UHR votes “no” on HB 615

Vijai Narayan
Assistant News Editor

The Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) voted on Feb. 23 to pass a resolution opposing current legislation in the Georgia General Assembly to repeal the ban on concealed weapons at college and university campuses. The resolution was passed with a vote of 27-19, following an extensive discussion about the merits and consequences of the resolution.

“I have to say I was actually really proud about [the discussion]... [representatives] did a phenomenal job beyond whatever I was expecting, and even the other students who came out for the open forum held themselves really well and expressed their views and helped to get the discussion going,” said Aaun Edwards, second-year INTA major and the author of the resolution. “I was pleased with the thoughtful discussion at Tuesday’s UHR meeting. I am proud that many of our representatives have taken this issue very seriously and have gathered as much feedback as possible on it so that they could make an educated and well-founded decision on how to vote,” said Alina Staškevičiūtė, undergraduate student body president.

The resolution was initially considered at the Management Building and the town hall meeting had a Student Survey Results

To gauge student opinion on the conceal and carry debate, SGA representatives created and distributed a survey on JacketPages. The survey reflected the following:

| Pro conceal and carry on campus | 47.7% |
| Against conceal and carry on campus | 52.3% |


Left: Representatives from the Students for Concealed and Carry on Campus organization present their case for allowing guns on campus. Right: Chief of Police Teresa Crocker presents her case against allowing concealed carry on campus.

Black Leadership Conference celebrates history, legacy

Zimu Yang
Staff Writer

The African American Student Union (AASU) held their annual Black Leadership Conference (BLC) from Feb. 19 to Feb. 21. The weekend long event started with a student and alumni mixer in the Alumni House Friday evening, and ended with several keynote speakers, a career fair and workshops the following Saturday at the Management Building and Sunday at the Ferst Center.

The theme of this year’s AASU was I-Chance and stood as a call for students to explore and change their community.

“We wanted an event that would help develop community oriented leaders and provide tools with workshops about branding, business and etiquette that would help students later on in their life,” said Jakshna Smith, third-year IE major and chairwoman of the BLC.

The 45-minute workshops offered during the conference covered a wide range of topics such as real estate purchasing strategies, with leveraging opportunities from the growing media industry in Ga., and taking brand ideas from conception to market.

 “[The workshops were] great, they were very informative,” said Shannon Wilson, fourth-year PTFE major. “The AASU took [the BLC] to another level this year through marketing and reaching out to other students. I also felt that the workshops are more pertinent to the economy. They did a better job of tailoring them to current events.”

Not only did the event provide a wide array of workshops, but the BLC featured a number of prominent speakers as well, such as A Complete Guide to College Business executive vice president; Chuck D, co-founder of rap group Public Enemy and Mac C. Jemison, the first African American woman to go into space. Topics discussed included the history of the role of African Americans in the community through song, descriptions of how branding can influence perceptions and descriptions of how the speakers’ backgrounds affected them.

“I enjoyed workshops but I’m mainly coming because of the speaker. For example, I wanted to hear Dr. Mae Jemison speak since she was the first black woman astronaut,” said Brianna Blake, first-year IE.

In between the featured events on Saturday and Sunday were a town hall meeting and a banquet held later on Saturday after the day’s lectures and workshops.

The 900-person Georgia Tech had a panel of minority speakers including several executives representing companies such as ADP and

GA legislators in favor of tuition hikes

Emily Chambers
Editor in Chief

“We have got to cut approximately another 200 to 300 million dollars out of your budget, please prioritize where those cuts will come, if not we will do it blindly, but we have no choice,” said GA. State Senator Seth Harp during the budget presentation of Chancellor Ertoll Davis on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The joint House-Senate budget committee announced that the $385 million budget cut needed to be outlined by Feb. 26, or the joint budgetary committee on higher education would make the cuts for the institutions. The cuts, roughly equivalent to the entire allocation made to the University of Georgia, are part of the overall state budget reduction of $1 billion. Ideas as radical as consolidating universities, eliminating schools or implementing an across-the-board one percent salary reduction were offered, but the conversation returned multiple times to increasing the tuition of University System of Georgia (USG) students.

The changes in budget allocation available to Davis are limited however, as the majority of the USG’s budget is discretionary, with individual schools allocating their funds as they see fit. In fact, tuition is one of the few areas that fall entirely under the purview of the Chancellor.

“It would require an increase of 77 percent in tuition to meet the $385 million. Research institute tuition today is about 6,000, that would go to about 10,000, our two-year schools would go from about 2,300 to over 4,000 dollars,” Davis said.

This increase in tuition would effect out...
From the files of the GTPD...

**Campus Crime**

**POLICE**

**Sleepy subject**

On Feb. 17, an officer was flagged down by an individual at North Avenue near the intersection of Northside Drive and informed that there was a man lying on the roadway in front of 645 Northside Drive. The individual then left the scene. The officer approached the area and found the subject asleep on the roadway. He was able to wake the subject, and acquire his identification. The subject was found to have a warrant for his arrest following a background check through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). As a result, the subject was placed under arrest and transported to the Fulton County Jail.

**A-Tow mishap**

An officer was dispatched to 120 North Avenue, in reference to a towing accident at the bus turnaround in the North Avenue Apartment complex. The Parking and Transportation Department hired a tow service in order to remove an illegally parked Honda Civic. As the tow truck driver began to hook the vehicle to his truck, he damaged the rear bumper of the vehicle. The bumper had been pulled and partially separated from the vehicle. The officer conducted a check of the vehicle through NCIC/GCIC records and was unable to contact the owner of the vehicle. The incident was documented.

**I didn’t do it!**

A resident informed GTPD that there was marijuana smell coming from an outside stairwell at Towers Residence hall on east campus. An officer made contact with two individuals who were suspected by the resident of committing the offense, and questioned both of them as to whether or not they had been smoking marijuana. Both suspects denied the offense. The officer searched each of the suspects’ rooms and found no signs of marijuana.

**POLLS OF THE WEEK**

**Did you go to Night at the Aquarium?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, but last year’s was better.</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, the extra tours and exhibits were amazing!</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s Night at the Aquarium?</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.3% No.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on 80 responses

Next issue’s question:

How many credit-hours should Phase I registration be capped off at?

Tell us at nique.net

http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wam
Representatives at the UHR meeting listen to the discussion about conceal and carry legislation.

By Vijai Narayanan, Assistant News Editor

This edition of Council Clippings covers the UHR and GSS meetings from Feb. 24, 2010.

**Club Math**

SGA passed a bill requesting funding by the Club Math organization to host Mathemagician Arthur Benjamin, a professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College. The event will be held in March and accommodate approximately 250 students, free of charge. UHR passed the bill 46-0-0, while GSS voted 23-2-1.

**Ice Hockey**

The Ice Hockey Club submitted a bill requesting funding for new uniforms and a skate sharpener, totaling $91,246.66. The team would have to spend $2,500 per season to sharpen their skates through an outside service. Therefore, the organization requested $68,333.50 to purchase a high-quality machine with which members would be trained. GSS representatives expressed concern that the storage location for the sharpener was off campus. At the UHR meeting, organizational representatives confirmed that the sharpener could be stored at the CRC. GSS postponed the bill, and UHR passed the bill 44-1-1.

**Undergraduate Bylaws**

UHR voted on a bill to amend the bylaws of the undergraduate student government defining the electorate of class representatives. In past elections students were allowed to vote for representatives based on their class standing and not by the number of years at Tech. The old system was created in order to be effectively implemented by OIT during the election process. As a result of this bill, electorates are defined based on the amount of time they have spent at Tech. UHR passed the bill with a vote total of 43-0-1.

**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.

**GM to end Hummer sale**

General Motors will wind down operations of its Hummer brand following the failure of its sale to a Chinese company, Tengzhong. According to reports the deal is said to have failed because of the Chinese government’s unwillingness to complete the deal. GM agreed to sell the division last year, shortly before going into bankruptcy protection. Under the original terms of the sale, Tengzhong was going to take an 80 percent stake in Hummer, with the remainder of the company sold to a Hong Kong entrepreneur.

**Senate passes $35 billion jobs bill**

The U.S. Senate passed a bill totaling $35 billion designed to improve the job market and decrease the unemployment rate. Over $15 billion of the funds would go towards allowing businesses hiring unemployed workers to exempt a 6.2 percent Social Security tax and give them an additional $1000 credit if workers stay on for a full year. The bill received support from 55 Democrats, 13 Republicans, and 2 Independents. This bill follows months of legislative gridlock on Capitol Hill, with both sides voting along party lines.

**It’s a trap!**

On Tuesday Feb. 23, the student body at the University of Mississippi voted the Star Wars character Admiral Ackbar, the leader of the Rebel Alliance, as their favorite to be the new on-field mascot for the University. The on-field mascot position has been vacant since the administration stopped use of the old mascot.

**Correction**

In the Feb. 20 issue, Jackets was incorrectly stated as becoming a purely burger venue. That was incorrect. There are currently no plans to eliminate wings or other options, though the menu is under review and will likely include more burger options.

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JFC revises governing policy

Matt Schrichte
Staff Writer

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC), the arm of Student Government Association (SGA) in charge of funding-request regulations for chartered student organizations, is proposing to make six line-item changes to its governing policy.

The changes were sparked, in part, by an audit of SGA last year, that discovered that some funds had been dispersed to a student unaffiliated with any approved organizations within the last five years.

The student had claimed to be a member of a chartered, on-campus organization; however, the money was not going to the organization in any manner.

Along with addressing the security issues of allocating funds to nonexistent entities, the audit brought to light a number of other procedural issues that affect all three levels of the student organization tier system.

The six proposed JFC policy changes include requiring a meeting between the JFC and two officers of the organization requesting funds in order to present their funding request rather than just one organizational representative; increasing hourly wages of employees in organizations to minimum wage; changing the rates per mile of travel funded so that it will automatically adjust to the IRS Standard Business Mileage Rate (ISBMR); eliminating the maximum number of organizations to whose primary focuses are providing information or services that substantially impact the entire student body.

The policy changes emphasize amplifying the transparency level between SGA and the tier I and tier II organizations.

The changes increase communication really between the student government and the tier I and tier II organizations to establish relationships that are much more beneficial and making sure that the money that we distribute is actually being spent in the way that we agreed upon,” said Matthew Cauble, SGA’s vice president of finance and JFC chair.

Tier II organizations contain all other student organizations on campus that are not categorized as tier I or tier II. These include organizations such as the Paintball Club and Dance Marathon. These organizations receive the lowest priority for SAF funds out of all the tiers.

“The travel and the conferences changes will affect tier III the most because that’s who requests it the most,” Cauble said.

The changes made to the travel policies will have no affect on the current travel funding rates. The conference policy changes will allow more members of an organization to travel with SAF funding.

“The thing with the travel is that we kind of just wanted to make it standard instead of having to go back and adjust it every couple of years when the federal rate changes,” Cauble said.

The current policy restricts the number of funded members to four. There will still be an $800 limit on conference expenses however.

“Those changes that we’ve made right now are more bookkeeping and keeping up with the way that things have kind of been run. Some of the things on here we’ve actually been doing, but we haven’t been implementing it as a policy. Such as the two organization reps, anytime I send an email for that, I ask for two organization reps anyways,” Cauble said.

“This year actually over the summer and just before school started, I met with the heads of the CRC and the Student Center and kind of did all that stuff. So we’ve actually used this instead of using some theoretical policy, Cauble said. “It’s something that we’ve tried and it’s worked so far so we just figured we need to put it into policy. Then, we might do a little more reviewing and see what other policies we can adjust that are little bit more controversial.”

The six suggested policy changes will be reviewed at the next Student Activities Committee (SAC) meeting on Wednesday, March 10.

The task force is looking at several of the major problems with registration for students and advisors such as credit hour caps and registration time tables. Such changes can include the addition of a waitlist function on OSCAR, which could be implemented by spring 2011.

“ar list function is one of the things that the registrar’s office has really pushed,” said Craig Womack, associate registrar. “It gives students the opportunity to see [where they stand]. If you are waiting on math 1502 for Dr. Morley, you can see that there are 21 people waiting in the queue. You can probably see that you should register for someone else.”

Members of the task force also noted the issue of students holding up the registration process.
According to several representatives, the discussion for one week. Accepted by UHR on Feb. 16, when representatives voted to postpone the discussion for one week. According to several representatives, this was done in order to gain a better understanding of student opinion. A campus-wide survey was made available to students through JacketPages (which requires one to log in to vote). We sent the survey out again to students, asking for those who had voted to re-vote, and pleading those who had not voted yet to do so. We threw out the first set of results without even looking at them," Staakevicius said.

Members of various campus organizations were present at the UHR meeting in order to present their viewpoints and engage in the debate. According to Teresa Crocker, the chief of police for the GTPD does not support the repeal of the ban on conceal and carry legislation on campus.

Last year, we actually had a 16 percent reduction of crime on campus. Crimes against persons on this campus are in the single digits. Our main problem is property crime," Crocker said.

Crocker noted that steps had been taken in order to combat crime off-campus, like increasing police presence and trying to reduce crime in Home Park by hosting clean-up and safety awareness events. She also described how crimes off campus follow a pattern of offenses before dropping off for a period of time. For example, she said that following a spate of incidents during the summer, Home Park recently had over 60 days without any robberies. Crocker concluded that people who live off campus had the right to own firearms but allowing them on campus would have an adverse effect on campus safety. During the open forum portion of the UHR meeting, representatives from an organization called Students for Concealed and Carry on Campus presented their case for allowing concealed weapons on campus.

"Criminals by definition are going to break the law, because they care only about making an easy buck. Laws banning conceal and carry affect only those that follow the law," said a representative from the organization.

They argued that allowing conceal and carry on campus would not mean that every student on campus would be carrying a gun, and that a student had to take multiple steps in order obtain a Georgia Firearms License (GFL). For example, only students over the age of 21 would be allowed to carry a gun on campus, would have to stand before a probate judge and undergo separate background checks before being allowed to obtain a gun.

The discussion among representatives in UHR focused mainly on asserting the validity of the survey results and whether it would be appropriate for SGA to take a stand since the survey results did not provide a clear majority. At one point, a representative suggested that the wording of the bill be changed to reflect the disagreement on the issue.

Several representatives were dissatisfied about the fact that results were unavailable by major, representing the validity of student opinion. Most representatives said that UHR should take a stand on the issue, especially since it would affect the lives of students and campus members. Proponents of the bill argued that regardless of the margin of difference in opinion in the survey, a majority of students did not support the legislation repealing the ban on conceal and carry on campus. Some reasoned that due to the nature of the issue, there was a very vocal minority, and that the percentage of respondents supporting conceal and carry were in the minority of overall student opinion.

"I actually went to Britain on Feb. 18 and I asked a lot of people what they thought and I spoke to people in my classes what I found was that most people actually against it but those who were against it were really proactive," said Daniel Nussenbaum, third-year ISYE major and junior class president who voted for the resolution.

Representatives against the resolution said that because the results of the survey were so close, it was important to represent the views of those in the minority be represented and not to issue a bill that generalized the opinion of the student body in a broad way. Some saw the existence of a vocal minority as a reason to vote against the resolution.

"I had to use personal judgment in listening to their arguments because realistically in an environment where people are more adamant about what they think, they tend to have more relevant arguments and it made a lot more sense to me... they set me to sight and referred me to arguments and statistics and showed that this worked at other schools for decades," said Eran Mordel, first-year ISYE major and freshman class representative who voted against the resolution.

We want more Tech students to attend the BLC. There are lots of opportunities, networking and professional development opportunities. I mean we had a top CNN exec speaking here. We are also trying to finish strong by holding Sunday’s events in the Ferst Center so more students can come," Smith said. For example we had forty students from other schools come: the NAACP branch in Kent State and the Black Affairs Council from UGA.

The AASU has been organizing the BLC since 2004. Since its inception, it has hosted guests such as President Barack Obama and Cornel West, among others.
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SGA election code updated

Kamna Bohra
Contributing Writer

Following election campaign violations and voting issues in recent freshman Student Government Association elections, the new elections code came to pass in the Undergraduate House of Representatives (UHR) meeting held on Feb. 23. The UHR decided to pass new elections code. The change comes after a number of reported violations and voting issues concerning recent SGA elections.

"The biggest problem [we’ve run] into was how to deter people from violating the election code," said Mike Donohue, second-year PUBP major and elections committee chair.

The code revisions quantify penalties as two percent of campaign budget or five percent of votes for minor violations and ten percent of campaign budget or 15 percent of votes for major violations.

"I’m not a fan of taking away votes. You’re not only punishing the person [whom] you’re taking votes from, but [you’re] also taking away student voice via votes, which is their right," said Brenda Morales, third-year BCHM major and institute-wide committee chair in the Open Forum of the UHR meeting on Feb. 9 during SGA week.

However, taking away votes appears to be one of very few options for committee members. "You’re not taking away individual votes. You’re not disenfranchising a particular voter. You’re taking away votes from the vote total, which, other than a budget cut, is the only way the elections committee has any [power]," said Parul Kapur, second-year ME major and sophomore representative.

Another issue brought up was the definition of "campaign worker," identifying cases where students not associated with a particular campaign cause a candidate’s violation of elections code.

"A big problem last year was the definition of a campaign worker. Clarifying this will help in allowing elections committee to decide what is or what is not a violation of election code," said Austin Edwards, second-year PUBP major and UHR member-at-large.

However, lists of campaign workers run risks.

"On one hand, it would be great if we could have a list of campaign workers so we’d know," said Parker Hancock, fourth-year EE major and executive vice president. According to Hancock, the possibility of candidates not turning in complete campaign worker lists arises.

"It falls on the candidates to just be aware of the campus, especially the executive candidates... They should be aware of their presence on campus," Donohue said.

The elections committee also changed the electorate criteria, now defining voters by the number of completed semesters, while still defining transfer students by credit hours. Elections code previously defined all students by credit hour completion, which did not always align with the number of semesters spent at Tech.

"[The code] wasn’t very clear as to who could vote for whom. It was very clear who could run, but you had to do some interpretation to figure out who was voting for whom," Donohue said.

The confusion associated with the code was also more of a technical problem, and the revisions have been handled by OIT.

The academic major representative criterion is still dependent on credit hours and current or prior enrollment in major classes.

"I think [the biggest concern] is making the penalties explicit. Before, a lot was left on the shoulders of the members of the elections committee, and while there [have] always been great people on the committee, it’s not their responsibility to make those decisions," Donohue said.

The elections code also sets the elections schedule for UHR and undergraduate student body president and vice president.

Application packets will be available March 1, campaigning begins March 28, and the second runoff election results will be announced April 26.

Tuition from page 1

of-state students pay four times the in-state tuition, meaning Tech’s out-of-state students would now pay 40,000 in tuition, plus mandatory fees.

"As yesterday’s subcommittee hearings affirmed, there is no doubt that the ability of the state to subsidize the cost of higher education is diminishing. Currently, tuition covers only 16 percent of the cost. Tuition increases make up another 22 percent. The remainder is provided by sponsored funding, gifts and other sources," said James Fettig, associate vice president of communications and marketing.

When asked how he felt that a 77 percent tuition hike would be received by students, Undergraduate SGA Executive Vice President Parker Hancock said, "Most students will obviously be very angry, very upset. I know for a lot of people going to college is a big burden on their families, or on themselves if they are trying to pay for it on their own."

However, taking away the credit hour cap to be 18 hours instead.

"By doing this, it will allow a longer amount of time for undergraduates to register and it will really allow us to extend time tickets. We can have a full day for seniors, and then juniors. There won’t be a complete rush in registration," Womack said. "The reason behind that is to prevent students from holding classes. And in Phase II registration, the hours will be flipped.

FASET Word Find! (words can be backwards, forwards, diagonal, up, or down)

SEKYVHNOISIIZITRMSZZUBWAYHMFTEQGEOWDIELUGSCPAKERMTCMFNSGEASEWRNRLMLODICTCEFARAAFUESLNILPTTRPODSFRSWEORLMQIGTIPUFELJOGZAWECNTONALSGOBDBMBNXEIMIEVRHSLSVDPMOU COAGAMLKOSVYNXGMUHIECUURSREFSNARTLBNIAOIUHMK CERNILBMARTRJRARTERTD

WORD BANK

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