Enrollment strains resources
Campus growth in times of crisis harms students

While we applaud Tech and the admissions office for yet another year of successful recruitment and what appears to be a robust freshman class, especially in light of the increased enrollment figures for female students, we here at the Technique feel that the current rate of student growth is both unsustainable and detrimental to the overall student experience.

The events of these first few days on campus illustrate a shocking level of unpreparedness in terms of server space and online access for the number of newly-incoming and returning students. Both OSCAR and Buzzport were down Friday afternoon, making it difficult to impossible for older students to take advantage of the fifteen-minute-apart time slots, and multiple departments had difficulty opening up class registration on time or even scheduling the appropriate number of class spots for their graduating seniors. Later in the week both Tsquare and Zimbra were down, stranding students without syllabi and readings for square and Zimbra were down, stranding seniors. Later in the week both T-squares and Zimbra were down, stranding students without syllabi and readings for seniors. Later in the week both T-squares and Zimbra were down, stranding students without syllabi and readings for seniors. Later in the week both T-squares and Zimbra were down, stranding students without syllabi and readings for seniors. Later in the week both T-squares and Zimbra were down, stranding seniors. Later in the week both T-squares and Zimbra were down, stranding seniors. Later in the week both T-squares and Zimbra were down, stranding seniors.

In terms of facilities, the ever crowded student center was a sardine can this week, and the food court was packed beyond usefulness between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. While having all of the lines open during these critical hours did help, the extra tables put in to accommodate extra students makes it impossible to find seating once you do navigate your way through the check-out line.

Even more worrisome is the effect that increased enrollment is having on the educational experience. Many of us still remember our freshman dorm rooms as triples, and those record-setting numbers are now evident in junior and senior level classes, where Tech’s prestigious Princeton Review ranking as the second-worst school in terms of professor accessibility and fourth-worst in terms of class discussion are easily explained by 3000-level classes with 50 to 75 students, and even 4000 level classes with over 100 students enrolled.

These same classes are often billed as advanced-level discussion classes, discussion that happens rarely to never, through little fault of the professors or students. Classroom discussion can hardly be expected from students idling for an hour or two in lecture halls after four-years without any experience with discussion, and professors should not be expected to force discussion out of the near-mob of students staring down at them from elevated rows of seats.

Of course, the resources are not available right now to employ more professors, or offer more classes. In order to keep tuition down and chisel away the $900 million deficit, very little can be changed right now. Yet, in spite of all of these problems, students will continue to enroll here.

Tech is still a prestigious institution and a financially sound decision, and the number of students who enroll after acceptance has increased over the years. Admissions should take this into account when selecting next year’s class and adjust their numbers accordingly. In financially strenuous times, with more students paying for school on their own, that number is likely to only grow.

Expansion is possible, and it is not the fault of the incoming class, nor those that came before them, that campus is so crowded now. Were these boom economic times without furloughs, academic excellence fees and hiring freezes, Tech could most likely expand the number of classes offered, increase the number of servers and expand campus food options. But that is not the current economic climate, and the administration, and admissions office, must act accordingly.

Opinions Editor: Kaitlin Goodrich
Education’s purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.
—Malcolm Forbes

O U R  V I E W S  C O N S E N S U S  O P I N I O N

Digital textbooks may be solution that keeps books updated

by Lisa Chung
The Daily Bruin

(UTWire)—Last month, the California state budget closed a $24-billion gap, which slashed funding for new textbooks.

The Board of Education won’t approve new books for kindergarten through eighth grade until at least January 2016, and budget restraints have forced school districts, such as the Los Angeles Unified School District, to order new high school textbooks.

While these dark financial times could equal educational doom for California’s elementary, middle and high schools, it’s an extremely appropriate time for the Board of Education to invest in computer and digital technologies as a replacement, or supplement, to traditional textbooks.

Earlier this year, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger launched an initiative to encourage publishers to submit free sample digital textbooks to be available statewide.

Secretary Glen Thomas announced that 10 free digital high school math and science textbooks were ready to be used in California classrooms.

School districts complain that digital textbooks haven’t met educational standards, and others have found that infrastructure costs, such as building computer classrooms and teacher training expenses, will end up costing the state more money than originally imagined.

But the issue of costs associated with digital textbook use is something the state should currently overlook in order to reap long-term benefits.

The state’s top educators criticized the recent budget cuts, pointing out how hard-bound format textbooks will be lacking essential up-to-date information, such as President Obama’s victory in 2008 and recent developments in stem cell research.

“We need current, state-of-the-art textbooks, not outdated, antiquated textbooks,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell to the Los Angeles Times. “It could be close to a generation before we see new textbooks.”

Despite the initial financial strain of utilizing the Internet as a classroom resource, digital technologies are a long-term investment and solution for textbook-dependent school districts.

For example, if a student does not have reliable access to a computer or Internet, a teacher could print out sections from a digital textbook for a fraction of the price of a new textbook.

The problem of digital textbook content is one that can be easily solved. If publishers are given clear guidelines before or during the digital publishing process,
Maybe class readings really are to learn

Unlike some, I have been looking forward to going back to school for weeks. Not even just for seeing friends who have been away all summer, but for the classes themselves. This summer, I had an official which I was told would be good preparation for the real world someday. By the end of the summer, it was beginning to feel monotonous. I couldn’t wait for new subjects and the occasional hour of free time outside.

I went into my first class only to be unpleasantly reminded why I sometimes complain so much about Tech. As my friend and it is not time for the class readings. A cursory glance through the syllabus only intensified the vague stress that was already starting to build for the semester. The required book list had seven listed titles. That was in addition to extra mandated readings online and two videos, not to mention the three suggested books and list of other recommended selections.

I had to contain my urge to raise my hand and ask, “Are you joking?” As I continued flipping through the syllabus, I came across a footnote about the reading list. In bold the warm- ing read, “Do not stress your university education. Do the readings. Squander it!” I was intrigued, so I read more of the note.

The syllabus went on to laud the merits of the authors that shaped the society of today. It spoke of the great op- portunity that students have to learn about classic philosophies and the thoughts of men and women who helped create the way our world operates.

While the readings would be esoteric and take a significant time commitment, they genuinely enrich the lives of students who take the time to absorb their teachings, so claimed the syllabus.

I had never thought of class readings that way before. Sure, I had always considered some class readings interesting and occasionally really enjoyed a passage or book assigned, but for the most part, I considered the plethora of readings assigned to be a bit of a chore, or yet another bullet on my to-do list.

Surely you can learn just as much in class, right?

However, the professor had a point: if we are going to be here at Tech for four or five or six years, shouldn’t we come out enriched by the experience? Shouldn’t we at least attempt to make every class worthwhile and tuition?

I had already been guilty of sliding through a class or two, skimming the readings before the test and sometimes Facebooking during lecture out of listening.

Let’s not even mention the times I have slept through an entire class without taking any notes. What if instead of dreading the readings and skipping them off until the last minute, I actually considered the privilege the syllabus labeled them?

Sure, considering every new chance to learn a great blessing may be idealistic, but if we can’t be idealistic during college, then when? I know I would hate to look back at the part of the semester and not be able to name a single thing about a class that was really worth thinking about.

This semester, I am going to try my hardest to make every reading worth my time. However, I’m sure at some point that I will favor going to bed before 3 a.m. instead of looking into the workload of the day before.

At some point, I’ll skim an article instead of giving it the time it deserves, but if I can start the semester with every intention of taking advantage of the assignments, maybe they will really mean something.

If nothing else, hopefully it’ll earn me good grades.

I challenge each of you to make the same goal. Not necessarily to view every assignment as a chance to learn and not just another task to fill up your day, but at least to keep your mind open to learning. For may or may not happen, but I imagine that it will at least make for a rosier outlook on life.

Just think of how much less we would have to complain about if we actually enjoyed all the assignments that keep us so busy here at Tech. I know a majority of us will be losing a significant hobby, but perhaps this is for the better.

So dread your assignments or treasure them. Ultimately it is your choice. But I choose optimism. It makes for a much more pleasant day.

Dear Brett Favre, please retire already

Dear Brett Favre,

Look Brett. Can I call you Brett? I hope so because it is kind of impossible for you to address me.

Brett, I’m writing to you out of concern. Concern for your lack of sense in coming back. It seems as though you are lost and need some guidance. I, an avid sports fan, believe you were sticking your head in the sand.

So now you are an out of shape quarterback who also wants all the media attention! I am sure you are a darling in the Vikings locker room. Frankly, you have been spoiled, Brett. You watch cry babies like Jay Cutler swapping teams because he was mentioned in trade talks and Michael Vick come back from jail time because of dog fighting to play for a team (and possibly get paid $5.6 million next year) and you think, hey, I am a pretty good guy who has never watched two dogs brutally attack each other while betting on the results, I can play again.

Speaking of the media, this saga is not going to endure you to any fans. People love the NFL partly because it is a team sport. The fact that you have monopolized coverage, physically relegated every team to just a mention in the middle of the hour probably pisses off a good contingent of fans.

Do we really need to know what your surgeon is doing or not doing and his evaluation of your arm? Do we really need to tell the media that you may or may not play? I doubt Chris Mortenson has reliable sources in Mississippi. Again, I cannot speak from experience because my favorite team is the Eagles and I have probably watched more of the note.

What are you looking forward to this year?

Rachel Patrick
First-year Chem

“Football season.”

Leah Purdy
First-year EE

“Getting back with old friends.”

Ayo Balogun
Grad EE

“Meeting new people.”

Matt Rivers
Second-year EE

“Football season.”

See Favre, page 10

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See Favre, page 10
**OUR VIEWS**

**HOT or NOT**

**Waffle House**
Late-night dining on campus will be getting some intense competition this spring when the No. 1 seller of T-bone steaks joins Tech Square, replacing American Apparel. The outdoor seating, take-out menu and Wi-Fi lounge should give this WaHo an edge up on its late-night competition, and the endless cups of coffee should give all-night studiers a similar edge.

**Crashing and stalling**
Between OSCAR, Buzzport, T-Square, Zimbra and the new ticketing system, the class of 2013 got a quick introduction into the horrors of Tech online portals. Registration, football, syllabi and even email were down at some point between last Friday and Wednesday, fulfilling early on the joke and prophecy that we are the “technical school with bad technology.”

**Campanile**
Those students lucky enough to get a seat on the Campanile between jam-packed classes and the small sorority take-over might have noticed that the Campanile fountain has been refilled. The fountain even erupts every few minutes in an arch-like warning to students who would dare wander into the water or towards the shaft itself.

**Student fee figures**
Like most people, Tech students respond only so well to threats, which most likely explains the rosy welcome to the news that the “temporary” “academic excellence” fee with zero oversight and zero limitations may be increased to $250 per semester in the spring. On the upside, now we all know exactly what we will get to do with any Christmas presents.

**Favre from page 9**
40924352 hours about Michael Vick and his redemption story. Did you know he cried “many” nights in prison? Well, now you do.
Brett, just think of all the things you could be doing if you were not about to play right now. You could be the token over-the-hill quarterback on a five-man announcing team who is hesitant to criticize anyone but quick to defend any friends and never make any definitive statements. You could even follow in the path of greats like Jimmy Johnson and Terry Bradshaw and gain a few pounds and be another one of those guys that loses it all by taking some diet supplement. The possibilities are endless, and frankly, better than what you are about to do.

But you are going to play and I do not have the heart to wish physical injury upon you or to hope that you are suddenly stricken by some illness that prevents you from playing football. That would be cruel and unusual and I am neither.

Of course, if you were to suffer a minor injury in one week and Sage Rosenfels comes in and suddenly turns into a Pro Bowl quarterback and management does not feel the need for you to come back I would not be particularly upset. Or if you decide to throw 10 touchdowns and 35 interceptions en route to the statistically worst season in NFL history. Both possibilities are acceptable to me.

Brett, I know you may never read this, but I just ask one more thing of you. If the Eagles eventually call, just say no. They have enough trouble at quarterback already without you on there. And if I had to root for you and Michael Vick it hurts just to think about that.

Sincerely,
A concerned fan

**EDITORIAL CARTOON By CRAIG TABITA**

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**NSF Graduate Fellowship Info Session**

**September 1 @ 11:00, PIEDMONT ROOM, Student Center**

Learn about essays and application requirements from an NSF reviewer and Georgia Tech advisor.

Award: $30,000/yr. for 3 years for graduate study
Eligibility: Seniors, first- and second-year grad students; US citizen or permanent resident

Questions? Contact Dr. Karen Adams
karen.adams@provost.gatech.edu

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![Pass it on - Prevention starts now](image)

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Help researchers by volunteering for a vaccine research study.

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- Are between 16 and 26 years of age
- Are willing to use birth control for a minimum of seven months
- Are not planning to become pregnant in the first seven months of the study
- Have never been vaccinated for HPV
- Have not had an abnormal Pap

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