As of Summer 2011, Tech will no longer participate in the Academic Commons Market (ACM), which provides in-state tuition to out-of-state students who do not currently have nuclear and radiological engineering (NRE) and polymer and fiber engineering (PTFE) programs in their home state.

Tech administrators decided to withdraw from the program due to the economic downturn and the tightened budget from the University System Board of Regents and administration.

"It costs Georgia Tech a great deal of money to subsidize out-of-state students having in-state tuition. In the tight budget, we can no longer afford to be part of this program. We decided several years ago not to be a part of the Academic Common Market for new degree programs at Georgia Tech," said Dr. Anderson Smith, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs.

The program, which is coordinated by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), is a 16-state agreement that allows for students to pay a lower cost for education in certain programs. Participating states include Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia. Each participating state is responsible for the actual implementation of the ACM.

"Essentially when an institution decides to participate in the academic common market, [the institution] absorbs the cost for the student. They weigh that cost and absorb that cost. With the fiscal economic times and the constraint, they made the decision to withdraw... All students currently enrolled in the program will be given time to finish the program," said Trudy Blackmon, assistant director of SREB's Student Access Programs and Services.

"We realize that the number of students in the Academic Common Market programs will go down, but even if two thirds of the out-of-state students decide not to come, we would still be financially better off," Smith said.

Although the program will officially end at Tech by Summer 2011, students currently enrolled in the undergraduate NRE and PTFE programs will not be affected and will still continue to receive the benefits from the ACM, as long as they maintain all grades of C. See ACM, page 3.

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By Vijal Narayanan
Assistant News Editor

Tuesday, the Board of Regents (BoR) for the University System of Georgia (USG) voted unanimously to double the mandatory excellence fee introduced last year as a $100 fee. The BoR instituted the fee last Jan. due to the financial crisis. Also, the BoR voted to reduce the state funded budget for the Institute by an additional 2%, bringing the total percentage of budget cuts to 8% for the 2010 fiscal year.

"Clearly I’m not very pleased with having to see another increase in fees especially mid-year, but after learning more about how this fee will be implemented and why, I think that it is rather justified," said Alina Stasevicius, undergraduate student body president.

The fee was first imposed in order to cover budget shortfalls for the last fiscal year since tuition rates could not be changed due to the Guaranteed Tuition Plan (commonly referred to as Fixed for Four). The BoR voted to end the plan in April, barring students entering the USG in the current fiscal year from participating in the program. The BoR has set an expiration date for the mandatory excellence fee in 2012. However, this date coincides with the initial implementation date for the Guaranteed Tuition Plan, and signals that the USG may be willing to consider increasing tuition rates in the future if the budget fails to improve.

"I think that because students are only absorbing 14% of the impact from this 8% cut it’s not asking for too much from the students. With faculty furloughs and the elimination of positions they’ve accounted for roughly 60% of those cuts... Obviously it punishes students in a very hard position because of the fact that this fee is not being covered by the HOPE scholarship or other scholarships," Stasevicius said.

The BoR also approved a moratorium on mandatory student fee increases for fiscal year 2011, with the exception of fees for public and private venture projects demonstrating significant student support.

The latter clause was added following a letter sent to USG Chancellor Eroll B. Davis by the SGA Executive Presidents from Tech and the University of Georgia. The letter commended the BoR for attempting to cover the budget shortfalls without student fee increases, but also asked a moratorium not to be placed on all other mandatory student fees.

"Because of the fact that this $100 is coming in and is meant to compensate for state budget cuts, we are trying to give Tech the ability to go by where the state’s money would have been, which is in academic departments. Having placed a moratorium on all student fees would have put us in a very hard position of having to choose between bigger classes and say, our health center," Stasevicius said.

The Institute is one of how the mandatory academic excellence fee will be spent. According to Stasevicius, the possibility of overcoming the moratorium removes the burden on Tech to fund all campus resources, including non-academic entities using the mandatory academic excellence fee. This also means, however, that the Institute could raise other mandatory fees such as the athletic fee, student activity fee or rec-center fee. Doing so would require the approval of the Institute-wide committee on mandatory student fees and the Institute president, before being considered by the BoR for approval.

The increase in the mandatory academic excellence fee also applies to graduate students. According to Linda Harley, the Graduate Student Body President, the mandatory fee unfairly penalizes graduate students because they have never benefited from the Guaranteed Tuition Plan.

"If you run the numbers like I have then you will see that tuition on campus is very low but the out of pocket costs for graduate students is very high. In my mind that makes the argument for a tuition increase and not a fee increase," Harley said.

Graduate students will not be able to pay for the mandatory excellence fee through stipends, grants or scholarships, although the program will officially end at Tech by Summer 2011, students currently enrolled in the undergraduate NRE and PTFE programs will not be affected and will still continue to receive the benefits from the ACM, as long as they maintain all grades of C. See ACM, page 3.

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BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Student academic fees will increase

Board of Regents votes yes on raising excellence fee by $100

The decreasing state revenues have led to an ultimate 8% budget cut to the Board of Regents and a fee increase for students. The regents responded to the initial 6% budget cut with an initial $100 fee.

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By Matt Schrichte
Contributing Writer

As of Tuesday, the Faculty Senate approved the new Dead Week policy. The comprehensive Week Pre- ceding Final Examinations (WPFE) policy, which took more than eight months of work by two separate SGA administrations and countless faculty and staff.

"The current policy only allows quizzes and tests to be restricted during Dead Week. There is nothing else beyond that," said Rob Parrish, SGA academic affairs chair.

The new WPFE policy implements several changes intended to improve upon the existing framework. It recognizes that two types of courses exist at Tech, those with traditional final exams and those with alternative assessments (such as labs and/or design courses). For courses with traditional final exams, WPFE policies stipulate that under no circumstances are tests or quizzes allowed during the WPFE. The new policies will allow home work and/or projects to be due during WPFE. Even so, projects due during this time period must be indicated on the course syllabus. The week before the last day to drop courses with a grade of "W".

The policy also states that major courses with traditional final exams are those with alternative assessments (such as labs and/or design courses). For courses with traditional final exams, WPFE policies stipulate that under no circumstances are tests or quizzes allowed during the WPFE. The new policies will allow home work and/or projects to be due during WPFE. Even so, projects due during this time period must be indicated on the course syllabus. The week before the last day to drop courses with a grade of "W".

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How do you feel about the increase in the academic excellence fee?

19.9% I plan on paying, but the BoR should look at other options.
42.8% I completely disagree with paying an additional fee and do not want to pay for it.
6.9% I don’t mind paying more.
30.5% What is the Academic Excellence Fee?

Based on 131 responses

Next issue’s question:
Do you think the new Dead Week Policy is sufficient? Tell us at nique.net

POLL OF THE WEEK

GM offers a discount to college students and recent grads?

NO WAY.

You can save hundreds, even thousands, with the GM College Discount.

Get your college discount price and register at gmcollegediscount.com/GE
American Nuclear Society

The American Nuclear Society (ANR) requested funding from UHR and GSS to host an event at the Georgia Aquarium. The intended purpose of the event was to increase the visibility of ANR on campus and recruit more members.

The bill specifically requested funds to purchase 60 tickets to the Georgia Aquarium. However, the organizational representatives were absent from both UHR and GSS meetings. GSS failed the bill with a vote of 4-24-0.

Because the event was intended to recruit additional members, the bill did not conform to JFC policy. Since representatives were not present at the meetings, a UHR member who is a member of ANR spoke on behalf of the organization.

In order to vote on the bill, UHR would have to waive the bylaws, which representatives felt was unnecessary for this bill. Instead, UHR amended the bill to $6,200, thereby allowing it to conform to JFC policy. The bill was then failed with a vote of 2-43-0.

Because the house did not receive unanimous consent, the bill will still move to conference committee.

Men’s Lacrosse

The Men’s Lacrosse Team requested funding to replace their uniforms and gloves. The Men’s Lacrosse League requires players to have matching uniforms and gloves, with one set each for home and away games. GSS passed the bill with a vote of 23-4-0.

JFC made several recommendations for the bill, including amending the specific amounts requested for gloves and uniforms. UHR accepted JFC recommendations and amended the bill accordingly.

The total cost of the bill after amendments came to $6,200 and passed UHR with a vote of 45-1-0.

Because GSS did not amend the bill according to JFC policy, the bill will go to conference committee.

Assistant Accountant

SGA created an Assistant Account position earlier this semester. In order to fund the position a bill was put forward totaling approximately $4,075.

The funding would provide for a part time position for 15 hours per week for 25 weeks of the fiscal year. The Assistant Accountant would be responsible for helping the current SGA Accountant and be responsible for processing check requests, working with reimbursement and handling agency fund deposits.

GSS failed the bill with a vote of 6-21-1. They stated that the position should be paid for by student organizations requesting funding from SGA, since the Assistant Accountant would specifically aid those organizations. In order for the bill to pass, the UHR would have to pass the bill with an enactment ratio of 79-66.

UHR commenced a debate about whether or not the GSS ruling was appropriate and whether student organizations should provide the funding for the position. Some representatives argued that the new position would only serve the portion of student organizations that had agency accounts on campus and therefore it would be unfair to use funds provided by all student organizations to fund the position.

The motion failed to garner support and UHR passed the bill with a vote of 35-7-4, meeting the enactment ratio necessary to override the GSS ruling.

Currently, Smith has stated that Tech would probably not return to the program unless a compelling case is made in the future at the undergraduate level. The Academic Common Market programs will still be in place at the graduate level, and have not been affected by the withdrawal.

acm from page 1

of their eligibility requirements. Students may still apply to b enter the ACM if they receive admission into the specific programs and the Institute, as long as they also apply through their state academic commons coordinator, until 2011.

breaking the bubble

A lot of things went on outside the bubble of Tech in the past week. Here are a few important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

9/11 Suspects to stand trial in New York City

US Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Wednesday that five suspected 9/11 terrorists would be tried in a civilian federal court in New York City. One of the terrorists to be put on trial is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the self-proclaimed 9/11 mastermind. Thus far, suspects have been held in the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Critics of the decisions have argued that the suspects tried in a military tribunal, stating that a civilian trial would give the terrorists a well publicized platform to spread their ideology. Officials have also raised security concerns about holding the trial in New York.

On Wednesday, the White House fired back, stating that a civilian trial would give no more opportunity for Mohammed to “spew his hateful ideology” than in a military tribunal. Holder promised to seek the death penalty for all five suspects.

UCLA tuition protest results in arrests

Soon after the start of the University of California Regents board meeting on Wednesday, demonstrators interrupted a presentation by UC President Mark Yudof in order to protest against proposed tuition hikes that could total up to 25%. 14 people were arrested after rushing into the meeting room and locking arms and singing the civil rights anthem, “We Shall Overcome.”

The UC Board of Regents has been considering raising tuition by 52 percent over the following two years. Hundreds of protesters assembled outside the UC Board of Regents meeting, chanting and waving signs. The meeting was closed to visitors following repeated outbursts by students and union members. Two students were injured in the demonstrations. The protesters were ticketed for unlawful assembly or disturbing the peace and released. Despite the commotion, the Board of Regents voted to approve the tuition hike.
Library receives grant for digital repository

By Coby Lu
Contributing Writer

The Tech Library and Information Center received an $857,000 grant over three years for Georgia Library Learning Online system (GALILEO), a repository system of scholarly digital content.

GALILEO is a virtual library service that provides a centralized resource database to state institutions, including the universities, public libraries and high schools. These services include licensing access to databases and journals.

“We worked with the central GALILEO group on this particular project to get some scholarly repositories up and running,” said Tyler Walters, Associate Director for Technology and Resource Services for the library and principal investigator on the grant.

Each individual campus will have their own repository and these will feed a centralized statewide repository. Most of the campuses have already set up their own individual repositories, but a few are still in the process of developing such repositories.

The goal of the first year is to set up the central site and harvest metadata from the existing repositories. Later in the year the goal will also be to broaden the three repositories that are still being developed.

The second year’s goal is populating the repositories with digitized materials and doing outreach and promotion. The goal is to fill these repositories with scholarly materials which include journal articles, technical papers, research reports and any scholarship or research output created by faculty and students. Additionally, marketing efforts will be made to get students and faculty interested in depositing materials through such a service.

The third year’s emphasis will switch to teaching others how to initiate similar projects. Currently only four or five other states do projects similar to this. While these repositories do not have to be at the state level, this system is convenient since university systems are state-based and it is a costly project for a single campus.

“The goal is to look at the consortial model, how we can build digital repositories like this in a consortial model so that the costs are lowered for individual campuses but at the same time they can collect and provide access to the material that student and faculty want to put in there,” Walters said.

The key difference between other states that have similar digital repositories with this project is that member institutions will have their own repositories in addition to the statewide collection. This will allow each individual campus to maintain their own content while still having access to the content of the entire collaboration.

While this is a grant project, the hope is that the repository will be an ongoing project. So another main concern of the project is to focus on the sustainability of the project beyond the period of grant funding.

“During the grant phase we want to build the basic infrastructure and service but we want to do it in a way where we can do it as economically as possible. We want to show value so that after the grant period we can look for additional funding to sustain the repository service,” Walters said.

By Coby Lu
Contributing Writer

Provost search committee named

Institute President G.P. “Bud” Peterson announced the members of the provost and executive vice president of Academic Affairs search committee. Former provost Dr. Gary Schuster stepped down Oct. 12. The committee is comprised of several administrators and faculty members, with Steve Salbu, dean of the College of Management, as chair. The committee aims to find a replacement by July 2010. Peterson announced some other organizational changes as well, such as the creation of a new executive vice president of research (EVPR), who will have overall responsibility for all research at Tech. Other changes include the elevation of the current position of vice provost for academic diversity to a vice president for diversity.
The College of Management (CoM) received a commitment of $25 million from an anonymous source. The college will store $20 million in an endowment fund called the One-To-One Challenge Grant, which aims to increase charitable commitments and donations to the college. The remaining amount is to be allocated at the discretion of Steve Salbu, Dean of the CoM.

“The gift was inspired by the anonymous donor’s desire to support the College of Management’s ambitious goals. The donor understands the highly competitive arms-race among top business schools, and the need for us to have the resources necessary to achieve our vision and our goals,” Salbu said. “The timing of the commitment was triggered in part by the realization of the anonymous donor that as revenues were under pressure at other top business schools, coupled with declining endowments and philanthropy, the commitment would place Georgia Tech in a competitive advantage.”

The donated funds will provide the CoM with an opportunity to enhance the student’s ability to attract more Ph.D. students. “Longer term, through the Challenge, we expect to endow dozens of student scholarships and fellowships, 15 new faculty chairs and professorships and select programs,” Salbu said.

CoM officials and the donor began meeting months ago to discuss a potential donation. The talks culminated with a commitment on Oct. 30 and officially signed on campus on Nov. 5. The anonymous donor will match dollar for dollar any gift or commitment coming in until June 2012 by third party donors. He or she will then have a span of five years to distribute the payment.

“We anticipate the first payment as early as Dec. 2009, which will include both the Dean’s Discretionary Fund and the Challenge Grant [distributions] and annually thereafter,” said Barrett Carson, Vice President for Development.

Gifts by other donors will go into separate funds, and the $5 million will go into another endowment fund under the jurisdiction of Salbu. Should challenge donations fall short of the project goal of $20 million mark, any remaining funds from the anonymous donor will stay in an unrestricted endowment fund to academically support the CoM.

The College of Management received a $25 million commitment for its challenge fund. This is modeled partly after the challenge commitment campaign done to finance the current CoM's building.

Policy from page 1 projects should have components due prior to WPFE. It specifically mentions that any homework over new material taught during WPFE will also have to be explicitly listed on the course syllabus by drop day.

Projects report grades of “S” or “U” will continue to be assigned for all courses numbered 1000 and 2000 semester prior to the midterm. These grades will be permanent and never appear on an official Transcript. Courses with nontradition assessments will adhere to a slightly different set of standards. Homework, lab reports and alternative assessments are the only items that may be due during WPFE.

The alternative assessment may consist of any project or lab practicum. Lab reports may be due for such courses during WPFE only if assigned prior to that week. No additional assignments will be permitted during finals week. Homework can be due during WPFE only if is listed in syllabus prior to drop day. The alternative assessment (e.g. project, lab report, etc) can be administered or turned in during either WPFE or finals week.

By Zimu Yang
Staff Writer