last week of the registration period, when they will table every day. College Republicans plan to table on Skiles as often as possible until the election. College Democrats also have named dorm captains in each dorm who will have signs on their doors saying that they are available to talk about the election and give out registration materials to anyone interested.

Both organizations encourage everyone to vote regardless of political party. "While our focus is, of course, specifically to encourage Republicans to support our candidate and vote Republican, as Americans, we hope that everyone will participate in the election, Republican or not," said Jason Middleton, president of College Republicans.

"We're really just hoping to get more young people voting... this is the time for young people to really decide what they think for themselves about the issues and not just vote for a party because their parents did. Our goal is to cross party lines and really get everybody participating in the election," said Jillian Gold, public relations director for College Democrats.

The goal of the voter registration drive is to get everyone on campus who is eligible to vote, registered and prepared to cast their vote come Nov. 4.

"A lot of students at Tech are already on the scene, or not have to rely on first responders. "It's easy to use [CERTs] when they are already on the scene," Mattingly said.

There are other universities forming their own CERT organizations across the nation. According to Mattingly, Tech is the first university in the state to attempt to form a CERT team that she is aware of. The University of Georgia is said to be waiting to see how the formation of a CERT team at Tech goes before forming their own.

"If the first training [session] is successful, then we hope to offer one each fall and spring semester," Mattingly said. "We want everyone involved: students, faculty and staff. The first training class is Oct. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

By Matthew Darmody / Student Publications

The organization would receive in-house training. The organization would receive training from groups like City of Atlanta Fire Department, Atlanta Police Department and other city emergency services.

In addition to being prepared to respond to an emergency, Tech's CERT team would be able to provide other services to the Tech community. These include conducting drills, providing first aid at campus events and providing other forms of community outreach and training on health and safety issues.

Furthermore, the training a student or faculty member receives as part of Tech's CERT team will also be recognized nationwide. An individual doesn't have to join the Tech's CERT team to complete the training and is able to join a CERT team in another community.

Mattingly described how many CERT teams around the nation were a major part of the emergency response to Katrina, and with the help of CERT, many people did not have to rely on first responders. "It's easy to use [CERTs] when they are already on the scene," Mattingly said.

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Rising gas prices have also indirectly added to the increase in parking permit costs. "Parking permit costs are more related to the cost of doing business," said Lance Lunsway, director of Parking and Transportation. "It has more to do with building the structures, the maintenance costs and because [we] contract out."

The businesses that built Tech's parking decks have had to raise their own prices in the past due to the increased costs in materials like steel, fuel, equipment and labor. "Gas prices have a more direct impact on the people who drive than [parking permit] do," Lunsway said.

Students at university campuses across the U.S. are not faring any differently when it comes to purchasing space to park. Residents at UCLA pay about $475 a semester to keep their cars on campus, while Boston University on-campus residents pay a grand total of $1,087.80 annually. Students at Emory University pay $654 for an annual parking pass, and Georgia State University collects $85 per month from its loft residents.

According to data obtained from Parking and Transportation, Tech's parking permit cost ranks in the lower third compared to its peer institutions. It is also the second cheapest parking permit found in Midtown, only losing out to the cost of permits offered by Georgia Power.

Many universities offer a reduced parking permit rate for students who carpool or drive more eco-friendly cars, further benefiting campus residents who choose to live by this "green initiative." Annual or semester parking prices are significantly lower for these drivers, sometimes as much as $100 or more than regularly zoned parking spaces. Tech is considering the possibility of charging a monthly or per semester fee for some spaces if there is a proven demand.

"We want to find ways [for students] to get around without a vehicle and do it safely," Lunsway said. "Our campus parking plan just kicked off last month. [In the meantime], we’re meeting with some student leaders to interact with visions and what the quality [of parking] should be in ten, twenty years."

Students are constantly finding new methods of transportation. "A few years ago, I thought we'd see new methods of transportation. ‘A lot of Segways,'" Lunsway said. "Instead, we're seeing a lot more of these vehicles to keep Tech students safe."

The businesses that built Tech's parking decks instead of surface lots. "One of these potential regulations includes treating mopeds more like motorcycles. This would require the creation of new parking spaces and the necessity for these owners to purchase a parking permit for their vehicles."

As Tech plans on moving more parking to the outskirts of campus, Lunsway said there is a higher likelihood that Parking and Transportation will build parking decks instead of surface lots. Parking decks are more expensive to create, and Lunsway believes parking permit prices will continue to rise as a result.

Student parking passes are good for one year and can be purchased through the Department of Parking and Transportation. First-semester students cannot purchase parking permits, another result of Tech's limited parking. However, with Parking's potential new plans, more parking opportunities for undergraduates may arise in the future.

Local campuses like Emory and GSU are also accessible by MARTA if parking is unavailable. By calling 404-727-PARK, students are provided with maps and directions to Emory parking, while GSU's Parking and Transportation Services can be contacted at 404-413-9500. Parking decks are also available for visitors, like in Tech Square behind the Tech Hotel and the Student Center Visitor Lot adjacent to the Student Center.