Student-based strategy
A year of planning awaits Tech

The incoming class this fall will be the first at Tech to begin their education under Dr. Peterson. The formation of his 25-year strategic plan is an extraordinary opportunity for Tech students to involve themselves in the future of the Institute, an opportunity that should be taken advantage of.

The Student Experience Survey released in May is a guide to the issues that students and administration should keep in mind, while remaining open to other areas of improvement within the Tech community.

The issues of student life, campus environment and student feedback should be central focuses of the development plan, but students should also weigh in on issues such as campus development and student body growth, issues not touched on by the survey.

The social environment at Tech leaves much to be desired. Students here are a different breed, and in many ways their needs are catered to. The competitive, goal-oriented nature of many students at Tech creates a mature population of students focused on graduation and employment.

While this approach if fantastic for the job market, it doesn’t encourage students to take time away from their resumes to plan and participate in “fun” activities.

The social experience of students after their first-year should be a priority for student leaders and staff. Pre-organized events like GT Night at the Aquarium or Sting Break are one way to encourage students to socialize, and their rampant success illustrates the need for similar outlets. Local arts and culture venues should also be utilized.

The city that we live in could offer much more to students. Departments on campus could partner with local venues to get discounts for students. Any relationships that already exist between Tech and local businesses should be better advertised.

Students also crave more interaction with their professors. Tech has one of the highest student to faculty ratios in the nation, a statistic which much be improved, and many students feel that they can’t approach their professors outside of class. The typical Tech student was the top of their class in high school, not the student who spent lots of extra-time with their professors. In order to encourage students to interact with faculty, the faculty must meet students halfway.

Events such as “Take a professor to lunch” could be reversed, and professors could take a more active interest in their students as individuals, not just as answer sheets.

Students must be encouraged to submit feedback on the class, and kept abreast of how their feedback is used. Procedures like the end-of-course surveys could be made mandatory, or at least have the results made more directly available to students during registration.

These changes would make Tech an instantly better place while paying dividends in the long-run. It is this long-term growth that must be the key focus of any development plans under Dr. Peterson.

Our Student Center and Library need expansion to deal with our increased student body. Adequate parking and transportation must be provided, especially as streets and walkways close throughout campus.

Campus safety must be prioritized, with a more comprehensive plan developed to accommodate student populations living and commuting off-campus. Tech has expanded enrollment in the past years, and our planning and policies must expand in kind. Tech must have a predictive plan for growth with expanded services and facilities instead of reacting to new students haphazardly.

The Consensus Opinion reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.
Do not sleep through the next few years

From my first few weeks at Tech onward I heard the mantra that students here want three things: sleep, good grades and a social life. We students want all three of these things, but we are only allowed two of them per semester. Long before I heard this cursed rule of three, I learned that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Combine these two axioms, and your can explain my heart-felt longing over the past three years. I have had a long distance relationship, from the end of my first week here till today, with sleep. Like all long-distance romances, I have had a plethora of informations and advice thrown at me when you entered high school and throughout your first couple of years. But I see each other rarely, usually on the weekends. Our weekend dates are romantic rendezvous, and I rarely leave the bed. I have tried to explain to sleep that if only had to do so demanding of my time, it might work out better. If only I could get some work done while seeing him, or maybe go out for a drink with my friends and bring him along. Whereas I could see each other more. But alas, no, sleep is possessive, and when we are seeing each other, there is no room for a three. This is how I have chosen to negotiate Tech; sleep deprived, but happy. It is amazing, in retrospect, how little sleep you need to get by. I have spent three years mastering the art of the nap, the power-nap, the snooze button and the 18-hour weekend catch-up sessions. My health hasn’t suffered over this, and I am happier for it. By forgoing the sleep I love so dearly, I have been able to do in the form of the freshmen. I am not all that scare as I apply to law school this fall. By managing my sleep schedule I have built relationships with people that I hope to maintain for years to come, both as friends and professional colleagues. Without sleep I have sat through countless Tech football games, Mock Trial tournaments, finals sessions and even the occasional party. Without sleep I flew across the country to study abroad, and with very little sleep I flew back. Each student should of course, pick their own schedule and preferences. If you cannot safely get by with less than eight hours a night, by all means, get your eight hours. Maybe you will be the exception to the rule. Maybe you will wake up each day fully rested, with all of your homework done and all of your friends seen.

Emily Chambers
Editor in Chief

On those weeks when you skip on sleep, or bail on a friend, or miss homework don’t despair. Do not panic if you wake up one day and have forgotten that homework assignment. Yes, it will probably hurt your grade, but no, it will not be the sole difference between you and graduation. It has happened to every-one, or at least almost everyone. Do not feel bad if you have to call your friend and cancel that dinner, your friend will survive. It might be nice to of fer to drive next time you go out though. No matter what impression you get from that older girl in your sorority, or your PL, no-one at this school has it perfect yet. There is not a student here with a 4.0 GPA, a perfect best friend and a loving, gorgeous significant other, the perfect body and a healthy sleep-schedule. This student does not exist, and so while this idealized student is a good goal, it is not one worth driving yourself crazy. A normal college life is hard enough to manage. Perfection, for most students, is like sleep is for me. It is illusive, fun to fantasize about, and mostly unattainable. Put the idea of it in the back of your mind, and work towards it as hard as you can, but when you don’t get your sleep, relax. No-one else has either.

Start school with purpose and frivolity

With the upcoming Fall semester rapidly approaching, Tech is engulfed in a flood of timid critters who move in packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately clinging to their sharpened #2 pencils and packs, desperately 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Discover Tech through choices

“If you, like me, are experiencing your first fall semester at Tech, I encourage you to reach out to your peers and faculty!”

G.P. “Bud” Peterson
Institute President

Some things never change. Since my arrival in April, I’ve learned that the letter “T” has been, and will always be, a highly sought-after token of school spirit, that Junior’s Grill serves some of the South’s best chicken fingers, and that you can set your watch by the whistle’s daily blasts.

Some things never change – but as I begin my first fall semester at Tech, I am eager to experience the traditions that await me in the coming months.

I am excited to experience my first Tech football game on September 5 as our nationally ranked Jackets face Jacksonville State University. I can only imagine the proud display of community and tradition that awaits me at my first Team Buzz community service day. I also hear there is a tricycle race on campus – the Mini 500 – and it is a “must see” event.

The fall semester also brings my official Investiture as Tech’s 11th president and the kick-off of my official Investiture as Tech’s 11th president and the kick-off of the Institute’s strategic planning initiative. Each of you is invited to join in the festivities, beginning with the Investiture Ceremony in Alexander Memorial Coliseum on September 3 at 11 a.m.

Following the Investiture, the campus community is invited to engage in the first public conversation on the strategic vision for Tech.

I hope this day will mark not only a first for the Institute, but also a first for you, as we ask ourselves, “What do we want Tech to look like in 25 years?”

The Tech that I see today is a remarkable place where traditions and tenacity meet innovation and independent thought. A place where learning does not just mean “making the grade” in class, but also asking difficult questions formed from the human experience and relentlessly seeking answers through technology.

It is a place where life outside the classroom is just as important to learning as the time you spend in class; where you can grow from tomorrow’s accepted wisdom and find yourself on a trajectory to solve some of the world’s most challenging questions. You are a part of that tradition. You work and study side by side with some of the world’s most renowned scholars. You examine today’s accepted wisdom and find yourself on a trajectory to solve problems we’ve yet to define.

If you, like me, are experiencing your first fall semester at Tech, I encourage you to reach out to your faculty and peers to learn something new about the Institute and yourself. It’s important for you to ask yourself what you want to accomplish while you are at Tech besides a degree.

There are more than 400 student organizations to help you explore your interests as well as a committed group of faculty and staff who care about seeing you succeed. There are unlimited opportunities waiting for you – get started!

If you are a returning student, encourage you to take a closer look at the Tech you think you know. You will undoubtedly see the Tech Tower standing tall, the comings and goings of the campus community at the sound of the whistle, and the unmistakable white and gold “GT” on many well-worn t-shirts.

But, if you take a moment to examine your Tech experience beyond the obvious, you may realize there are a few “firsts” you have to stumble upon. Have you ever stopped after class to speak with your professor just to get to know her?

Have you wondered about what makes you, as a Tech student, different from every other college student in the world?

I certainly cannot answer any of these questions for you. But, I can attest to the fact that Tech is the place to be if you have questions, because I am confident that if you look closely enough, you will find a community of faculty and staff who sincerely want to help you search for answers. I look forward to learning more about each of you as the entire Tech community participates in the strategic planning process.

Innovation begins when we, for the first time, see something familiar through a new set of eyes. Together we will envision a future for the Tech we’ve all come to know. See you September 3.

The economy sucks.
Free pizza rations on Tuesdays.

7 p.m., Flag 137, Technique
Tech traditions create ambitious and inspiring students

“Be proud to be in an academic environment of such high caliber, and in a circle of classmates of such high ambition.”

Alina Staskevicius
Undergraduate Student Body President

Freshmen: by now, you have undoubtedly heard that the years you spend in college will make up some of the best days of your life. It was in the graduation cards you received last spring, in the sage words your aunts and uncles shared with you, and in the advice your older friends gave. But did anyone bother to tell you the “why” and the “how”? The reasons you will love life in university stretch beyond living away from home and finally not having a curfew — although these are some pretty nice perks. Still, those reasons apply to any university with a largely residential campus.

Since you have chosen Tech, though, the reasons your college experience has the potential to be phenomenal are truly endless... but what follow are a few of my favorites.

Involvement
You have learned about many of our campus organizations at FASET, through pamphlets, and through work of mouth. During the week of August 24, campus organizations will showcase their missions, talents, and events. Take an active role in pursuing membership to a student group, whether it be a freshman leadership organization, Greek life, a cultural club, or any of the other student groups on campus.

Find a cause that you care about and dedicate yourself to it. After all, college is about doing what you love and exploring your interests. Be selective, but make a choice.

Academics
The professors at Tech are truly some of the most intelligent people you will ever meet. Introduce yourself after class one day, ask them questions, engage in research with them, and say “Hi” to them when you see them walking around campus. They have dedicated their lives to enriching yours.

But to get through some of the tests these professors will throw at you, you will need to study in groups and ask questions of your peers. One of the reasons I love Tech so much is because of the great students I have met throughout my years here.

Your fellow Jackets will go through calculus and chemistry with you; someday, though, they may join the Peace Corps, pursue graduate studies, find a cure for cancer or HIV-AIDS, or run for President. Be proud to be in an academic environment of such high caliber, and in a circle of classmates of such high ambition. (Also: be proud to be a part of the first year in its history that Tech has more than 30% female students!)

Sports
Tech is a Division I ACC university. At how many schools can you stand on the floor of the basketball stadium, or cheer on the volleyball team in a gym louder than a MLB baseball game? The spirit of Tech students shines at these events.

Each of our athletic teams has something unique to offer, and student support only helps our athletes succeed. Become an active Tech fan! Attend the Traditions Night (T-Night) on September 9th, and wear white during our 2nd Annual student-led White Out football game on September 10th. Also, if you haven’t yet, register online for your student season football tickets. Visit the SGA (www.sga.gatech.edu) or the Athletic Association (www.ramblinwreck.com) web sites for more details.

Registration for freshmen tickets begins August 20th!

Traditions
Tech opened its doors in 1885 to the first class of Tech students. Since then, GT has become a university with numerous rich traditions of which all alumni and students are exceptionally proud. So keep the traditions alive! Pick up a RAT cap at Freshman Convocation.

Know that your school colors are White and Gold. Learn about George P. Burrerd and Sideways the Dog. Memorize the lyrics to the Ramblin’ Wreck fight song, Up With the White and Gold and the Alma Mater: And under no circumstances should you touch the Rock before the end of your freshman year.

The Unexpected
You can plan out your life at Tech as much as you want: organize class schedules through your senior year and develop a plan of organizations you want to be involved in. You should know though that it is truly the spontaneous and random moments that you will treasure and remember more than your GPA or a group meeting. So take a 2 a.m. trip to Wingnuts. Watch an entire season of your favorite TV show on DVD in one day. Say hello to other students and learn about their backgrounds. Escape your comfort zone.

I could go on all day long about how Tech is this wondrous place and how it will change your life. But instead, I am asking you to experience it for yourself. Experience it to its fullest. Open your eyes to our campus and take it all in. Your time at university goes by far too fast and there’s no time to waste.

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SGA website: www.sga.gatech.edu
To find your representative look at: http://www.sga.gatech.edu/legislative/reps.php

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