**REMARKS BY DR. G. WAYNE CLOUGH**

**GT Regional Engineering Program Meeting**

**Savannah, April 20, 1999**

- Glad to be with you. About three years ago I was here ~~and the~~ but under different circumstances ~~were different~~. At that time, you gave me the message that this community was anxious to have a quality engineering program based ~~here~~ in this area, one that could help create new directions for your economy. As a native of South Georgia who was born and raised here I understood more than most the issues. But at that time, the demand for engineers in Georgia's economy was consistent with that nationally, ~~relatively modest~~ modest at best. Nationally, this lack of demand has been persistent, causing a decline in the numbers of engineering graduates for 15 years. This trend continues today in ~~most~~ many regions of the nation. Thus, at that time, I was unable to do much more than to say that I felt your pain.

- Over the past three years certain areas of the nation and certain sectors of the economy have changed the picture. Thankfully, one of these areas is Georgia, where the growth of a vibrant economy has

been assisted by wise state investments. One has only to look to the new port facilities here in Savannah to see positive results from state investments by the Miller and now the Barnes administrations.

- It is now my pleasure to be able to return to Southeast Georgia at a propitious moment in our shared history. With the help of the Chancellor, our Board of Regents, the Barnes Administration, and our State Legislature, Georgia Tech is well underway towards the establishment of the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program (GTREP) which will enroll its first students beginning with the new school year next August. Looking forward to working in partnership with Georgia Southern University, Savannah State University and Armstrong Atlantic State University on their campuses and at the Coastal Center. We see our plans as logical extensions to activities we have underway here today. This includes the work of our EDI office and our efforts at the Skidaway Marine Institute in environmental sciences and engineering. What we will undertake

complement these activities as well
~~also will serve as a perfect compliment~~ to the state-wide goals for the Yamacraw Mission, for which Georgia Tech will play a central role

- With me today is Dr. David Frost who is the interim director for GTREP. Joining David and me is Charlie van Onsen of our Savannah based EDI office and Andrew Harris, Tech's director of government relations and ~~special assistant to the president.~~ Bob Hardy director of media and community relations We want to discuss our plans with you this morning and answer any questions you might have. We also want to learn by listening to you

- The underlying principles for GTREP consist of:

  1. The offerings should be developed strategically so as to not only be successful, but also to assist the economic development goals of this region.
  2. Quality should underlie all we do.
  3. We should work with our partner institutions who are here, utilizing existing facilities and building on our well-established RETP.

4. Students should be the focus of our programs, not turf or institutions.
5. We should take advantage of technology to link the institutions involved, to serve student needs, to build an advanced communications learn system, and to enrich the offerings that the students can access.
6. We should offer GTREP students the coop experience, one of the great traditions at Georgia Tech and one that sets our students apart in the eyes of companies seeking to employ them.

- Our plan calls for us to build the faculty and program resources locally to offer the bachelors degree in civil and environmental engineering and electrical and in electrical and computer engineering. The requirements and curriculum will be as close to those used in Atlanta as possible. These degrees are consistent with your economic development goals. The civil program will complement our operations at Skidaway and the electrical and computer engineering program will be important in supporting your growing IT industry

and the Yamacraw Mission, ~~where Georgia Tech will play a leading role~~. In addition to the undergraduate degree programs, we will offer by distance learning masters degrees in environmental engineering and electrical and computer engineering so that students graduating from the new programs can continue on to advanced studies when they are ready. Our expectation is that the M.S. programs will be delivered largely using the internet.

- Already have the foundation for GTREP in the Regents Engineering Transfer Program. 1st two years of Georgia Tech's engineering curriculum is already offered at Armstrong Atlantic and Georgia Southern, and Savannah State has now become also part of the RETP. Students now transfer to the Tech campus as juniors on the same footing as engineering majors who have spent their first two years at GT. So the new part we are creating here is the junior and senior year curriculum for CE and CompE. With start of new school year on August 23rd, students who have completed 1st two years in RETP, able to continue with junior year here in Southeast Georgia without transferring to Atlanta.

- Program very similar to GT campus. Differences will come from taking advantage of unique strengths offered by our partners here in this area. DL will be used to strengthen the undergraduate programs as they grow and to support our masters level offerings. DL technology enables: 1) Efficient use of existing faculty expertise from GT campus. 2) Asynchronous learning – not all students have to be in class at same time – attractive for non-traditional students. 3.) Allows students at any one of the three local campuses to take courses from the other institutions at their home institution, or at the Coastal Center here in Savannah. 4) Provides opportunity to enhance University System desktop distance learning network in conjunction with Regents office; 5) Offers capability to earn MS degrees when needed.

- Dr. Frost now meeting regularly with administration and faculty of 3 partner universities and GT civil and computer engineering faculty to lay groundwork. Will produce matrices of traditional and distance-

Registrar
Coop
Faculties

learning courses that fit together to yield degrees. Will construct syllabi for new and revised courses.

- Will hire 4-6 GTREP faculty during next several months. Officially Georgia Tech faculty. However, most (70%) located here in the region, split equally between Savannah and Statesboro. 30% at GT in Atlanta to assist in delivery of distance learning offerings. In coming school year we will teach courses for sophomores and for juniors who are right now completing 2nd year in Regents transfer program. New faculty also to recruit and advise students, to develop the labs required by courses, and to interact with regional industries in preparation to develop internship and co-op opportunities.

- The programs will evolve over time, with larger numbers of students and larger numbers of faculty being added. As this occurs, the role of distance learning will likely change, from filling gaps that cannot be offered by the small numbers of early faculty, to serving to allow

students to access specialized courses the larger faculty in Atlanta can offer, and to increase access to students in Savannah & Statesboro

- General Assembly has provided $1.5 million in remainder of FY99 (ends 6/30). 1/3 will begin hiring new faculty and provide for their needs. 2/3 will address up-front cost of renovating and equipping labs and distance learning classrooms. Team of computer and networking specialists in Savannah and Statesboro in March. Hardware and software choices will render the educational experience identical regardless of where student physically located.

- Budget for FY2000 (begins 7/1): $2 million. Ratio of how it is spent is reverse of FY 99: Funding for faculty more than doubles to reflect full year's cost of salaries, supplies, etc.; funding for remaining renovation and equipment now becomes less than half of the budget @ $800,000.

- Beyond BS in civil and computer engineering, next step is master's programs in electrical and computing engineering and in environmental engineering (coast is an environmentally sensitive region for which this expertise is important; can capitalize on the resources of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography). Hope to be able to launch these programs officially sometime next year.

- Regard the three organizations in this room today as partners with us in Regional Engineering Program. GT always had very close, practical working relationship with business and industry, and want to do that here in coastal region as well. Understand need to prepare students for realities of actually practicing engineering in the private sector. Largest and one of oldest voluntary co-op program in nation. I was co-op student at GT – invaluable workplace experience as well as opportunity to earn way through school. Want students in GTREP to be able to co-op.

- Looking forward to enrolling first formal class of freshmen and identifying first sophomore and junior classes from the existing Regents Engineering Transfer Program. Expect the first graduates in 2002.