Watson wins narrow victory in SGA run-off

By Daniel Amick
Assistant News Editor

SGA presidential candidate Nate Watson was sitting in his geophysics class Friday morning, when he began to receive calls after call on his cell phone. Only after class, when Watson was able to answer the calls, did he find out that he had just been elected student body president.

“I was very excited,” said Watson. “It’s a big opportunity to help out the student body, to make good things happen next year, an opportunity to put some ideas into action, and build a strong team in student government [that is] here to do the people’s business.”

Watson narrowly defeated opponent Ben Lawder to win last week’s run-off election. Watson won by a ten-vote margin, capturing 1,148 votes to Lawder’s 1,138.

“I think the close run-off sends a very clear message that the students wanted a different spring break date independent of the Board of Regents. Only the Board of Regents has the power to change the spring date,” according to Watson.

However, the split between moving the break one or two weeks, while 52.8 percent felt the break should be moved back two weeks.

“It was very, very clear—with an 83 percent majority—that students wanted to move spring break,” according to Watson. However, the split between moving the break one or two weeks later was extremely close. Of those who voted, 47.2 percent wanted the break one week later, while 52.8 percent felt the break should be moved back two weeks.

By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

IE major Gupta wins Goldwater

Junior Monique Gupta recently won the prestigious Goldwater scholarship. Gupta, an Industrial and Systems Engineering major and Presidential Scholar, has been studying ways to improve gene therapy techniques.

She was one of 500 students nationwide honored with the award.

The Goldwater Scholarship was established in 1986 to recognize outstanding students who pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.

BME appoints new joint chair

Georgia Tech and Emory University named Larry V. McIntire as new biomedical engineering chair. McIntire, a prominent biotechnologist expert, currently serves as director of Rice University’s Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering. McIntire’s appointment ends a yearlong national search.

Choir presents spring concert

The Georgia Tech Choir will present its final concerto of spring semester on Monday, April 14 at 8 p.m. at the Robert Fert Center for the Arts. Tickets are $5 for students and $10 for the general public. The concert will feature a piece called “Americana” by Randall Thompson. It will be conducted and assistant professor Bill Caldwell’s final concerto.

Grad rankings remain high

Tech was once again ranked among the top five engineering schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report. The Industrial and Systems Engineering program was ranked number one for the 13th straight year.

Seven of 11 programs rank in the top ten in their disciplines.
From the archives...

The Nique’s top stories from:

10 years ago: April 16, 1993—The Department of Campus Planning unveiled new plans for the proposed Yellow Jacket Park. The park, which was funded by $1 million donated from the Alumni Class of 1943, was to be completed by the spring of 1995 in time for the 1996 Olympic games.

20 years ago: April 15, 1983—Tech announced that it would sponsor a special exhibit at the High Museum entitled “China: 7,000 Years of Discovery” through the end of the year. According to Tech President Joseph Pettit, the exhibit marked the kickoff of the Tech’s Centennial festivities.

30 years ago: April 20, 1973—The school of Industrial Management gradually began to dispose of two degree programs in Behavioral Management and General Management. To cope with “spiraling inflation now gripping the country,” Housing raised dorm rental fees by $15. Most dorms would now cost between $117 and $142 per quarter.
Graduate Senate elects new secretary

By Tony Kluempner
News Editor

Times are changing in the Graduate Senate as new officers, vice president Rob-in Betchel and president Pelham Norville took over control of the senate this week. However, the new president was nowhere to be found at this week’s meeting due to a time conflict.

Therefore, it was up to Betchel and outgoing president Alan Michaels to run the meeting smoothly. In the end, the meeting proved to be a perfect transition for Betchel, as only three bills were discussed, with most on the agenda being either tabled or withdrawn.

The only major issue discussed at the meeting involved the international student resolution. The resolution, which has been in discussion since January and passed by both houses of SGA, was reconsidered by the Undergraduate House last week.

This reconsideration prompted Senator Mayuresh Gogate to ask the Graduate Senate to look into a new option. “I don’t think the undergrads really understood this resolution,” said Gogate.

“I don’t see that the undergrads will ever pass the bill that we want to pass, so I feel that we should break away and form our own graduate-only resolution.”

Other senators agreed with the idea. “If we pass it on our own and get some word out about it, maybe it would put pressure on the undergrads to pass one as well,” said Senator Roy Furbank.

In other business, the senate also took final nominations for the remaining offices of secretary, treasurer, and coordination officer. Current senator Lisa Brown was again nominated for secretary, no other nominations were made. The senate approved Brown’s nomination and then proceeded to elect her as the Graduate Senate’s next secretary. The other two positions will be filled at a later date.

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Undergrad representatives discuss the resolution on immigration policies that has been up for debate for over two months.

Council Clippings Senate and House

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House vote fails immigration bill

By Daniel Amick
Assistant News Editor

Representatives of the Undergraduate House once again concentrated on a resolution urging fair treatment of international students. The resolution, first introduced back in January, has proven to be the most divisive and difficult issue the House has faced this year.

A motion to reconsider passed last week, reopening the resolution to debate yet again. “Anything and everything is open for discussion,” said Vice President Nate Watson.

Opponents of the bill had hoped that Dr. Sylvia Maier, an International Affairs professor and expert on immigration issues, would be able to address the House, but she had to leave before debate began. ME Rep Josh Alexander rose instead to speak against passage. Alexander argued that data provided in the resolution was misleading, inaccurate and poorly cited. He said that the number of international students at Tech had actually increased in recent years, not fallen as the resolution suggests.

“I don’t want to send something [to government officials] that’s misleading,” he said, arguing that to do so would devalue future resolutions.

Public Policy Rep Mike Handelman said that reps were ignoring “an elephant in the room” when they refused to discuss the fact that students from Arab and Muslim countries were most affected by immigration policies. Numbers of international students may have increased overall, he said, but the number of Arab students may have decreased. Handelman also said he believed reps were “too afraid to make a criticism of United States policy.”

Freshman President Perry Johnson urged reps to “fix the problem instead of criticiz-ing it.” He urged reps to help international students fill out forms and go with them to register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Management Rep Ben Lawder

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The Technique needs section editors for the summer semester. If you’re interested, e-mail editor@technique.gatech.edu
Due to the absence of an organization representative, the only the only allocation bill discussed at the meeting was a request from Freshman Council for funding of SAC Attack. According to Freshman Council representatives, the event attracted over 2,500 students last year many of whom were graduates. The bill, which caused little debate, passed with only one dissenting vote.

The last bill discussed by the Senate was a chartering for the Zymurgy Society. Although the JCOC approved the charter, some senators had questions about what exactly the organization would do.

"Basically we are trying to further the appreciation of brewing beer and wine," said Daniel Lane, the organization representative. After some questions of the legality of allowing underage members, the senators approved the chartering by an overwhelming majority.

"We do this...please don’t let us down," said Banerjee. With both opponents and supporters arguing for its defeat, the resolution failed by a vote of 4-33.

In other business, reps held a campus safety issue meeting. A police department representative answered questions and listened to suggestions. The House also chartered the Zymurgy Society, an organization dedicated to the history, culture and production of beers, wines and meads.

"Whether you’re going to have a spring break with some of your friends, but not all of them," she said.

As for the timing of other breaks, SGA and the administration are open-minded. "Dates not dictated by the Board of Regents, students can change," said McIver.

This could include the scheduling of fall break, but McIver said that fall break was chosen to be just that—a break placed roughly in the middle of the term to relieve students from the hard work at Tech.

Regardless of whether future schedule changes are made, the key point for voters is that students spoke and administrators listened. "I hope we can continue to do things like this. The administration has been very responsive," said Watson.

"Either way, you’re going to have a break placed roughly in the middle of the term to relieve students from the hard work at Tech," said McIver.

"If we do this...please don’t let us down," said Banerjee.

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When the Whistle Blows

By Scott Meuleners

Staff member Janet Myrick lights a candle at the annual “When the Whistle Blows” ceremony. The event is held to remember those members of the Tech community who have passed away in the past year.

Voter turnout in the general election was up compared to last year. “The elections were fairly exciting, as many of the candidates actively campaigned all along Skiles [walkway] during the campaign period,” said Shah. “The elections committee was proactive this year in publicizing the elections, the PR [SGA Public Relations] committee did an excellent job, and the megamod email sent out by the president [Tiffany Massey] contributed to the increased voter turnout,” she said.

Voter turnout fell in the run-off election, down from 3,161 votes for president in the general election to 2,286 votes in the run-off. “[Voter turnout in the run-off] was not high as we had hoped, but we had less than a week to publicize,” said Shah. “The best publicity we could do was [to] send out a megamod email to all students so that everyone was aware of the run-off elections.

With the election behind him, Watson has set about implementing goals outlined in his campaign platform. He wants to improve student life by bringing more events to campus, creating a safe jogging path and addressing security concerns. Regarding academics, Watson wants to look for ways to improve the quality of teaching assistants and core courses. “[I want freshmen] to feel that core courses are important courses that aren’t just there to see if they have the mettle it takes to pass at Georgia Tech.”

Watson also said one of his major goals is to improve communication between SGA and the student body. “You just run into so many people when you’re giving a hundred speeches in the course of two weeks, when you’re out on Skiles [walkway] everyday,” said Watson. “I want SGA to step back and really focus on how we communicate with the student body,” he said. “[SGA members] have our ear to the ground already, but we need to have people be very active in letting us know what they think.”

Watson is now recruiting students to be committee chairs and executive officers. “We need talented leaders, not necessarily with any SGA experience, but with only a passion to help the student body,” he said.