Higher budget requests strain SGA funds

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

Ballooning budget requests from multiple organizations may force the Student Government Association to seek a steep increase in the mandatory Student Activity Fee (M SAF).

In presentations Tuesday to the Undergraduate House and Graduate Senate, joint Finance Committee Chair Lisa Brown reported that SGA could face a $600,000 deficit in Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

The deficit threatens SGA’s ability to continue funding organizations at current levels, particularly Tier 3 organizations.

An unexpected jump in the Campus Recreation Center’s (CRC) budget request accounts for a large portion of the deficit. The CRC’s total request amounts to about $1.5 million, $500,000 more than last year.

Members of SGA had originally anticipated some kind of increase from the CRC, but not one as large. Interim CRC Director Kirk McQueen said the higher-than-expected budget request was the result of a variety of factors, all related to the CRC expansion.

While the M SAF does not pay for construction costs or new equipment, it does pay for operating costs and salaries.

“We tripled our size [from 100,000 to 300,000 square feet], which, at the same time, means we had to triple our staff,” McQueen said. “We’ve gone from two floors to having five floors, and having to spread people out.”

For example, multiple supervisors are now stationed on different floors for safety and management reasons.

W hilplein said she anticipates the need for additional staff, actual requests are harder to predict.

Another unexpected factor was the construction of a leisure pool.

“The leisure pool was one of the things that was on the drawing board, but there wasn’t money there to do it,” McQueen said. As a result, operating costs of the pool and related staff salaries were not factored into initial budget estimates.

“As it turned out, we ended up getting the leisure pool because of a donation,” McQueen said.

These unexpected costs culminated in this year’s budget requests.

Freshman class size to increase in ‘04

By Sid Parmar
Contributing Writer

Next fall, 200 more freshmen will be wandering around campus, heaping coming freshman class set to grow from 2,200 to 2,400 students.

“It’s an exciting opportunity for Tech to reach out to such a large group of students, and it will be interesting to see how they contribute to the Georgia Tech community,” said Amanda Brown, an International Affairs and Modern Languages major.

Other students aren’t as optimistic. They express concerns about limited housing space, financial aid, admissions requirements and increasing class sizes.

At the beginning of October of every year, “it’s the Provost, essentially, who draws in the staff themselves, the director of admission [and] the director of enrollment services,” said Vice Provost of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies Bob McMath.

“We look at the data of how many students are leaving, and look at other factors and make a decision about the size of the class, … to try to have kind of an overall strategic plan but every year it’s a matter of saying… where you want to hit the number,” he said.

The strategic plan, which aims to increase the size of the freshman class is set to grow from 2,200 to 2,400 students.

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Serving Georgia Tech since 1911 • Volume 89, Issue 17 • 24 pages
Opinions 6 • Focus 9 • Entertainment 13 • Comics 18 • Sports 24

Additional delays stall parts of old bookstore

By Helen Yu
Contributing Writer

A mix up with the FireHall and obtaining a building permit, combined with an extension request from the contractor hired for project, as well as continuous struggles to stay within budget, is causing additional delays in the reopening of the old bookstore space in the Houstoun building, now known as the Student Center Commons.

As reported Oct. 31, in the Tech technique, the original date for the reopening was being pushed back a month, from January 2004 to February.

“This is a highly visible building, a building students like to use. We’ve pushed to keep [construction] on track,” said Rich Steele, Director, Student Center.

February 2004. Now it seems, that, though the majority of the space will be open in February, the administration might not be fully functional until fall of next year.

“You have to think in phases,” said Rich Steele, director of the Student Center and the person overseeing the project. Though the public concourse, which includes the post office, lounge areas and several big screen TVs, is marked for completion in February.

Also set for completion in February is a stage to be located in the center of the Commons that will be available for use by student and local bands and that will be used regularly for live WREK broadcasts. Steele said he hopes that Burdell will reopen in their new location sometime in February.

Barnes & Noble, which owns and operates Burdell’s “is looking to get in there as soon as possible,” Steele said.

See Bookstore, page 4

Campanile campout highlights homelessness

“Night Without A Home,” an event organized by the College Democrats to focus attention on homelessness, will take place Tuesday, Nov. 25 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the Campanile.

During the night, participants will package food for the homeless. In the morning, they will deliver the food. Participants are encouraged to bring blankets and sleeping bags, though they are not required. Sleeping bag and cardboard shelters will be provided for those wishing to stay.

Toys for Tots accepts donations Dec. 1-9

Anyone wishing to give toys to the annual toys-for-tots drive may do so Dec. 1-9 at the Office of Student Financial Planning and Services, located on the center floor of the Student Success Center. Donations may be dropped off during normal business hours.

Further information can be found by calling 894-1962.

Registration for IMovie Fest ongoing

Registration for this year’s IMovie Fest is currently underway and will continue until Nov. 27. Registrations will be held Dec. 1 and 3. For more information, see imoviefest.gatech.edu.

TH WUGA will mark final ‘Nique

For those of you not aware, this is the semester’s final full week of school other than Dead Week. Thus, this will be the last official publication of the “South’s Liveliest” this semester. Look for our annual To Hell With Georgia issue Tuesday, Nov. 25.
**Technique Online** Voice Your Opinion!

Last week’s question garnered 60 responses: How is the College of Computing responding to budget cuts?

![Poll Results]

This week’s question: What is the best solution to SGA’s budget crunch? Tell us what you think at [www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique](http://www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique).

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**Crime Reports**

**From the files of the GTPD...**

**Possession of alcohol**
- **11/16/2003 1:16:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: Fifth Street @ Techwood Drive
  - INCIDENT: Offenders arrested for underage possession of alcohol.

**Information**
- **11/17/2003 18:38:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: 900 block Cherry Street
  - INCIDENT: Report of damage to a blue 1998 Honda CRV from a boot.

**Damage to property**
- **11/17/2003 21:10:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: 311 Ferst Drive/EST

- **11/17/2003 9:16:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: 112 Bobby Dodd Way/Towers dorm

**Fire**
- **11/16/2003 12:12:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: 555 Eighth Street/Eighth Street Apartments

**Burglary**
- **11/11/2003 14:50:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: 764 Fowler Street
  - INCIDENT: Report that a house was entered and a laptop computer was stolen.

**Larceny-theft**
- **11/14/2003 13:50:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: 800 West Peachtree Street
  - INCIDENT: Report that clothes were stolen.

**DUI**
- **11/15/2003 2:22:00 hrs.**
  - LOCATION: Fowler Street @ Fifth Street
  - INCIDENT: Offender arrested for driving under the influence.

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Image by Lauren Griffin | STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
Representatives consider “Constituent Caucus” proposal

By Edward Tamberg
Contributing Writer

A long Undergraduate House meeting began Tuesday with discussion on how to better serve constituents in the future, and continued late into the evening with discussion of 11 bills.

Public Policy Representative Alan Bakowski and the Internal Development Committee proposed new organizational methods for representatives that they deemed “Constituent Caucus”.

Bakowski said these caucuses were set up to help representatives communicate with other representatives, constituents and guest speakers, as well as discuss leading issues in their respective classes or college.

The caucuses would meet for two hours every week for representatives that they deemed “Constituent Caucus”.

The Graduate Senate had passed a few bills, “Constituent Caucus” proposal was written in anticipation of a trip to the world finals for the Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ICPC).

“His is the first of probably a few bills,” organization representative Hussain Ali said.

Senators quickly knock out 13 bills

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

Senators sped through a hefty load of 13 bills at their Tuesday meeting.

Vice President Robin Betchel enforced a strict speaking time limit to ensure that the Senate would have time to consider each bill. Any of the bills passed or were tabled with little or no discussion.

Up for consideration was a $15,000 allocation to the Student Organizations Resource Center and President’s Council for a new copier.

Assistant Dean of Student Involvement Danielle M C Donald said the current copier is 13 years old. Though it still functions, she said, the machine breaks down often.

Computer Science Senator Michael Holmes said a $15,000 dollar copier seemed “pretty high.” He asked if cheaper alternatives existed. M C Donald said that the copier was actually not that advanced.

Another senator asked whether M C Donald had considered some kind of rental. M C Donald said purchasing the copier was a better option. Senators passed the bill.

They approved without discussion the conference committee version of three bills, one each for the Society of Women Engineers, the Association for Computing Machinery and Ramblin’ Night’s Campus Recreation Center O N Night Stand.

Three allocation bills for GT Motorsports made no progress toward passage. One was withdrawn. The other two were tabled because no organization representative was present.

An allocation to the math honor society, Phi Mu Epsilon, to pay for letterhead passed. An allocation to the Rowing Club for a styrofoam-covered dock also passed.

Senators also approved an allocation to the Residence Hall Association for W interbuzz.

UHR: Bills Considered

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint allocation to ACM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Case, Germanovich</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Chinese Student Association</td>
<td>Zhe Fan</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Resource Center, Pres. Council</td>
<td>Ben Lawler</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Rowing Club</td>
<td>Tiffany Turner</td>
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<td>Stephanie Bent</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Residence Hall Association</td>
<td>Andrew Howard</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Culture Tech</td>
<td>David Byron</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to GT Motorsports</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Water Polo Team</td>
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GSS: Bills Considered

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<td>Joint allocation to ACM</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to CRC One Night Stand</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Chinese Student Association</td>
<td>Beth Carey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint allocation to Resource Center, Pres. Council</td>
<td>Kasi David</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Rowing Club</td>
<td>Ray Forbank</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Phi Mu Epsilon</td>
<td>Alan Michaels</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to Residence Hall Association</td>
<td>Kasi David</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to GT Motorsports (a)</td>
<td>Adam Brancato</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint allocation to GT Motorsports (c)</td>
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<td>Joint allocation to American Society of MEs</td>
<td>Beth Carey</td>
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W hat is the Student Activity Fee?

The Mandatory Student Activity Fee (M SAF) is an $86 fee charged to all students. The fee generates around $2.5 million each year. The Student Government Association allocates that money to a variety of organizations, which are divided into three tiers. The Student Center Operations Board and the Campus Recreation Center make up the first tier. Tier 2 organizations have a necessary or campus-wide impact. This tier encompasses governing boards like the Board of Student Publications and Dora’s e’s. The third tier is made up of about 300 other student organizations, including sports clubs, cultural and religious groups, and interest groups.

Tier 1 and Tier 2 budgets are funded first, followed by Tier 3 organizations. Any money left over goes into three accounts. SGA uses this leftover money to fund activities throughout the year that were not funded in organization budgets. To increase the M SAF, the student government makes recommendations to Tech administrators, who in turn make a series of recommendations to the Board of Regents. The board must then approve the increase. Last year, the M SAF increased $8.

At the Undergraduate House meeting, Graduate President Pelham Norville and Vice President of Campus Affairs Ben Lawler said

“When we crunched the numbers...I was surprised...I wasn’t shocked. I was surprised.”

Kirk McQueen
Intern CRC Director

However, SGA can only recommend an increase. The Board of Regents is reluctant to fund fee increases because the HOPE scholarship funds fees. Any fee increase would only hurt the alreadyailing scholarship program.

Decisions regarding fee increases are usually announced in February or March. In the event that the $25 increase is not approved, SGA will be forced to cut spending. These cuts could take the form of tighter JFC policy guidelines.

In the wake of the CRC’s large budget request, several SGA members have suggested splitting the CRC sport off from the M SAF.

Norville said a split fee would accomplish several things. First, the split fee would show students how much of their money is going toward the CRC. Students would be in a position to demand greater services in return for higher fees. Second, he said a split fee would effectively protect Tier 3 organizations if the CRC requests a fee increase that is later denied.

Bookstore

College Gourmet will relocate to its new space in February as well. STA Travel, which will take over the space that is currently Burdell’s, is set to move in March.

Unfortunately for diners, neither the Italian eatery named Pandini’s nor the non-alcoholic pub dubbed O’Jackets is scheduled to open by February.

While waiting for food service workers to have their vaccinations, the board will be forced to cut spending. These cuts could take the form of tighter JFC policy guidelines.

Rich Steele
Dir. Student Center

This is a really critical time in the schedule. If we have challenges and delays in that period, [they] could cause more delays.”

Technique

meetings...tuesdays
@7...room 137 flag
building...free pizza
to make Tech competitive with universities like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford, calls for an overall increase in student population, focusing on a large Freshman experience. Guaranteed housing is available for incoming freshmen and rising sophomores. This means the majority of students will not be affected dramatically when financial aid is distributed. The single largest area of concern is admissions requirements. Some students like Electrical Engineering major Punna Chala-sani feel that “accepting more students into Tech translates into reduced admissions criteria.” However, Director of Undergraduate Admissions Ingrid Hayes disagrees. “We generally have more qualified applicants than we have spaces available. So, even looking a little further down into pool for the students will not diminish the quality of students,” Hayes said.

Class sizes are also an area that might potentially be affected by the increase in freshman class size. Mc-Math said he believes there will be a slight increase in classes, particularly freshman courses like Calculus and Chemistry, but adding sections to compensate remains an option.

Freshmen

from page 1

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Housing’s ability to meet the in-

Morrison said he is confident in Housing for Residence Life Dan

International Affairs undergraduate.

is,” said Shuby Narayanaswamy, an

dents is availability of housing.

more permanent.

freshman class will be temporary or

whether the increase in next year’s

increase the number of Freshman

Class designation is calculated based

West Campus. Another affected area is financial aid. One student said “funding is already limited as it is. One more

[1] looking a little further down into out pool for the students will not diminish the quality of students.”

Ingrid Hayes

Director of Admissions

students means less money for the rest of us.”

However, the director of student financial planning and services, Marie

Morrison said that current students will not be affected dramatically when financial awards are distributed.

She said the three most important factors that influence the renewal of funds for current students are reaplication, merit, and financial eligibility.

“Unlike admissions…your financial aid application does have to be renewed each year…” The single largest reason, we often see, for students not receiving funds for which they should have or could have been eligible is they just fail to apply for them,” M onn said.

“Some opportunities are missed because of falling to apply on time.”

Overall, there will not be any changes to the financial aid process. “Our deadlines and timeframes will be the same,” M onn said.

A third area of concern is admissions requirements.

Where’s Posh Spice?

Students make a music video to the Spice Girls hit “If You Wanna Be My Lover” at Ramblin’ Nights Friday night. The event also featured comedian Daniel Tosh and a performance by That 80s Band.

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