Opinions

Gubernatorial glitch

Governor’s plan for HOPE detrimental to Tech

The new system for the HOPE scholarship program proposed by Governor Deal will have adverse short-term and long-term effects on the Tech student body and the Institute as a whole. If the proposal goes through, students will see an immediate increase in out-of-pocket expenses. Since fees and books will no longer be covered, students will already be on the hook for hundreds of dollars more per semester, but the problem will be further exacerbated by the fact that most students on HOPE will be required to pay at least 10 percent of their tuition. A grandfather clause in the bill would help alleviate this possible predicament and help students adjust to the new system.

The long-term effects could be even more damaging on an Institutional level. Tech has a well-established reputation throughout the state of having a very rigorous academic work load. This coupled with the recent decision of the Board of Regents to open up what used to be Tech-only majors to more universities within Georgia will make Tech be an even greater disadvantage when students are shopping for a college to attend. While Tech currently has a very strong brand, it can only be sustained by bringing in the best and the brightest.

Ultimately, the leadership on campus, both on the student level and the administrative level, needs to lobby for the best interests of Tech. Student leadership has sent mixed messages, but the two points often made by them have been that funding tuition at 100 percent is critical and that raising the college GPA requirements should not be on the table. Both of these demands were ignored in the proposal. SGA and the administration need to do what is in the best interest of current and future students; this proposal is not in the best interest of the Tech community. Both governing bodies should try to improve or block the proposal.

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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On Tuesday, Governor Deal released his plan to fix the HOPE Scholarship program. The Governor’s proposal would decouple HOPE from tuition, keeping its funding at 2011 levels going into the future. As the University System will undoubtedly contribute tuition each year, this proposal will harm students in Georgia and slow retraction of the promise of a good education for all who seek it.

Also, the proposed plan would only give full funding to the college the student graduates and the brightest in the new Zell Miller program, and if those students attended Tech, they would likely lose their scholarships due to the ridiculous 3.5 GPA requirement. Neither the Governor's press release nor the AJC article detailing the plan show what happens to those students. Do they begin to receive regular HOPE funds, or are they punished for being intelligent and driven young men and women who happened to choose a more difficult school, when they are dropped out of the program entirely?

The plan contains no mechanisms to increase revenue. At least SCAs White Paper leaned on casino gambling and the possibility of Sunday alcohol sales to boost HOPE revenue. While the prospect of Casino gambling in Georgia is bit far-fetched, projections show that Sunday alcohol sales would generate significant revenue for the program. There are other ideas out there as well, such as a proposal to levy a dedicated five cent increase in the cigarette tax or the legalization of firearm sales in Georgia to collect the revenue that goes out of state to S.C. and Ala.

In addition, the proposal would seek to thin the herd of potential HOPE recipients by requiring that the applicants take rigorous course loads in high school. This is patently unfair to students from rural or poor school districts, since many of these districts do not offer Advanced Placement courses. Also, how would the HOPE administrators differentiate between students who took AP Art History to inflate their GPAs and students who took all rigorous AP classes and let their GPAs fall a little.

Yes, the Governor’s proposal would extend the expiration date on the HOPE Scholarship Program, but it would do it on the backs of students who are all deserving. HOPE needs to be saved, but there has to be a better way.

John Koch
Fourth-year AE

Meaning of RAT’s incorrect

Please proofread your articles more closely. In Friday’s Op-Ed piece on the T-Book, you referred to the RAT Caps freshmen as given as RATS caps. This is not the correct acronym as RAT=Recruit at Tech is the way it was in the past and how the Yellow Jacket Nixing Band refers to it. I don’t think a 100 year old organization would get that wrong.

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Oscar Wilde
February 25, 2011

Technique

Friday, February 25, 2011

Our Views

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Letters to the Editor

Deal’s proposal for HOPE falls short

Write to us: letters@nique.net

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

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. Letters should be 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.

Matthew Jackson
Fourth-year MGT

Traditions lost on the student body

As a fourth-year Tech student that has been in the Georgia Tech Marching Band every year, I’ve grown accustomed to the rest of the student body being confused about, doing horrendously wrong, or generally just ignoring many of the traditions that the Band upholds. Even the [Ramblin Reck Club], “an organization of students, committed to the education and promotion of Tech spirit, history and tradition,” failed in their attempt at a T-Night last year, with the Band correcting them essentially every 10 seconds (they did better this year, but only because they asked for help). One of the most common mistakes I see is RATS. The correct term is Recruit(s) At Tech, hence RAT(s). RATS, or recently acquired Tech students, is wrong. I understand that, in a way, nobody else is as crazy as we are—we’re an odd bunch, I admit it, but the Fo cus Editor does it wrong, that says something to me. Check your traditions before you print it wrong.

Nicholas Lai
Fourth-year MGT

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Technique Editorial Cartoon

By Casey Tisdell

Editorial Cartoon

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Bill Nye throws the first pitch
As my years at Tech have progressed, I’ve had vastly varying opinions of the school we all attend. A feeling I’m sure most are familiar with, I’ve had countless weeks that I curse the Institute and wonder why I chose to attend Tech over other schools.

The work-load is outrageously high and the stress trying to find a balance studying for three tests, completing two homework assignments, attending a lab report, participating in extracurricular activities, working part-time and somehow still trying to maintain a social life is downright exhausting.

We all have had weeks like this. We have all had moments during a test where we stopped and thought “Did we ever even learn this?” Tech pushes us to our limits (and sometimes blows them) and makes us wonder whether we have the capacity to press on. I cannot begin to count the days when I have felt as though I could no longer keep my head above water as graduation nears, I find I have a deep sense of gratitude for the Institute. I always remember my parents saying “the real world is going to be tough.” Now that I’ve nearly completed my Bachelor’s Degree at Tech, I have news for all of you claiming “the real world” is little different than the real world feels like a cake walk compared to Tech. If you can make it through Thermodynamics, Def Bod, Systems and Fluid Mechanics in the same semester, you can make it through anything.

Those who are graduating sort to this “arrogance” or can for one second have prove that they are worthy of a diploma. Whether your GPA is a 3.9 as an EE or a 2.1 in IE because you had to work your way through school, we are all just as deserving of the diploma we will soon receive. At Tech, there is never a question of whether a student has worked hard enough. We have all sacrificed blood, sweat and tears (probably more often than we are willing to admit) to earn our degree.

Having performed under the expansive pressure at Tech, I am increasingly confident in my ability to go above and beyond expectations of future employers. Tech has instilled in me characteristics that will allow me to succeed beyond those students graduating from peer institutions. Compare the average starting salary of a Tech student to other schools. The statistics speak for themselves.

The technology field is continuously growing and advancing. We are lucky, as there is no end in sight for engineers. We will always have an impact in our society, which provides a job security like no other profession.

Through the economy is still weak and will likely not fully recover for several years, I am not graduating with the worry that I will not be able to find a job. Instead, I am graduating with the hope that the job I do accept will challenge me in such a way that I will continue to learn every day.

I can only hope that I will be challenged as much in the coming years as I have been throughout my time here. I have found that the extreme learning environment Tech provides has created within me a thirst for learning.

In free time, I am learning a second language, teaching myself to use an animation program and researching innovative processes. I find that I enjoy learning on my own far more than I ever expected.

And while I am still struggling through my last few months before graduation, it is not nearly as painful as it once was that there is an end in sight. There was a time when I never thought I would say it, but I would even like to advance my education further after a few years in the workforce (and a few years of sleepless regular hours).

I am certain that I will look back on my years at Tech with nothing but appreciation and fond memories.

Jennifer Aldoretta
Layout Editor

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Layout Editor

What movie do you think will win the Oscar Best Picture?

**Taurus Brackett**
Second-year ME

**“Inception is a great film. It kept me on my toes, and I want to watch it again.”**

**Dhruvak Talaviya**
First-year ISE

**“The King’s Speech. I'm a fan of British movies.”**

**Ian Kent**
Fourth-year CHBE

**“Probably The Fighter or Inception. I hear a lot about them.”**

**Sahitya Jampane**
Fourth-year ECE

**“Inception is my favorite.”**

**Pictures by Dee Kratzer**
Initiatives begin to take form from the new strategic plan

Eighteen months ago, the Tech community embarked on an ambitious journey to write a 25-year strategic plan that would differentiate us in the years to come, positioning Tech as the defining technological research university of the 21st century. It is highly unlikely six months since the plan was finalized, and I’m happy to report that we’re making progress.

The campus community has been busy engaging in the execution of our new strategic plan. In addition to the five main goals of the strategic plan, a number of initiatives emerged from the planning process. One of the initiatives we are already exploring is the concept of creating an “X-College.”

The idea grew out of a recommendation from students and faculty that Tech must increase the level of student-faculty interaction and provide more flexibility in our curricula. We are moving forward with a plan that would allow students, with faculty guidance, to compose programs of study that focus on what we call the “grand challenges”—global problems facing society today. Using knowledge from a wide range of disciplines. In Jan., the provost announced the creation of a committee chaired by Professor Richard Barke from the School of Public Policy. This committee is reviewing options and will formulate strategies for implementation.

The creation of the Center for 21st Century Universities is another example of the strategic plan moving forward. The center will be based in the College of Computing, but will include faculty from Management, Public Policy and Industrial and Systems Engineering. It will focus on the role and opportunities presented by disruptive technologies, such as social networking and innovations like open courseware, serving as a living laboratory for testing new educational ideas.

Tech is preparing the next generation of leaders in biomedical engineering thanks to another new program—our Graduate Leadership Program within the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering. This program teaches Tech graduate students to be strong leaders who can readily communicate their research agendas beyond the pragmatic of scientific techniques and experimental outcomes.

To support the plan’s focus on faculty-led, interdisciplinary and transformative research, Executive Vice President for Research Steve Cross has announced the launch of the Institute for People and Technology (IPAT).

Led by Executive Director, Professor Beth Mynatt from the GVU Center, IPaT will catalyze transformative research, Executive Vice President for Research Steve Cross has announced the launch of the Institute for People and Technology (IPAT).

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Part of designing our future is to relentlessly pursue institutional effectiveness. The new eProcurement system, BuzzMart, is a part of our effort to be more efficient in the way we do business. The new system is replacing Tech’s PeopleSoft campus requisition and has several benefits including 24/7 Internet-based access, a one-stop shopping experience, and student and affiliate access.

These are just a few of the examples of how our strategic plan is coming to life all around you. I encourage you to remain engaged in the process. Continue to look for new and innovative ways for Tech to Design the Future.