Audit Suggests PCard Compliance Issues

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

An audit report released by the state of Georgia’s Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) gives Georgia Tech a rating of 74 out of 100 and cites several compliance issues stemming from Tech’s use of state procurement cards, commonly referred to as PCards.

The audit stemmed from a process improvement review that DOAS regularly conducts for all state agencies, and reflects purchases made during the final two months of 2011. The review cites six areas in which PCard holders were out of compliance, and suggests that cardholders “are displaying a lack of awareness of state procurement laws and administrative rules.”

Because they work like corporate credit cards, PCards are a familiar and convenient tool for acquiring the goods and services needed for everything from conference registration to office supplies.

Tech is, by far, the largest procurement card user, representing about 13 percent of the state’s program, and the PCard has been a primary tool for purchasing business items and services less than $5,000. All Institute PCard holders are required to complete an online PCard tutorial prior to receiving a PCard and annually thereafter. Failure to comply with this training results in PCard suspension. Currently, there are 1,650 PCards issued to Tech.

Responding to DOAS, Business Services contends that the risk is less significant than reported. Tech permits departments to use the PCard to purchase and process expenditures that are supported from “nonstate funds,” such as discretionary funds provided by the Georgia Tech Foundation. These “nonstate funds” are appropriate for a variety of purchases such as food items. Similar purchases using state funds may be more restricted.

Additionally, DOAS cited other concerns related to the purchase of computer peripherals and information technology products from nonstate contracted vendors. Tech pointed out that poor service from state vendors for these goods and services are well documented by multiple state agencies, so much so that DOAS subsequently modified the contract to allow flexibility in the use of alternate vendors.

PCARD, continued on page 2

March Activities Put Spotlight on Women’s Issues

MARGARET TATE
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

It’s March, and that means it’s Women’s Awareness Month at Georgia Tech.

The program, now in its 16th year, has become so established that many people don’t realize it’s a student-run initiative specifically for Tech, said Melanie DeMacyer, coordinator of the Women’s Resource Center (WRC).

“Women, Science, and Technology (WST) always partners with us, but other activities will pop up that we may not even know about that’ll say ‘In Honor of Women’s Awareness Month,’” DeMacyer said. “It’s always interesting to see that.”

Women’s Awareness Month is sponsored by the WRC and is designed to bring attention to women’s issues that might otherwise go unexplored on a predominantly male, technology-focused campus, said Melissa Gerrior, a graduate...
Byers, Fouts Professors Named

In the fall, six faculty members from across multiple disciplines were named to professorships established as a result of Campaign Georgia Tech.

Endowed professorships are a top priority of the campaign, and these appointments mark a major step in enhancing the reputation and advancing the strategic vision of the Institute.

In early 2013, Brook H. Byers created three endowed professorships that bear his name and that are aligned with the mission of the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems.

The first to hold the Byers Professorships are Bert Bras in the School of Mechanical Engineering, Marilyn Brown in the School of Public Policy, and Elsa Reichmanis in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

These eminent teacher-scholars will be appointed for a five-year term with the option of renewal for an additional five-year term. Each appointment includes $25,000 annually in discretionary funds and will involve active participation in the Byers Institute, which will enhance its national and international visibility.

In the spring of 2013, J. Louis Fouts made seven-figure commitments to establish the Fouts Family Chair in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE). Fouts decided to make the chair flexible, giving the school chair the ability to determine the most effective deployment of the funds at any level, including chairs, professorships, early-career professorships, or professors of the practice.

Later in the year, ISyE announced that the Fouts endowment would be used to fund three early career professorships — naming Santana Dey, Ton Dieker, and Joel Sokol to the positions in recognition of their achievements in research and teaching, and of the great promise each shows within his respective field — while at the same time greatly enhancing ISyE’s ability to recruit and retain the world’s best faculty. The appointments are based on a three-year term, which started in the fall of 2013.

http://development.gatech.edu

LEGISLATIVE, continued from page 1

March 3, 2014

• March 3, 2014

March 3 is day 30 of the session, commonly known as Crossover Day, when legislation must pass at least one chamber for it to become law. (The session is expected to end by March 20.) “It’s important to keep in mind that all these measures are fluid,” Sheehane said. “A bill must be passed in the chamber where it originated by the 30th day of the session, which is Monday, before it crosses over to the other chamber for consideration.”

http://development.gatech.edu
Faculty Definition Changes Near Final Approval

AMELIA PAVLIK
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

During the Feb. 18 faculty governance meeting, proposed changes regarding the definition of “faculty” in the faculty handbook made it past the first of two readings.

The proposed changes will alter the existing definitions of faculty members who can participate in faculty governance if approved. Nearly all job titles will fit into these categories: academic faculty, research faculty, or staff.

Changes to the faculty handbook require two separate readings and votes of the general faculty. The second reading will occur on April 22. (Visit http://c.gatech.edu/MLX7QU to read the proposed Draft 2014 Faculty Handbook and provide feedback.)

In other meeting news:

• Due to campus closures the week of Feb. 10, a makeup schedule has been implemented for faculty to use if needed. Classes can meet during allotted time slots from March 3-14 to make up for instructional class time. Details are available at http://c.gatech.edu/1jYhCZY.
• Three finalists have been selected for the position of dean of the Scheller College of Business. Campus visits are scheduled for Feb. 27-28, March 4-5, and March 11-12. Public presentations are scheduled for 11 a.m. in the LeCraw Auditorium, Scheller College of Business, on the first day of each visit.
• Nominations for faculty governance committee members are being accepted. Faculty are also committed to the committees will serve from August 2014 to August 2017. The nominating committee is in the process of finishing up the ballot. For more information, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1j7RZ2R.
• Beginning fall 2014, all master’s students who register for thesis hours will be required to complete research conduct of research (RCR) education. Students must complete an online RCR course, complete an RCR course that has already been approved to satisfy the in-person RCR training requirement for doctoral students, or receive at least four contact hours of RCR education during a course that is a required part of the curriculum for the student’s respective master’s degree.

For the complete meeting agenda and supporting documents, visit http://c.gatech.edu/MmSTtT.
**Perkins Connects Volunteers Across Campus**

AMELIA PAVLIC
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

From alternative spring breaks (ASBs) to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, there are so many volunteer opportunities for students on campus it can be a little overwhelming. That’s where Sarah Perkins comes into the picture.

“There are many initiatives across campus to support community service efforts,” said Perkins, civic engagement coordinator in the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement. “In my role, I work with community partners, Affairs, departments, and Community Relations, and other areas to unify efforts and build capacity. And I’m here to help students find service opportunities that are an appropriate fit for them or their student organization.”

In particular, Perkins advises three student organizations including Mobilizing Opportunities for Volunteer Experience (Georgia Tech’s umbrella organization for a variety of volunteer opportunities), ASBs, and the Community Service Council. Leadership and Civic Engagement also provides support for all chartered student organizations across campus.

“Part of my day might be spent connecting community partners and students, while the other part might be spent meeting with students and teaching best practices such as community service event planning strategies and risk management policies on topics such as bringing minors to campus,” she added.

Recently, we had a chance to learn more about Perkins and her time at Tech.

What did you want to be as a child?

I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I taught a lot of lessons to my stuffed animals!

How did you end up in your current position?

In college, I participated in ASBs and led service trips for high school students through a company called Overland. When I graduated, I knew I didn’t want to go to graduate school right away and decided to apply for an AmeriCorps position. So, I moved to Boston and served as a Massachusetts Campus Compact AmeriCorps*VISTA member at Lesley University’s Office of Community Service for two years. By the end of this time, I knew I wanted to work in higher education and went to North Carolina State to earn a master’s in higher education administration. I graduated in spring 2011 and took my current position that June.

What is one thing you want people to know about your job?

We define civic engagement broadly to encompass the different ways that students can promote positive social change. For example, I often speak of a “spectrum of service,” and by that, I mean that we have a spectrum of types of service (i.e., direct service, advocacy, and philanthropy), a spectrum of issues addressed, and a spectrum of the time commitment one might contribute. We strive to offer multiple entry points for students to meaningfully engage.

What is the most satisfying part of your job?

It has to be working with students who are so committed and to see how their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focus impacts their service work. For example, we were taking an ASB trip to Tuscaloosa to help rebuild after the tornados that occurred in April 2011. On one student’s application, she indicated that she was a civil engineering major and wanted to go on the trip because she thought the trip would help her understand how what she was learning in class would apply to disaster relief work. Amazing.

If you could have dinner with anyone — dead or alive — who would it be?

I would love to meet Michelle Obama. She founded the Office of Community Service at the University of Chicago, and I’d want to discuss that experience with her and learn more about her early public service work. Where is your favorite place to eat lunch?

Hankook Taqueria. I order whatever the special is that day.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

I love pictures and scrapbooks. My husband and I have an Adventure Book like the characters in the movie, Up. We’ve been friends since seventh grade, so we have lots of funny photos and memories captured in it.

Sarah Perkins at an Engineers Without Borders display on campus highlighting how many gallons of water the average person in a developing country carries on his/her head to transport water home.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 7.

The nomination deadline is Friday, March 7.

**Nominate a Group or Person for Campus Environmental Award**

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

The Georgia Tech Earth Day Committee is now accepting submissions for its annual Leadership and Sustainable Initiatives awards.

Nominations are sought for individuals or groups who are making a positive environmental impact both on campus and beyond, either through a new initiative or a body of work.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 7. Nominations must be students, faculty, staff, alumni, or retirees of Tech and should demonstrate a positive environmental impact, a commitment to restoring and enhancing the environment, and an ongoing commitment to environmental leadership. Self-nominations are welcome.

To nominate a person or group, visit http://c.gatech.edu/1p2Oo6a

**Community News**

**Buzzworthy Achievements**

INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

These employees and units have received honors in recent months:

- Hanchao Lu, professor in the School of History, Technology, and Society, was selected to be a fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.
- John C. Crittenden, professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Hightower Chair, and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Sustainable Systems, has been inducted into the Chinese Academy of Engineering.
- Biing Hwang “Fred” Juang, Motorola Foundation Chair Professor and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been named to the National Academy of Inventors.

Award information is accepted on an ongoing basis. Provide name, title, unit, and honor (spelling out acronyms) to editor@comm.gatech.edu.

**Classifieds**

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES


Wanted: Single bedroom apartment near MARTA station from May 1 to June 30, 2014. Email lolaharris@lolaharris.com.

28R/28A bungalow, minutes to Tech, quiet in-town neighborhood. HW floors, newly renovated, central HVAC, gas stove, DW, disposal, alarm system, large deck in fenced back yard, W/D, pets OK. $785/mo. Contact suzanne.bock@gatech.edu.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Tube televisions for sale. Two 27”, $25 each, and one 20”, $10. Contact michael.gray@me.gatech.edu.

Contemporary silver metal queen size bed with mattress. Like new $250. Photo available upon request. Email butterflyhearts365@gmail.com.

Adopt a Tech kitten or cat. All are spayed/neutered with some shots. Reduced adoption fees for employees, students, and affiliates. Contact www.krazyaboutkats.com, jglebo@cc.gatech.edu, or marilyn.smith@baylor.edu.

Cannondale Mountain/Road Bike. Magnum model. Wheel quick release, Derailleur drivetrain, warranty, mom new 2002 and rarely used. Seat has tear in it, $450 OBO. Call 678-642-6981.


Almost new Kate Spade hard shell case for iPhone 4 and 4S, black with white polka dots on back and hot pink band on sides. No scratches. $20. Email akporvid@gmail.com.

2010 specialized women’s AFRIL Hybrid and Men’s Cressida Hybrid bikes. Bought new. Ridden a few times. Original paperwork included. Paid $450, asking $325 OBO. Call or text 678-379-5690 or email gypsypbookworm@gmail.com.

Elliptical cross trainer Kettler Condor. Moveable arms, sturdy construction, smooth ride, excellent condition. Asking $250 (was $1,250 new). Email nancyr@cc.gatech.edu.

Solid wood desk and hutch for sale. Desk/hutch have been lightly stained. Chair is black leather. Perfect for a student’s desk or small work space. $100, OBO. Pictures upon request. Email calla.talman@me.gatech.edu.

2011 Chrysler 200 Convertible metallic blue/black top and black interior, 36,000 miles. Excellent condition. $20,000. Call Sheila at 404-850-9694 or email ssilvi@gatech.edu.

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