By Jennifer Lee
Staff Writer

In order to gain a better quality of life, students need to discuss what needs to be done in the committee level. A standing committee is the first place to discuss what needs to be done in order to gain a better quality of life for students. The committees range from those dealing only with faculty matters to ones dealing with student affairs. On the Faculty Benefits Committee, for example, faculty representatives address the issues of working conditions, wages, insurance, and other issues such as health plans. On the Faculty Status and Grievance Committee, the records of professors are reviewed, and the committee makes recommendations for promotions to Associate Professor or Professor.

Students have the opportunity to impact the lives of the entire student body, present and future, through their participation on committees. They really have a lot of power, and that’s one example of how student government does a good job of spreading out the responsibility among Tech. At the beginning of the school year, we do applications for the committee, and we try to match them up with what they’re interested in,” said M. Asey.

One of the most important student committees is the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The committee played an important role a few years ago in ending the policy of seniors exempting final exams. Students want their voices to be heard at one of the committee meetings, they can contact the student representative on that committee. According to M. Asey, any student has the right to go into the SGA office and look at the minutes of each committee. Another option is for students to contact their major representatives or class representatives.

After the committees meet, they send their recommendations to the Senate, which meets every Tuesday in the Ferst Theater. The Senate meets to discuss the recommendations and make decisions. The senate, along with the president, is the highest authority on campus. The Senate has the right to govern itself, students, students’ policy, the faculty has the right to participate in campus planning, and the Techcellence Award, was chosen because their awards are outside the scope of their organization.
Tech Up Close

email: focus@technique.gatech.edu

Winner of the Tech Up Close contest receives a Technique T-shirt and a coupon for a free student combo at Li’l Dino’s.

Last week’s Tech Up Close:
A satellite dish

Last week’s winner:
No one.
Female faculty, staff offer professional perspectives

By JoshuaCuneo
Staff Writer

The history of women at Georgia Tech tends to concentrate on the progress of the female student body, yet there was, and still is, a parallel advancement in the women who are faculty, staff, and administration.

In 1913, Georgia Tech established a School of Commerce to provide the necessary basic business training that administration felt was lacking in the curriculum. In the fall of 1917, women were admitted to the school’s evening program, and 1919 saw Anna Tellebaum Wieland become Tech’s first female graduate from the School. We hit another milestone later that year when she rejoined the faculty of the evening school as instructor of commerce, officially becoming the first female faculty member at Tech.

This feat wouldn’t be repeated until 1960, when Dr. Mary K. Cabe, joined the Department of Mathematics. Since then, Tech has seen a steady rise in the number of women in its faculty and staff, paralleling the growth of female student body. In fact, it is partially due to the increase of the female student population that Tech hired more women faculty.

But there was more to it than just women joining the faculty. For example, women in the faculty have been stereotypically placed significantly lower in hierarchy. Dr. Donna Llewellyn, Director of CETL, said, “Women in the faculty is at the top, since they’re the ones that carry out the Institute’s primary educational mission. The staff finds itself in a position of authority instead of being a faculty member.”

The part that was very difficult was learning how to function in a predominantly male environment.

Yet women joined the faculty because they were needed. “In my early days, women students were hungry for contact with women professors, and it was gratifying to be able to serve as a role model and mentor,” said Dr. Donna Llewellyn, Director of CETL, who was hired by the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering in 1984.

And they’re still needed. Women like Amy Stalzer, Assistant Director of Success Programs and Director of FASET Orientation, joined the Success Programs staff four years ago to assist in freshmen orientation. “I’ve only had a couple of experiences here where I’ve gone into a meeting and been the only woman at the table. So that experience, maybe, to drive home what it might feel like for our students, but not enough to make me feel special in any way,” said Stalzer. “I interact with equal numbers of men and women, given the job that I work at… and I’ve got a lot of colleagues at my level that I rely heavily on for moral support, both men and women.”

However, those who have been employed at Tech for much longer have noticed the change. “I hear of fewer and fewer problems,” said Llewellyn. “Perhaps I have been around for too long to be very objective about this.”

But there is still a long way to go before Tech achieves a balance in gender representation. Dr. Donna Llewellyn, Director of CETL, who was hired by the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering in 1984, said, “I think that a lot of women on campus who are administrators have more to be proud of.”

Tech students may expect that “I think students have a different approach to female staff members and female faculty members,” said Stalzer. “I think there is an expectation that if you are female, you’re going to be more warm and fuzzy, and you’re going to be more caring or nurturing or concerned about you as a student than a male counterpart might be.”

And they have. Stalzer noted that the movement for women’s equality on campus has come so far that “our women students aren’t necessarily in tune with things that might be based on their being women. I’ve had discussions with students about whether they feel like they’re being treated differently, and most of them seemed shocked that I would even ask the question.”

But it isn’t perfect. “I still think they face some more difficulties than their male counterparts simply because there are still biases in the engineering and technology fields,” said Llewellyn. “A student told me in the mid-1990s that ‘Tech will have arrived at a fair place when mediocre women can come and be engineering majors here.’”

Regardless, they said, Georgia Tech still harbors a better attitude toward women than society in general.

“Dr. Clough has set a tone that everybody at GT is valued and that we don’t hold different standards for people of different genders, or things like that, but we’re not even community and we’ve got to operate that way,” said Stalzer. “I think that nobody at GT would overtly and knowingly discriminate against a woman here.”

Moore agreed. “We do a better job because we are an educational institution. I would just hope that we don’t become complacent in thinking women have achieved equality in our society. It’s a continual process.”

Women staff and faculty faced the same difficulties that many students struggled with during their first years, now, however, faculty like Donna Llewellyn and Carole Moore feel that Tech is on the road to equality.
Awards

Three organizations apply for each of those, and you think about how many members each of those organizations have," continued McDonald.

"They can all come out and see it." There are about 150 nomi- nees total, and the committee plans to send invitations to each of them. In addition, added McDonald, "I know that many faculty and staff want to attend—they want to see the students they work with and know recognized." The schedule for the night of the event includes a reception prior to the actual awards ceremony.

During this time, the committee plans to have booths with information about each of the presenting organizations in the galleries. "It will be a mingling activity," said Holley. The head of the Undergraduate Student Body, also Clough, said that the committee members graduating soon, however, who will carry on the responsibility for the actual awards ceremony. "We're all the older students in our respective organizations, so we've had experience planning," said Fincher.

The committee hopes to make "Up With the White and Gold" a tradition at Tech, through "in the future we'll definitely plan more months in advance," said Holley. With many of the committee members graduating soon, however, who will carry on the responsibility for the actual awards ceremony, "We don't have an answer for that right now," said Seizer, to the laughter of the group. "But we're working on it." Bottom line, said Reawil, "If we can pull it off, then we can pass it on."

However, the committee stressed that the event will not be a success unless the Tech community attends. "We're hoping that a lot of people will show up," said Holley, "and each year will grow both in attendance and the nominees."