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TECHNIQUE

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Board of Regents hikes tuition, fees

By Jennifer Lee

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Students can look forward to their annual jump in college costs, as the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved increases in tuition and mandatory student fees last week.

In-state tuition for the 2004-2005 academic year will be \$1,684, an increase of \$80 per semester, or five percent. The Board raised out-of-state tuition by \$757 to \$8,324 per semester, an increase of about 10 percent.

Mandatory student fees have increased by \$21, from \$434 to \$455 per semester. In addition, legislation passed by the Georgia

General Assembly last semester capped the amount Georgia's HOPE Scholarship will cover in fees. As a result, beginning this fall, in-state students receiving the HOPE will have to pay for the additional \$21 in fees out-of-pocket.

"State appropriation for higher education has been decreasing significantly, [and] at the same time we have higher enrollment."

Dr. Gary May

Assistant to the president

"The challenges that we've faced recently [are] that the state appropriation for higher education has been decreasing significantly, [and] at the same time we have higher enrollment," said Gary May, executive assistant to the president.

"So in order to keep the same quality of education and service, it's got to be paid for somehow...and one source of money is tuition from

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Luke heads to The Land Down Under to join up with his new posse.

SPORTS page 16

Did April showers dampen the spirits of concert-goers at Music Midtown?

ENTERTAINMENT page 9

BREAKING GROUND



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Old Naval Reserve building and the Student Health Center are demolished to make way for the new Klaus Computing Building. The building is expected to be completed in January 2006. Construction was previously delayed due to real estate issues.

Senate approves mid-semester drop day

By Michael Handelman

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The Academic Senate has voted to move the last day to withdraw from class, also known as drop day, from the sixth week of the semester to the middle of the term.

At the annual meeting of the academic faculty held in late April, the Academic Senate considered proposals on grade substitution and the date for drop day. Prior to the meeting of the Academic Senate, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, a constituent committee of the Senate, approved the measure.

According to the meeting minutes, Paul Benkeser, chair of the Student Regulations Committee reported to the Senate that "the [drop

day] proposal deals with modification of the calendar to take better advantage of the mid-term grades for 1000- and 2000- level courses."

Benkeser also stated that "students in [introductory classes] receive a mid-term grade of either 'Satisfactory' or 'Unsatisfactory'...currently, this information becomes available...during the academic period following the term's registration."

Under the new proposal, mid-term grades will be released six weeks into fall and spring semesters, two weeks prior to drop day.

Students will continue to not receive a tuition refund if they withdraw from classes early; tuition will only be refunded to students who withdraw from all classes.

According to Registrar Jo McIver,

implementing the new drop day would allow "students [to] have more experience with a course when considering a withdrawal...this may reduce impulse drops following the first exam."

McIver also states that "more time would be available for the advising period. This should improve the effectiveness of persons involved in academic advising and academic support."

The Registrar's findings also suggested that academic units take advantage of a "withdrawal hold," a restriction on the ability of students to withdraw from classes without the "consent of the school."

This recommendation was suggested to prevent students from disrupting work groups or other team

activities in classes whose course work is predominantly in groups. The move brings Tech into conformance with the existing policies of the University of Georgia and Georgia State University, both of which have their last day to withdraw in the midpoint of the term. However, outside of Georgia, class withdrawal procedures differ greatly.

Prior to the policy change, students who cross-registered for classes at Georgia State had to withdraw from classes by the earlier Tech drop date, instead of the later Georgia State withdrawal date.

Stanford University allows students to withdraw from a class up until 80 percent of the course has

See **Drop**, page 3

Clough wins national award

Institute President Wayne Clough received a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Civil Engineers on May 12. The award recognizes Clough's contributions to civil engineering education.

"This institution has evolved so impressively since my days as a student and it has been a privilege to work with the faculty, students and staff to reach our current status. They have been partners in my leadership and I'm happy to accept this as a recognition of that," Clough said, according to a press release.

Parking permit sign-up now open

Parking and Transportation Services is now accepting applications for parking permits for the 2004-2005 school year. The deadline to apply is June 30. Visit www.parking.gatech.edu for more information.

ModLangs wins Regents' award

The University System of Georgia awarded the Ivan Allen College's School of Modern Languages the 2004 Regents' Awards for Excellence in Teaching in a Department. The award, presented at the Board of Regents meeting on May 18, recognized the school's faculty for "putting students first."

RIAA subpoenas OIT for student names

By Arcadiy Kantor

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The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) filed a new round of lawsuits against music downloaders nationwide in late April, among whom are nine Tech students.

The association, which has gained notoriety for its legal battles against file trading in recent months, subpoenaed the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to release the identities of the individuals who were using computers at specific network addresses identified by the RIAA as being the sources of large amounts of file sharing.

Tech has indicated they intend to comply with the subpoenas. "Unless there's some reason not to honor it, we honor the subpoena and give them the information they want, which in this case is the identities of nine students," said Randy Nordin, Tech's chief legal advisor.

The students named in the suit face a lengthy and complicated legal process. "It's not a trivial matter," Nordin said, who advised students named in the case to seek legal advice from an attorney.

Students do have other options rather than simply letting the matter to play out in court. "Many of [the students sued in the past] just contacted the RIAA attorney and

worked out something. As a matter of fact, the RIAA has asked that I tell the students if I contact them to please contact their attorney," Nordin said.

Downloading and sharing of copyrighted materials, including the music that is at the core of the lawsuits, is banned by Tech's Computer and Network Usage Policy.

OIT's website states, "As in all cases in which a violation of the Computer and Network Policy is suspected, OIT will investigate such reports and take action to protect Georgia Tech and Georgia Tech computing and network resources."

This often comes in the form of disabling a student's Internet access

until the student has discussed the matter with either the staff of OIT or the Dean of Student's office.

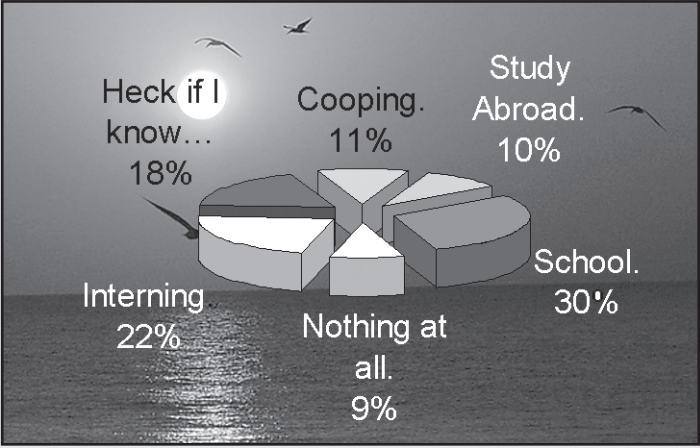
The RIAA has emphasized that the users they are targeting with these lawsuits are not casual music traders. "They told me that they were ... going after people that had copied literally thousands of songs," Nordin said.

As the availability of broadband Internet connections grows, so do the rates at which users download music, movies and other copyrighted media.

The RIAA has claimed that this has hurt CD sales and states it is suing

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Technique Online Voice your opinion!
Last issue's question received 157 responses
What are you doing this summer?



By Lauren Griffen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Will RIAA subpoenas stop you from downloading music?

Tell us what you think at www.nique.net



Theft
4/30/2003 22:46:00 hrs.

Location: Tech Hotel and Conference Center
Incident: Report of stolen basketball

5/9/2004 17:18:00 hrs.
Incident: Report that subject forcefully had his bicycle taken from him.

Possession
5/6/2004 17:14:00 hrs.

Location: Sigma Phi Epsilon
Incident: Offender arrested for possession of tools.

From the files of the GTPD...
Crime Reports

5/21/2004 1:49:00 hrs.
Location: Delta Tau Delta
Incident: Offender arrested for possession of marijuana

Rape
5/13/2004 4:06:00 hrs.

Location: Pi Kappa Phi
Incident: Report of an alleged sexual assault.

Criminal Trespass
5/2/2004 17:11:00 hrs.

Location: Undergraduate Living Center
Incident: Report of an unknown person taking a shower in her room.

Drunkenness
5/2/2004 5:10:00 hrs.

Location: Peters Parking Deck
Incident: Report of a drunk person sitting in vehicle.

Property Damage
5/1/2004 00:00 hrs.

Location: 531 Turner Place
Incident: Report of dumpster fire

5/2/2004 10:35:00 hrs.

Location: Hanson Residence Hall
Incident: Report of stolen garment bag w/clothes

5/5/2004 14:28:00 hrs.

Location: 625 Lambert Street
Incident: Report of stolen items from construction site.

5/18/2004 2:08:00 hrs.

Location: Harris Hall
Incident: Report that someone tipped over a utility cart.

Come to our next meeting Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. in room137 of the Student Services building!

Tuition from page 1

our students.”

Both May and Amy Phuong, the newly elected Undergraduate Student Body President, pointed out that in comparison to other peer institutions, tuition for schools in the University System of Georgia is still relatively inexpensive. Many other states are experiencing double-digit increases in in-state tuition alone.

“Every public university as a whole is going up,” Phuong said. The \$21 increase in mandatory student fees was reduced from \$51, the amount originally recommended to the Board of Regents by the Mandatory Student Fee Committee, which is composed of a small group of students, faculty and administrators at Tech. The committee had voted last semester for increases in transportation, health, student activity, athletic and technology fees.

None of the requested increase in the Technology Fee—which Institute President Wayne Clough had increased to \$25 after reviewing the committee’s original recommendation of \$10—was approved,

which may present a setback for the President’s strategic plan for Tech.

“From our perspective, it just limits how much we might be able to do in terms of improving lab facilities for classrooms next year,” May said. “When we aren’t able to do that, we’re left with stuff that may be getting a little antiquated.”

“For every dollar of increase, we get [approximately] \$30,000 dollars.”

Amy Phuong
USB president

The Board of Regents did approve a full \$3 increase as requested for Athletics, as well as reduced increases for Health, Transportation and Student Activity Fees. The Student Activity Fee, reduced to \$12 from \$14, may present a problem for the Student Government Association, which passed the 2004-2005 student organizations budget last semester

based on the \$14 increase.

“We were hoping to get the full increase of \$14 because...that was the amount of money that we needed to cover the difference in cost of the [Campus Recreation Center],” said David Andersen, this year’s Joint Finance Committee chair.

Though the Student Activity Fee represents the largest individual fee increase, the need for it was due in part to increased operating costs for the CRC, of which the Student Activity Fee funds the majority. As a Tier 1 organization, the CRC receives priority when it comes to allocating funding, which strained this year’s student organizations budget.

According to Phuong, the \$2 deficit amounts to several thousand dollars that will not be available for the budget.

“For every dollar of increase, we get [approximately] \$30,000 dollars,” Phuong said. “If we didn’t get two dollars increase, we’ll get \$60,000 to \$80,000 less, [and] if you look at the overall picture, it’s not enough.”

As a result, the budget may have to be resubmitted. Currently, however, SGA is postponing any

decisions until the beginning of July, when it will have information about rollovers from this past year’s budget that can go toward making up the \$2 deficit.

“We really can’t say until then...because [then] we’ll have the numbers,” Andersen said. “It’s always possible there could be enough

“The new budget cannot [be passed] until both Houses have been inducted.”

David Andersen
JFC chair

rollover.” Also, Andersen said, additional money may also come from increased enrollment in the fall semester.

However, “Chances are that the rollover and the increased enrollment will not make up the difference,” he said.

Any changes to the budget would still have to be approved by both the Undergraduate House and the Graduate Senate at the beginning of this fall. “The new budget cannot [be passed] until both Houses have been inducted,” Andersen said.

Andersen said that he expects the process to take much less time this year. “This year it’s going to be very quick; we’re going to be ready to go in the fall.” The JFC members will be appointed “within the first two weeks” of fall semester, he said, and the budget will be presented at the first meeting of SGA.

In the meantime, Andersen is also doing preliminary research into how to keep this from happening again in the future, including splitting the Student Activity Fee into separate allocations for the CRC and student organizations.

“What that does is it creates an impenetrable wall, so that if CRC has a major increase, they can’t take money away from student organizations,” he said, adding that the split would also make it clearer to both students and to the Board of Regents about what the fees are going toward.

RIAA from page 1

heavy traders to educate the public on the dangers of file sharing.

Some Tech students defended downloading music online, however. “I’ve started actually buying CDs now,” said first-year Richard Kuo. “[Thanks to file sharing,] people can preview tracks, and that’s kind of how I still use it.”

The deadline for Tech to reply to the subpoenas is Wednesday, June 2, and as long as file trading on the campus network continues, more lawsuits may be coming.

“Students [should] take a really close look at our computer policies and understand the dangers involved in this sort of activity,” Nordin said.

Drop from page 1

been completed; the Massachusetts Institute of Technology allows students to withdraw from classes up until 85 percent of the term has been completed.

Student reaction to the drop day change has been mixed.

Andrew Howard, RHA President, said, “[Drop day] is something that the students wanted...they’ve been pushing for it for quite a while.

“The faculty recognized something that needed to be done and...it proves that the faculty has the students’ interest in mind and is not just concerned about their own research,” Howard said.

Bobby Henebry, a recent Mechanical Engineering graduate,

questioned the usefulness of the move.

“Students abuse drop day, so moving it half-way in the semester doesn’t help anything...[students] should spend more time preparing for the class and schedule.”

“Life doesn’t always give you a second chance—if you just put in the time that you are supposed to, you won’t have this problem.”

Henebry also felt that any benefit from the policy “is advantageous for

the wrong group of people.”

The number of students potentially affected by this policy change comprises a small percentage of Tech’s students. According to the Student Regulations Committee, four percent of undergraduate students drop their courses in a semester, double the rate of graduate students, of which two percent drop their courses. The motion to pass the drop day measure passed without any dissent in the

meeting.

However, another long-discussed proposal, grade substitution, which had been slated for consideration by the Academic Senate during the April meeting has been delayed pending further research.

According to the findings of the Student Regulations Committee, “The general consensus was that most faculty were indifferent [to the grade substitution policy]...of those with strong opinions on the policy, more were in favor of it than opposed to it.”

This lack of consensus, in addition to a perception that student opinion on the proposed policy was split, led the committee to direct further research on the issues of retention and course-repeat outcomes.

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We worked hard to earn that title.