Committee proposes honors program

By Arcady Kantor
Senior Staff Writer

A committee established to evaluate the feasibility of launching an honors program at Tech recently delivered a proposal to implement such a plan to the Office of the Provost.

The honors program, similar to those found at several other schools such as the University of California, Berkeley, University of Florida and UGA, would be a merit-based, selective program that would allow accepted students to take a variety of courses in "honors" classes.

These honors classes would have a number of differences from standard versions of the courses currently taught at Tech. The classes would be taught in significantly smaller sections, a move designed to improve student-faculty interaction and a more inquiry-based learning environment.

The committee stressed, however, that the courses would not be substantially more difficult than standard courses. "They would cover pretty much the same material," said Gregory Nobles, a professor in the School of History, Technology and Society and co-chair of the committee responsible for the proposal.

In addition to a higher caliber of students, the committee hopes to involve a higher caliber of faculty in the program. The classes "would be taught by faculty...selected as people who are good teachers, good scholars. You want your best people...in that classroom," said Randall Engle, chair of the School of Psychology and the other committee co-chair.

Most of the new classes would be replacing core curriculum courses. "It starts with...taking some of the work...of the first two years that they'd be taking anyway and doing it in small classes with a more intensive kind of engagement with a professor," said Robert McMar, vice provost for undergraduate education.

SGA candidates kick off campaigning

By Nikhil Joshi
Staff Writer

Campaigning for undergraduate student government kicked off this week, and SGA has set its goal for election turnout higher than last year’s record numbers, hoping to draw 40 percent of the student body, or 9,000 students.

Elections are April 11-13. SGA has worked to encourage students to vote in order to improve the reputation of Tech’s student government among students locally and nationally.

"We have been publicizing more this year than we have in the past," said Patrick Cook, chair of public relations. "We want to get as many people out there as possible."

According to Cook, last year’s voter turnout was close to 38 percent. This year, he said, SGA hopes to top that. "It’s going to be a challenge," Cook said, "but SGA has been very interactive with students this year. The petition against a midyear tuition increase is just one example of how we’ve been working well with students."

SGA plans to raise voter turnout among the student population, continued Cook, by comparing Tech to other schools locally and nationally. "We want to emphasize the competition between schools to get high voter turnout," he said. "Last year Duke had the highest turnout—around 44 percent—and we want to be the best this year."

Chris Rankine, chair of the Elections Committee, agreed. It’s going to be hard to beat last year’s turnout," he said, "but we should be able to bring in more people if we treat it as a competition."

This year’s candidates for the position of undergraduate student body president include: David Andersen, Andrew Howard, Tony Le, Micah Lucas and Will Welch. Each has different reasons for running.

"I am running for SGA president because I have a genuine desire to assist in bettering the Tech community," Welch said. Howard said, "After serving as the RHA President for the last two years, I feel that I still had a lot to give and a lot of good ideas to work with to make Tech a better place for everyone.

"I am running for SGA president because I have a true love for Georgia Tech and I see this as my way of giving back to a school which has given me so much," Andersen said.

The other presidential candidate is Andrew Howard. See Voto, page 4

Fate of Barbell Club remains uncertain

By Haining Yu
Assistant News Editor

Operations carry on as usual for the Barbell Club as it continues to await a final decision on its fate after learning last fall of an Athletic Association decision to take some or all of its space for the renovation of locker rooms for the women’s volleyball team.

"We still don’t know a lot of what’s going on," said Michael Kim, president of the Barbell Club. "We have been in the dark about it.

"All we really know right now," Kim added, "is that volleyball is going to take some space, but we don’t know how much."

Located in the basement of O’Keefe Gymnastics, the Barbell Club has been in existence at Tech since the mid 1950s and has an average of 900 members per year. The A.A. decision to renovate the locker rooms came after an independent report compiled as part of Tech’s NCAA recertification process.

The report called the volleyball team’s current locker room facilities in Alexander Memorial Coliseum inadequate based on Title IX regulations.

Communications between club representatives and the administration became strained last fall as tensions began to rise. “Our communication with the administration...wasn’t very good,” Kim said.

“Basically there were a lot of things that were going on that we didn’t know about,” Kim said. “For example, the club did not inform anyone before deciding to renovate, Kim said. As such, the administration offered little room for discussion.

The money the club had invested into the renovation of its facilities was one of the main points in the “Save the Barbell Club” campaign the club started last semester.

According to Kim, within the past year the club has invested roughly $15,000 into renovating the space by installing new air-conditioning and carpets. New pieces of equipment continue to be purchased as well.

However, according to Kim, the administration does not feel responsible for the club’s financial losses due to the fact that these renovations were made without their authorization.

Early this semester however, thanks to mediation done through SGA, the club met again at the discussion table.

According to Kim, students must register for tickets before picking them up in the Student Center. Specific ticket pickup times are assigned when you register online.

The concert, which will be held in the Alexander Memorial Coliseum, is open only to Tech students. Each student, however, will be allowed to bring a guest. Registration will continue until the date of the event or until the ticket supply is exhausted. Registration is first-come first-serve.

Beautification Day registration opens

Individual signups for Tech Beautification Day begin Monday, April 4. Descriptions of available projects can be viewed on their website, berbuzz.gatech.edu/bbd. The event takes place Saturday, April 16.

Commencement speaker named

U.S. Secretary of Energy Sam Bodman will be the spring Commencement speaker. Bodman received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell and a ScD (Doctor of Science) from MIT. He was an assistant professor at MIT for six years. He has also served as Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Deputy Secretary of Treasury, as well as CEO of Fidelity Investments.

Relay for Life runs all tonight

Tech’s annual Relay for Life is this weekend. The event is a 12-hour walkathon that raises money for cancer research. Tech’s goal this year is to raise $120,000. The event starts tonight at 7 p.m. and will last until 7 a.m. Saturday morning. Registration is still open at www.relay.gatech.edu.

Auto show comes to campus

Tech’s second annual Auto Show will take place tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the visitor lot by the Instructional Center.

No parking will be allowed in W03 Management Lot, W03 Visitor Lot, or the second level of the Convention Center Deck from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Alternate parking will be W01 Parking Lot, the Tech Deckway, and the Student Center Deck levels one and three.
From the files of the GTPD...

**Campus Crime**

**Woman shoplifts**
On March 18, a Barnes & Noble employee reported observing a woman in a pink jumpsuit placing items in her bag.

The woman had left the store area and was sitting in Starbucks when she was escorted to an employee area for questioning by GTPD.

After consenting to a search of her bag, 39 different items were found from the store.

The total items were valued at $382.00. The woman stated the items did not belong to her and was escorted to the Fulton County Jail without incident.

**Exit sign stolen**
On March 15, a Housing employee reported a torn down exit sign on the basement floor of Hefner Residence Hall. There were also damaged ceiling tiles.

**Thief steals soap dispenser**
On March 19, a complaint detailed damaged property in Towers Residence Hall.

One paper towel dispenser and one soap dispenser were found ripped from the walls of the third floor bathroom. The case status is still active.

**Man sent to mental ward**
On March 19, a male Tech student flagged down GTPD to report a car following him.

The stalking driver passed field sobriety tests. However, he kept changing moods during questioning.

A bag containing a green leafy substance was recovered after the driver stated that drugs were in the vehicle.

The driver continued making comments that did not make any sense and his body movements were jumpy and unsteady.

The driver was determined to be mentally unstable and released with no charges to Grady Hospital Mental Ward.

This week’s campus crime information written by Amanda Dugan

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**Teching for the Stars:** Astronaut Scott Horowitz, a Tech Ph.D. graduate, spoke to the Tech chapter of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Thursday, March 17.

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**Corrections**
Technique welcomes your comments and suggestions, as well as information about errors that call for correction. Messages may be emailed to technique@gatech.edu. Letters to the editor may be directed to the same address, or to opinions@technique.gatech.edu.

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The South’s liveliest newspaper
Undergraduate House of Representatives

Undergrads almost fail to meet quorum

By Stephen Baehl
News Editor

Tuesday’s Undergraduate House of Representatives meeting threatened to be a short one, as there were not enough members present at the start of the session to make quorum.

Executive Vice President Lamar Stewart said he would re-call after officer reports and the special guest presentation were concluded.

“We have four meetings left, and we have one giant budget left that we haven’t passed yet,” said Amy Phuong, undergraduate student body president, in her report.

“We’re going to be in a bit of a time crunch, especially if we don’t meet quorum tonight,” Phuong said.

After other officers presented their reports, and special guest Mitchell Keller of the Honors Advisory Council publicized next Tuesday’s open forum panel discussions about file sharing, enough representatives were present to make quorum.

Like the graduates, the undergrads where quick to pass or postpone the allocations bills before them in order to move on to discussing the budget.

UHR also postponed consideration of the allocation bill to the Industrial Design Society of America because no club members were present.

An allocation for the Georgia Tech Mock Trial team’s travel expenses to their national tournament in Illinois was also tabled, as there was no organization representative present. However, some members of the house knew the specifics of the bill, and were later able to relate those to the floor. The bill was then brought up for consideration once more and passed.

Also considered with virtually no discussion was an allocation to the GSS considers budget amendments

By Stephen Baehl
News Editor

The Graduate Student Senate rifled through a set of standard allocations bills before moving to the main matter at hand—the Fiscal Year 2006 Student Activity Fee budget. Senators managed to squeeze in discussion on several amendments before losing quorum to members leaving for class.

Among the changes to the budget discussed was the funding of an SGA student assistant, which had been cut from the budget previously. Some senators thought the position would be beneficial and sought to add just over $1,700 of funding back in for it.

At first, senators compared the position to the current undergraduate student assistant, who maintains the web site.

Senator Ed Greco said it was absurd to have two assistants, one serving each house and doing the same web page. “I don’t know why we can’t just fund one person,” he said.

“An independent web master,” Senator Karen Feigh agreed, saying SGA “had innumerable problems with the web site this year.” because the webmaster, as an undergraduate, thinks of his job as primarily serving the undergrads, she said.

Kasi David, graduate student body president, said this assistant was not intended for such duties, however.

He said the position is similar to what other schools have, and was meant for someone to solely focus on maintaining a web site that would serve as a focal point for graduate student news, events and organizations.

Some senators noted Cyberbuzz is intended to serve that purpose.

Kasi agreed, but asked, “How many people here actually use Cyberbuzz?” One senator raised his hand.

Greco remained against the position, however. “I’m against this motion, not because it’s not a good idea, but because it might potentially not work.”

He said that SGA is operating in a fiscally tight year, and could not afford to spend extra money on the position.

Ultimately, the motion failed, and the position remained cut from the budget.

Other issues brought before the senators included a bill requesting funding for the Industrial Design Society of America. No organization representatives were present, and Treasurer Victoria Foster said that none had attended either the JFC meeting before or during spring break.

One senator suggested the Senate that all retreats for all organizations were cut from the budget, senators felt it would be unfair to add money back in just for themselves.

Other issues brought before the senators included a bill requesting funding for the Industrial Design Society of America. No organization representatives were present, and Treasurer Victoria Foster said that none had attended either the JFC meeting before or during spring break.

One senator suggested the Senate
Vote from page 1
didates were not able to be reached for comment.
Sara Amit, Paul Berne and Victor Jaworski are running for the position of executive vice president.
The elections committee has had several changes in the elections code to regulate campaigning, which began this Monday and will continue for two weeks until April 11, after which students will be able to vote.
"Most changes to SGA policies in elections are made as a result of problems during the previous years," Rankine said.
He said that SGA’s greatest worry for the current election is the possibility of having an election in which candidates do not adhere to SGA policy in campaigning.
"I have seen elections where people read the line," he said.
"Our goal is to have rules and keep everyone calm."
For this reason, the elections committee meets to set out the rules and regulations in an elections code prior to campaigning. This document is then passed by the Undergraduate House of Representatives and submitted as the guideline to be used by candidates.
Three major changes were made in this year’s passed version of the elections code. The candidates are now allowed, for example, to have one four-by-eight sign and one three-by-six sign among their posters placed around campus. This is different from last year’s restriction of two three-by-six signs.
"By allowing the candidates to use bigger signs, we are allowing them to be more flexible and creative in their campaigning efforts," Rankine said.
In addition, the committee reworded the content of the Penalties and Violations section of the document because “some of the language in the section was unclear," according to Rankine. Finally, he said, the committee added a section with provisions to prevent mass emailing by candidates.

GSS

from page 3
vote no on the bill since the representative had not shown up to even one of several opportunities. However, the bill was postponed, as Foster suggested David Andersen, JFC chair, had experienced problems with his email and may not have been able to contact the organization.
The bill was postponed. Following that decision, the senators passed a rapid succession of bills with little to no discussion in an effort to quickly bring the budget up for consideration.
The Mock Trial team was allocated money to cover travel expenses to its national tournament after winning at regionals.
"It’s a matter of fairness," he said.
He cited Pride Alliance’s involvement with campaigning against the proposed amendment banning gay marriage in last November’s election.
Other representatives said such advocacy on the organization’s part was in their direct interest in terms of the culture it represents and its very existence.
Suarez argued a political organization is one that campaigns to influence a vote or other public policy.
Treasurer Ambika Bumb said that JFC defines and categorizes organizations based on their Cyberbuzz classification and the organization’s constitution, and under those criteria, Pride was not considered a political organization.
In the end, representatives failed the measure, voting to keep the organization’s funding intact.
Other funding was added back in, such as a request from the Musicians’ Network for $300 to cover maintenance fees.
Organization representatives said they are forced to pay such fees when they need maintenance done in the Under the Couch space, citing as an example the need for insulation on hot water piping in the area that had caused the room to become unbearably hot during winter.
The graduates had considered the same re-addition, but failed it.
After some other considerations of motions, the budget bill was postponed until next week for further discussion.
Representatives also nominated and voted on a chair and members of an Awards committee to be in charge of administration duties associated with the nomination and election of UHR award winners.

UHR

from page 3
Caribbean Students Association for its Caribbean Week activities and a bill to fund the purchase of a new buzzer system for the Academic Quiz Bowl team. Both bills were passed in full.
The main sources of contention in the meeting came during the ensuing budget discussion.
Public Policy Representative Alex Suarez suggested that the Pride Alliance budget be cut entirely, because he said that they had become aware themeasure, voting to keep the organization’s funding intact.

"I’m against this motion, not because it isn’t a good idea, but because it might potentially not work."

Ed Greco
Physics senator

The Caribbean Students Association bill, a request for funds for the organization’s Caribbean Week events, also passed, as well as an allocation to the Academic Quiz Bowl Team for a new buzzer system.
The last of the team’s 15 to 20 year-old buzzer systems broke a month ago, and, according to their representative, they had not been able to meet to practice since.

20 year-old buzzer systems broke a month ago, and, according to their representative, they had not been able to meet to practice since.
Barbell

The risk management recommendations could put an extra financial burden on the club, as well as add to the responsibilities of the student leaders. The need for constant supervision on the club, Kim said, will most likely force the club to limit hours of operation in the future. "We wouldn't make it 24 hours anymore... maybe cut off the hours from two to five (a.m.)," Kim said. "We’re also talking about a possible buddy system.

Any speculation on the future of the club would only come into effect if the club is allowed to keep enough space to continue operating as a facility. Should it be forced out of its current space, the Barbell Club would forfeit any expenses put into renovating the area. In addition, it would be forced to sell off its equipment or find somewhere else to house it.

In the end, however, it is not the money that troubles Barbell members. "We’re a non-profit organization," said Kim. "If we were to liquidate and get rid of everything, our money would be donated to the charities that we already give money to."

According to Edwards, anything from none to all of the club's current space could be taken, depending on the outcome of this report. It is unclear at this time whether this report has been completed or not.

The administration at this point is still in the decision-making process as to what to do with the Barbell Club space. "All the information asked for in the memo is being gathered up," Edwards said. "I don't know when the ultimate decision will come out... it is still a work in progress.

Along with the Facilities report, the memo also called for an administrative review of current Barbell Club operations. Representatives of the CRC toured the club’s O’Keefe location with club officers to discuss issues of "risk management" that the club would need to address, if it does remain in its present location.

Items that were noted included loose weights, the need to maintain a tidy space to prevent accidents and the need for more safety signs. According to Kim, the CRC also brought up the possibility of requiring a CPR-trained supervisor to be on-hand during all Barbell Club hours.

Honors

"We think in some cases students are choosing another school because of their honors programs." Robert McMath

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"We think in some cases students are choosing another school because of their honors programs." Robert McMath

According to McMath, the administration’s goal in launching an honors program is to attract a higher caliber of students to Tech. "We believe there are some students who either come to Tech or consider Tech and go someplace else who would be very interested in this kind of challenge," he said. "We think in some cases students are choosing another school because of their honors programs."

"An awful lot of Georgia Tech students are interested in getting a degree, getting a job, making a lot of money... There's certain nothing wrong with that; Georgia Tech has done a very good job working with that kind of student over the years," Engel said. "I think what we're looking at is individuals who really do want to be a little more diverse in their education than the typical [Tech] student, who might be interested in combining some things by looking at things in an interdisciplinary way."

The committee has also determined some basic aspects of the admission process for the program. "We decided early on that this was not going to be a program determined strictly by GPA and SAT," Nobles said. "That doesn't really make sense here because... you're dealing with an average SAT of 1300 and change.

Furthermore, the committee proposed that applicants be selected based on an essay and recommendation letters from high school teachers in two different disciplines (a humanity and a science) in addition to their grades.

Other features the committee hopes to include in the program are a variety of social activities and a residential component. "The goal here is to bring a level of vitality—vitality at an intellectual level, in ways that it's not easy to do at Georgia Tech right now," Engel said. "The goal is to do this both by having these students live together, having dinners with faculty and... just [encouraging] student-faculty interaction at a level that's kind of hard to do right now."

The scope of the program as outlined by the committee will have a variety of costs for administering the program, adding faculty and recruiting students. "This is not expected to take funds away from other departments, however, Nobles said. The program would instead be funded as a component of normal institute expansion, as well as with assistance from the next capital campaign. "We all hope that there will be some good, interested, and—one hopes—generous donor or set of donors," Nobles said.

The program will not have a scholarship component like many of Tech's peer institutions. According to McMath, if the program is approved, the administration hopes to launch it by fall 2006. The program may also be substantially restructured from the current proposal as it passes through various stages of peer review.

Wanna write for the ‘Nique? email development@nique.net