Regents propose plus/minus grades

By James Stephenson
Staff Writer

The Board of Regents is looking to implement a three-year pilot program for a plus/minus grading system and has asked Tech to participate. The program would include a plus/minus system in students’ transcripts and grade point averages.

"Basically, instead of simply A, B, C, D, and F, said Andy Adams, vice provost for Academic Affairs, "the system would be A-, B-, B+, C-, C+, C, D- and F."

Several factors are still under-considered in the implementation of the plus/minus system. In the general application of the system, the Board of Regents has offered Tech three options.

"We can choose to have the plus and minus affect GPA. We can have the plus and minus only on the transcript, but not affect GPA," Smith said. "Or we can choose to not implement the program at all." The weight of the "A" and the "F." also still has to be determined.

"What most schools typically do—though there are some exceptions—is give a third of a point for a plus and subtract third of a point for a minus," Smith said.

The ability to give more precise measurements of a student’s performance is what administrators and professors looked for when they proposed the change to the current grading system.

"For example, if I have a student..." Smith said.

IEE awards Meindl medal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) recently chose Jim Meindl, a professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to be the recipient of the Medal of Honor, the organization’s most prestigious award.

Meindl was recognized for his contributions to microelectronics—specifically, low-power, biomedical and on-chip interconnect networks.

Lee earns Pierskalla Award

The Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS) recently gave Eva Lee, a professor in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, its annual Pierskalla Award. The award is given to an individual who shows excellence in the fields of health care and management sciences.

Auxiliary Services scholarship

Auxiliary Services posted its online application for the 2006 Impact Scholarship recipient at webhost.gatech.edu/auxsurvey/impact_scholarship/. Scholarship applicants must be enrolled either as full-time or co-op students with at least sophomore status, must be planning on enrolling for the 2006-2007 academic year and be in good standing with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

The deadline for applications is March 3 at 5 p.m. Auxiliary Services will give 10 scholarships worth $3,000 each.

Clough serves as hurricane protection committee chair

By Jenny Zhang
Copy Editor

Institute President Wayne Clough was recently appointed chair of the National Academies/National Research Committee on New Orleans Regional Hurricane Protection Projects, the committee, which reports to the Secretary of Defense, will oversee studies on the levee failures that occurred when Hurricane Katrina devastated the city last fall and review proposals for rebuilding New Orleans’ flood protection systems.

"The selection of this engineering project of our generation, and it has to be completed in the shortest period of time," Clough said, "was an honor to be a part of it."

Clough said this is one of the few times when engineering

See Clough, page 5

IFC changes scholarship fund

By Ranganath Venkataraman
Staff Writer

The Intrafraternity Council (IFC), which governs the thirty fraternities on campus and handles relations between the Institute and the fraternities, is in the process of introducing special endowment scholarships for Greeks.

According to IFC president Michael Moreland, this is part of the progress that is being made to improve relations with the Institute.

"IFC has made a lot of progress in the last three years to catch up. We have discovered discrepancies in our own bylaws and we’re playing a more vital role in day-to-day operations of the fraternities," Moreland said.

"We have also established a new account for sponsoring other student organizations in the spirit of collaboration," Moreland said.

Moreland added that the IFC’s proposals were always in line with student life and student affairs. It gave us a good picture of where student affairs were going and what Greeks had to offer." Said the scholarship fund money, however, has now been transferred to a account in the Georgia Tech Foundation.

The advantage of this is that we’re contributing to the foundation and we’re keeping money within the school," said IFC Treasurer Trevor Kramer.

According to Kramer, transferring the fund to the Georgia Tech Foundation account is expected to return a total of 10 to 15 percent. Engineering, though, is the recipient of only one to two percent interest.

"Five to ten years from now, the money we give is going to be very

See IFC, page 5
This week’s campus crime information

By Kenneth Baskett

**Hoovers missing**

A Georgia Tech employee submitted a missing property complaint on Jan. 12. On Dec. 14, a custodial employee performed an inventory and found 2 missing vacuums worth a total of $289 both were used in Center Street and Hemphill Avenue Apartments.

On Jan. 11, a Housing employee reported missing property to GTPD. He stated that the items could have been misplaced. In all, eight missing vacuums, three steam cleaners and three radios totaling $3,269 could not be accounted for.

**Crime tip line**

Between Jan. 6 at 10:00 p.m. and Jan. 7 at 12:00 a.m., a student lost his cell phone. On Jan. 11, he found that $200 in unauthorized international phone calls were made on the phone. The student had his service canceled.

**Sliver**

Brad: Can we play naked tag?
Brock: No!
What a shame...
That would be fun to play in this female apartment
Fun for who?
The thing that bothers me is the back door flap with a missing button
You can only find that kind of underwear at wearhouse stores
Well that makes sense

Where are there pubes in the LWC headphones?
I love your Becky!
Iota Iota Nine rocks
Does anyone know what “boobs” means?
JABOOKAA?
Yeah, thats right!
JABOOKAA!
school still sucks in 2006
Gelhacks, you suck.
Leave us alone

Why is it that all the girls I know at Tech complain that they can’t find a guy?
Because so many guys at Tech act like the one who posted the next sliver.

Sliver Girl
hey GT females/nerd girls,
I’d had a text from you, I’d put some kind of weedkiller or fungicide or something on my face.
Marco
Can you hear me now?
Salutations are cool.
people don’t seem to realize hurling insults at someone via an anonymous sliver makes you look more like a loser than anything you say.
this alum was the first sliver
that air force party friday night was awesome
That’s the new Bingo?
Asian?
Then I’ll yell Crackers!
I don’t have a problem with sex, its just the whole relationship thing
None of the Miss America contestants have talent
Miss Georgia: so, yeah I am asian
Miss America contestants remind me of those push button
donut dolls allison m. is so hot!
Bowl before me, for I am root.
Greetings from your Online Editor
“your online editor”...
fun times
The Internet: Powered by The Chad

See page 17 for more Slivers!
Undergraduate House of Representatives

By James Stephenson
Staff Writer

The Undergraduate House of Representatives met this past Tuesday. Six new Representatives were approved and sworn in to the House. Three other bills were passed during the meeting, as well.

The first bill brought before the House was the joint allocation to the Musician’s Network. The Musician’s Network operates Under the Couch and they requested $3,000 to replace acoustic foam in the recording studio. The foam previously in place was deemed unsafe by a fire marshal and was required to be replaced. The total cost for the replacement is $5,700.

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) recommended reducing the amount to $2,500 with the expectation that the RHA would kick in $500. The probability of the RHA funding the Musician’s Network was called into question and revealed to be shaky at best. The bill was passed in its original form.

The next bill to be considered was a joint allocation to the iMovie Fest. The iMovie Fest committee was requesting funds to pay for renting the Ferst Center for the presentation of the movie projects.

Due to unexpected costs last year because of overtime charges incurred during the event, the bill was padded in several areas to account for the potential of a repeat incident. The JFC recommended taking out the padding and reducing the amount to $2,269. The bill was amended per JFC recommendations and passed.

The final bill brought before the House was a joint allocation to the Mars Society. The society was asking for funding of an event in February to discuss issues in space, such as usability for weapons proliferation.

The event will have three speakers. One of the speakers will be a faculty member at Tech. The JFC recommended reducing the bill to $1,690 and eliminating the cost for renting a room in the Student Center, which is free for Tech organizations, and the travel costs of the guest speakers. The bill was amended per JFC recommendations and passed.

Les Saunders from the Office of Capital Planning and Space Management gave a presentation to the House during the meeting. Saunders laid out the updated goals for Tech’s master plan.

The plan was an updated form of the 1997 master plan, of which Tech has already achieved all of its 15-year goals set out in that plan. The main concerns with the new master plan are the educational environment, the research environment and the campus environment.

Other issues laid out in the plan include increasing accessibility on campus and increasing sustainability in planning for campus expansion. The master plan calls for 50 percent of the campus to have tree cover, as well as a reduction in the surface area currently used by roadways. The plan creates a more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly campus.

See UHR, page 6
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Clough from page 1

and professional expertise coincide with a national imperative. “[New Orleans] is a great city, an icon for the country and it must be rebuilt. The [Hurricane Katrina disaster] continues to be a heartbreaking situation for thousands of people because they can’t go home, and it’s important for people…to step up and do something,” Clough said in the fact that he has family in New Orleans brings the importance of rebuilding to him on a very personal level as well.

Clough’s appointment to committee chair also represents a continuation of Tech’s commitment to leadership on issues of this kind.”

Wayne Clough
Institute President

“We want you in our sheets!

Write for the Technique!

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IFC from page 3

substantial,” Kramer said.

A meeting had been set up with John Carter, the president of the Georgia Tech Foundation, to discuss concerns about the scholarship money. While the IFC had $30,000 dollars in its account, it is not the endowment.

“arship money. While the IFC had

discuss concerns about the schol

According to Moreland, the IFC’s goal is to award two to three $1,000 scholarships every year.

Most Greeks felt that this was a step in the right direction.

“I think it’s a good idea because it encourages people who join fraternities to keep up their GPA,” said Brendan O’Leary, a first-year Chemical Engineering major and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. “Academics are not always first. But when you’re giving out scholarships, it helps to influence members of the Greek community to increase academics and compete.”

Benji White, a second-year Biomedical Engineering major and a member of Delta Sigma Psi, said that it had a similar viewpoint.

“I think it’s a great idea. While some fraternities already have scholarships for good grades, I think it’d also promote high leadership,” White said. “I guess some people will see a few people get it the first time, and then they would start to work for it. In the beginning it’d be random people that are doing well out there on campus and making a difference.”

“This is something we’re really excited about. We set some goals to make a lasting impact on campus and on Greek life in general, and I think creating this scholarship fund will achieve that goal for us,” Kramer said.

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NEWS

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Grading from page 1

who got an 81 and one who got an 89, I know there is a huge amount of difference in the work that those students put in to get those grades, but there is no way to differentiate between the two," Smith said.

"Personally, I would like to see the system in place," he said. "It gives the students more precise feedback and differentiates better what the student's performance actually is."

Smith acknowledged that it was not solely up to him to decide whether or not the new system went into affect.

"[The new system] is not some

GSS from page 3

group had originally requested $5,000 but told the committee that they had raised half of the money elsewhere.

The second bill which passed was a joint allocation to iMovie Fest. An organizational representative explained that the five-minute films created by students in one week would be aired late February at the Fert Center.

Stuart added that two years ago iMovie Fest won the annual Burdell's Picture size!" to leave plenty of white space." Remember to leave plenty of white space."

Smith called for a roll call. "I have a joint allocation to iMovie Fest. According to JFC, many students are against the plus/minus system.

"Students feel there is too much emphasis on grades, and this would increase that emphasis," Smith said.

"However, what it does give the student is a more precise measure of performance."

"The first time I talked about the program was at the Leadership Retreat last week," he said. "There was a lot of resistance to it at the conference. It was just a discussion, but I found a lot of students there had a negative reaction to it."

"I do not know really how I would feel about that [type of system]," said Blake West, a fourth-year Industrial Engineering major. "I don't think I would like losing a third of a point for simply getting a minus on a grade."

If the new system passes through the student government in the next few weeks, students will be seeing pluses and minuses next to their grades as soon as this summer term.

UHR from page 3

Another issue laid out in the plan is storm water drainage. Buildings recently constructed or currently under construction have built-in systems to capture, store and reuse rainwater.

An Eco-commons, which is basically a waterway that will travel from the Burger Bowl to the tennis courts across from the Coliseum, is included in the master plan to be constructed on campus.

The plan also calls for historic or "special" places on campus to be preserved.

Currently, no measures are being taken to make sure that nothing is built on such areas. Areas under this designation include the old quad in front of Tech Tower, the mayor garden next to Skiles and the glade behind the President's House.

The details of the master plan can be viewed in depth at www.space.gatech.edu/masterplan.htm.
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