Scholarship standards

It’s not fair to mandate higher criteria for athletes

While it is disappointing that the Tech basketball team lost scholarships by falling below scholarship rankings this year, it is not fair for the NCAA to expect athletes to be held to the rigor of the academic standards enforced by the NCAA. These standards put unfair pressure on student athletes who are already expected to perform weekly for students and alumni.

The NCAA operates under the assumption that all athletes are students first, athletes second, even though for many of these students, the chance to play in college is an largely an opportunity to get into the professional leagues later. This priority means that those students who plan to have a career in pro basketball are focusing on improving their basketball skills, not their GPAs.

Even if you maintain the assumption that athletes should prioritize being a student, the standards held to them are higher than normal students. A Tech student who fails a class, but maintains the GPA required to stay off of academic probation, is not penalized by any clubs they may be a part of, and there is no repercussion for the club itself. Athletes however, cannot fail any class without hurting the team. In the same manner, expecting athletes to attend every class is a unfair criteria to judge scholarship by. Most students at Tech have skipped a class at some point without any direct penalty aside from worse grades. The graduation rate expectation on athletes also hurts the effectiveness of the NCAA scholarship ratings. A player that makes it into an NBA career shouldn’t be a penalty to the team by not graduating. By taking away the two extra scholarships from the team next year, the NCAA isn’t hurting the players who failed, but the team as a whole.

Basketball scholarship is looking up, though. With the addition of John Balul as academic advisor to the basketball team, we expect not to fall short of the NCAA standards in the future.

The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

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Tech overcharges for the small things

Last spring I boycotted the Sting Break concert because it was $3 to get in.

The whole idea behind Sting Break is a free concert for students, which is not really free since it is being paid for with money from the student union fees.

I did not care for the bands, but if it were free, I would have gone since part of my student activity fees paid for it as well.

I could have cared less for those three dollars, but it is when they really count that it hurts.

I am already past the “Fixed for Four!” tuition going up is not new for me. I understand that times are tough and budget cuts are rising, but what hit me the most is paying $5 for each official copy of my transcripts.

This summer I need four copies of my transcripts, one for each internship that requested an official copy of my transcripts. That is a total of $20 for 12 sheets of paper.

According to Jeremy Gray with the office of the registrar, this policy was instated in the middle of spring break to not burden those who requested their transcripts in the fall.

He also said that this change was no different from our “peer institutions” in the state such as Georgia State. However, according to GSU, the first five transcripts are free and after they are $10 each.

I also consulted with Kennesaw State University and they told me that their first transcript is free of charge.

Lastly, the office of the registrar at the University of Georgia confirmed that each official transcript is $2.

With confidence, I would say that GA Tech charges its students the most for a copy of their transcripts than any of its peer institutions.

I agree with most budget cuts that the institute has to make, but something as trivial as an official copy of my transcripts should not cost me as much as a meal out of my budget.

Marian Aliche
Sixth-year CE

Sports are poorly covered in the Technique

Time and again, issue after issue, there are constantly errors by the Technique’s staff especially in the Sports section. What kind of editors does the Technique have?

This level of ignorance just makes the Technique’s credibility dwindle even more.

For example, in the most recent issue, I saw three errors in the Sports section alone. Do any of you ever go to the sporting events? At the least, make sure you (being the staff at least) log onto ramblinwreck.com to make sure you talk about the right athlete in the photo.

In this past issue, you have Tech swimmer April Dickerson swimming butterfly. Yet, the caption says that it’s a Tech swimmer “breaststroking.”

Great attempt at using swimming lingo. If someone with a few seconds on Google they would know that she is, in fact, not swimming breaststroke but butterfly.

As a Tech athlete on the swim team, it’s annoying and laughable that these types of errors occur.

I thought the Technique was one of the best college newspapers in the country! Maybe it’s just because many colleges just don’t have a newspaper.

To have these types of errors, which can easily be fixed by doing a little research, should be unacceptable and intolerable.

By reading the sports section one might confuse the Technique with a local high school attempt at a newspaper.

As if I haven’t made myself clear enough, here are two other errors that the Sports section had in the most recent issue.

Firstly, there is a picture of Sha Krupina, a sophomore tennis player. Yet it says Lynn Blau. It’s really not that hard to go online and look up the rosters and match the picture with the player.

The other error is with the men’s tennis picture. That is Miguel Muguruza, not Doug Kenny. All in all, it is evident that you all spend little time on this section.

I am assuming that since you are on the school newspaper staff that you aspire to do something in this field!

Good luck trying to do that when these types of errors show up in many of your issues.

If you don’t do your research on these things such as sporting events, don’t write about them at all.

Your mistakes reflect poorly on the Technique and show in what you are writing about sports. It’s really not that hard to go to athletic events and learn about how sports are played.

Martin Garnt
Fourth-year BIO

Write to us: letters@nique.net

We welcome your letters in response to Technique content as well as topics relevant to campus.

We will print letters on a timely and space-available basis.

Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. in order to be printed in the following Friday’s issue. Include your full name (1st, 2nd, etc.) and major. We reserve the right to edit for style and length. Only one submission per person will be printed per term.

Opinions Editor: Kaitlin Goodrich
A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say.

—Italo Calvino

April 24, 2009
The summer students at Tech are comprised of two very different groups of students.

The majority of them are returning students, enrolled in summer classes due to the impossibility of graduating in a mere 8 semesters.

The summer is, for most of us, a desperate bid to get out of Tech before our high school classmates have finished with their graduate degrees.

In a few short days though, these seasoned veterans of Tech education will be joined by a new group, the summer-starr freshman class of 2014 (or 2015? We'll see).

These are students who were so excited about the chance of attending Tech, that they sacrificed their last truly free summer in order to attend intensive classes.

They chose to enroll early at this school, the same school that fills the slivers with every student who shares the same school that drives us all to multiple all-nighters in the same week, the same school that we all want out of so badly.

The discrepancy of viewpoints here cannot be overstated. These incoming freshmen are enduring extra time on campus as a prerequisite to attending in the fall.

They are choosing summer on a half-dead campus over a summer with their friends and family at any number of other schools. They want to be here.

And yet, within the course of one short year, most of them will transform into the same jaded, graduate-obsessed upperclassmen who will begrudgingly share the campus with us. This shift is why.

Why the shift? What is it about Tech that makes people so excited to come here, and why isn’t the attraction permanent?

My theory is that the Tech-ain-obligation attitude is inherited. I think that each incoming class does not independently develop negative feelings about Tech.

I think that older students, TAs, and even professors convince them that Tech is a thing to resent rather than enjoy. I am not talking about small, subtle things like homework or ridiculous exes. Tech is an academically rigorous school, but it is not the hardest in the world, and students at many other pres许yigious schools report much higher levels of happiness with their college experience.

When I speak of anti-Tech attitude I mean science professors who tell you on the first day that two of the three people sitting near you will not make it to graduation, knowing full well that those statistics are wrong, or groupies who talk of nothing but getting out, all while prepping their graduate school applications for extended education. I mean teaching assistants who intentionally scare away new students.

Even good students who find friends quickly have a sort of merit badge for a surrounding by an environment that so prides itself on being inhospitable. So I propose a campus-wide experiment.

This summer and fall, when you meet a new freshman, instead of getting into a proverbial pissing contest about how difficult Tech was for you, and how ridiculous it will be for them, try acting like you enjoyed the four, five or seven years that you chose to spend here.

Not only are the news networks spanning new H1N1 figures all over the US and less than 10 in Costa Rica as of May 20, according to the Associated Press.

Perhaps he would be better off fleeing the US to Costa Rica where swine flu numbers are all zeros. People have been scared by the possible outbreak of a pandemic that they are not actually facing rationally.

Now I am not going to give you a list of facts and figures about swine flu, but rather panic over the swine flu and that everything is going to be OK, because I sure that, like me, you have been hearing about swine flu everywhere.

“My friend who was supposed to leave for a vacation to a beach resort in Mexico this summer,” is a war cry. It was lifted, it seems like a hasty decision.

“Helping to organize an india institute run for the american cancer society.”

“It’s sad to realize that we were all ready to pack our bags and go home.”

These are students who are choosing to enroll early in the US and less than 10 in Costa Rica as of May 20, according to the Associated Press.
Take a stake in the issues at Tech to lead later in life

Let me start by admitting something: I’m not exactly the queen of political discourse; at least, I’m not sure any of the “About Me” labels on Facebook accurately describe my opinions. But I have noticed something recently that intrigues me: how hip it seems to not to have, well, any opinions.

In general, it worries me that as a society we accept what we see in the media, forget to look for any reasoning behind rules and policies, and find ourselves too tired to change the world we live in. As technology makes our lives easier, it seems as if our society is growing more and more complacent, and less and less active in change.

But is this laziness due to the technology being developed? I don’t think so. After all, technology is the fruit of ideas, and ideas are a symbol of progress. And progress—well, that’s exactly what we need. So then what is the cause of our complacency? Looking back in history, I think we have seen that apathy is nothing new.

The problem is that now, it is occurring more broadly and pressing societal problems. Today, our nation and others face monumental challenges on many fronts: energy, world hunger, the global economy, health care, war, technological innovation, and hundreds more. While these larger problems in the world may not be a direct result of the apathy we see in our daily lives, I think we can all agree that overcoming our apathy will help to solve them.

And if our generation does not become the person responsible and bring the shootings to justice.

This is why Tech is a great place to start leaving our apathy behind, changing the status quo, and converting the energy and drive each of us have to make Georgia Tech a better place. We must work together to make the changes we want to see on our campus.

But I know you care—so let’s use the ideas, the questions, and the resources at our fingertips to make Georgia Tech exactly what we want it to be for ourselves and for generations of future students.

“All that you go on to become, a professor, or research for a cure for cancer, or climb the ranks in politics and improve international relations, or take an industry job and repeatedly travel to plants in Asia and South America, or simply educate your children on the power they have to change the world, you will have become a citizen of the world—exactly what Tech students are meant to become.”

Let’s start here, and let’s start now. I could not be more excited to see the improvements we can make together.