

TECHNIQUE

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

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Owen Wilson and Morgan Freeman form an unlikely duo in *The Big Bounce*.

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Stellar point guard and Tech's leading scorer Fallon Stokes lights up the ACC!

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Committee to consider grade substitution

By Jody Shaw
Associate Editor

A proposal that would allow limited grade substitution, once known as grade forgiveness, is slowly working its way through several Academic Senate committees.

The Student Rules and Regulations Committee soon will discuss the proposed grade substitution pol-

icy that would give undergraduate students the limited ability to retake a Tech course in which they earn a D or and F and replace their previous grade in the calculation of their GPAs.

If viewed favorably by the committee at its Feb. 9 meeting, the policy could find its way to the Academic Senate, the body that must approve any such change to make it

official Tech policy.

Under the proposed policy, students may substitute grades for a maximum of three 1000-level courses, though they may only do so once per course.

The original course grade would appear on the student's transcript, but it would be marked to indicate that the course was retaken, and it would not be used in the calculation of the student's GPA.

The policy was drafted and passed

unanimously by the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (IUC), a standing committee of the Academic Senate that originally considered the issue in September.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Academic Affairs Robert McMath, who, along with Gary

May, the Special Assistant to the President, spearheaded the initiative for the Office of the President, believes this "limited opportunity" will allow some students who fall behind early in their Tech careers a chance to catch up, remain at the Institute and succeed late in their undergraduate careers.

See *Grades*, page 7

Lt. governor discusses HOPE with students

By Helen Yu
Contributing Writer

Georgia Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor met with students from Tech and Georgia State University Wednesday to talk about possible cuts to Georgia's HOPE scholarship in the 2005 budget. Taylor, a Democrat, laid out a position in stark contrast to Republican Governor Sonny Perdue.

The cuts in question pertain to HOPE's current policy to pay for fees and a \$300 yearly book stipend, in addition to basic tuition costs at public Georgia institutions. If made, these cuts will amount to \$125 million.

The scholarship, eligible to all Georgia residents with a B average or higher in high school, has been in existence for over a decade, paying for 17,661 Tech students alone.

Co-author of the original HOPE bill, Taylor detailed his counterproposal of changes for

HOPE that preserves "the original contract we signed with the students of Georgia...[to] pay for your college costs."

Taylor's HOPE proposal includes three main components: implementing a 3.0 GPA requirement for the scholarship to replace the current 80 out of 100 percent requirement; re-evaluating HOPE scholars every 24 credit hours instead of the current 30 credit hours; and asking for a three year tuition and fee freeze from the University System of Georgia.

Taylor accused Perdue of underestimating the budget. "Their model is based on misinformation, and their projections, in my mind, are incorrect. There are absolutely no numbers coming out of state government saying that there is any financial problem until 2008."

Taylor also expressed his opposition to Perdue's proposal of

See *HOPE*, page 4

Black History Month kicks off

Dr. Beverly Tatum, author of *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* will speak in the Student Center Ballroom Mon. Feb 2 at 6 p.m.

Duke ticket policy announced

The Athletic Association has announced its ticket distribution policy for the Tech-Duke basketball game. A Student Ticket Committee member will arrive at Gate 2 at noon on Saturday, Jan. 31 to distribute vouchers for entry to the game. Each student is allowed one voucher and must show their BuzzCard in order to get a voucher. Students with vouchers will return to form a line at 3 p.m. at Gate 2.

At 3:30 p.m. the gates will open for those with vouchers and BuzzCards. Remaining students will then be allowed to enter on a first come, first serve basis.

Swarmin' the Tigers



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Swarm member Sean Coleman reacts as the Clemson Tigers fall to the Yellow Jackets at the "Thrillerdome" Tuesday night. Jackets improved to 16-3. The Jackets face off against the No. 1 Duke Blue Devils tomorrow.

CRC construction set for fall '04 completion



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Campus Recreation Center's first phase opened last fall. The second phase, which will include a leisure pool and weight-room, is on track for a Fall '04 finish.

By Stephen Baehl
Senior Staff Writer

Construction on Phase II of the Campus Recreation Center is ahead of schedule and slated to be completed sometime in July, two months earlier than the original planned completion date.

However, the facility will not be ready for student use until fall semester.

"We will probably not move into the facility until the beginning of fall semester," said Kirk McQueen, interim Director of Campus Recreation. "There are many things that have to happen."

Installation of office furniture and weight equipment, as well as staff training and emergency planning, will take about four weeks, McQueen said. There will also be a new main entrance added to the facility.

"[The leisure] pool will have six lanes for recreational swim, a 184 foot water slide and a lazy river."

Kirk McQueen
Interim CRC Director

"All this will take time to be able to get online," McQueen said.

Phase II will include many new additions to campus recreation, as well as bring back others that have been absent since the closure of

SAC in May 2003.

McQueen said that Phase I did not have enough room to

See *CRC*, page 6

Technique Online Voice Your Opinion!

Last issue's question garnered 56 responses:
What do you think of increased student fees?

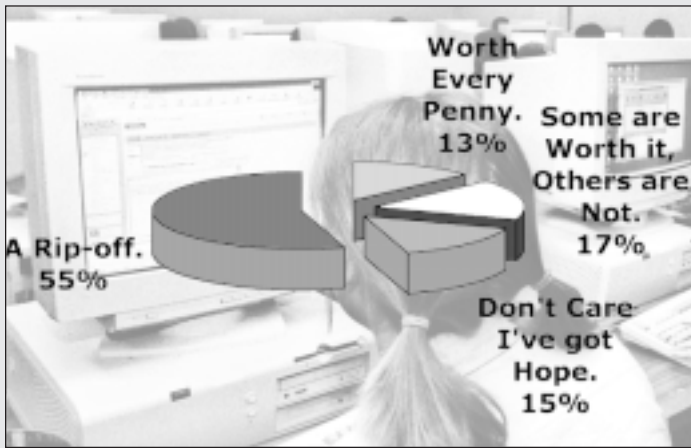


Image by Lauren Griffin / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

This week's question:

What are you most looking forward to in the completed CRC?
Tell us what you think at www.cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/technique.



DUI

1/23/2004 3:17:00 hrs.
LOCATION: Fowler Street @ Fourth Street
INCIDENT: Offender arrested for driving under the influence.

Traffic violation

1/24/2004 0:40:00 hrs.
LOCATION: Ferst Drive @ Regents Drive
INCIDENT: Offender arrested for speeding.

Damage to property

1/19/2004 5:55:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 714 Techwood Drive/ Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity
INCIDENT: Offender arrested for criminal damage to property.

From the files of the GTPD...

Battery

1/24/2004 2:48:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 555 Eighth Street/ Eighth Street Apartments.
INCIDENT: Report of simple battery.

Entering auto

1/22/2004 18:55:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 391 Ferst Drive/ Clydeck
INCIDENT: Report that a red 2002 Mitsubishi was entered and items were taken.

1/25/2004 20:29:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 200 North Avenue/ Burge Parking Deck.
INCIDENT: Report that a green 1995 Ford Explorer was entered and items were taken.

1/21/2004 23:31:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 151 Sixth Street/ O'Keefe West Lot
INCIDENT: Report that a green

CRIME REPORTS

2000 Jeep Cherokee was entered and items were taken.

Motor vehicle theft

1/23/2004 17:47:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 879 Hemphill Avenue/ Parking office
INCIDENT: Report that a white 1998 Pontiac Grand Prix was stolen.

1/24/2004 13:19:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 749 Fowler Street/ Peters Parking Deck lower level
INCIDENT: Report that a red 1989 Chevy Silverado was stolen.

Fire alarm

1/23/2004 15:49:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 580 Turner Place/ULC
INCIDENT: Report of a fire alarm caused by burnt bacon.

1/23/2004 7:15:00 hrs.
LOCATION: 733 Techwood Drive/ Fourth Street North Apartments
INCIDENT: Report of a fire alarm.

Come to our weekly meeting Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building and eat free pizza.

Council Clippings Senate and House

Representatives elect Handelman in four-way VP race

By Edward Tamsberg
Staff Writer

This week's meeting of the Undergraduate House of Representatives was dominated by the absence of Danny Puckett, and the election of his replacement.

Representatives chose Michael Handelman, a senior Economics and Public Policy major, to replace Puckett.

Handelman, a former representative, ran for the position in SGA elections last spring but eventually lost to Puckett.

The four nominations from the week prior stood unchanged as the first thing undergraduate representatives did was to close the nominations. Among the four nominated were Handelman, Ryan Spanier and current representatives Adam Bernstein and Hunter Oates.

The bylaws of the Undergraduate House of Representatives have no formal procedure estab-

lished for the election of a vice president in the event of his resignation, so the entire event was overseen by Alan Bakowski, the

"I was at first sad to see Danny [Puckett] go, but then I was excited because I knew that I would get this chance to run."

Adam Bernstein
CS representative

representative charged with chairing UHR meetings until a replacement for Puckett could be found.

The procedure agreed upon by all the representatives was that every nominee would leave the

room and that they would each be brought in individually for a time of ten minutes in which they would be questioned by representatives and be allowed to make any speeches or statements that they wished to make.

The first nominee to speak was current Computer Science representative Bernstein.

He began his speech by advising the representatives of his insider standing and long span of experience.

"I was at first sad to see Danny [Puckett] go, but then I was excited because I knew that I would get this chance to run...I was initially worried about the whole election process, but after seeing the others nominated I am confident that I am the best candidate for the position," Bernstein said as he spoke to UHR.

The next to address the House was current Earth and Atmospheric Sciences representative

See UHR, page 4



By Stephen Marek/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Michael Handelman urges undergraduate representatives to elect him Executive Vice President. Handelman defeated three other contenders to win the election.

Senators table MLR couches bill

By Daniel Amick
News Editor

Graduate senators once again attempted to act on a large allocation bill that would fund couches for the Music Listening Room.

Once again, the \$44,000 bill faced significant scrutiny. The bill would consume a substantial part of student government's remaining funds.

Sally Hammock, the Student Center's associate director for programs, appeared before the Senate to respond to senators' concerns.

Hammock said the current couches in the Music Listening Room are about 20 years old. She said they have been re-covered in 1993, but are once again frayed and "pretty dirty." She said that re-covering again is not an option.

Physics senator Edwin Greco asked why the cost seemed so high.

"It's just furniture," he said.

Hammock said that part of the reason the price was so high is that the couches must be of high enough quality to match the lifespan of the current couch-

es.

Another reason the cost is so high is that the couches are modular, rather than independent units.

Some senators suggested that, rather than fund the full amount now, the Senate should approved one third this year and the remaining amount over the next two years.

This option might end up being more expensive, but one senator said it may be the only option available.

See GSS, page 5

UHR: Bills Considered

| Title | Author | Status |
|--|----------------|--------|
| Joint allocation to Georgia Tech Chess Club | Ashley Case | tabled |
| Joint allocation to SC Programs Council | Adam Bernstein | tabled |
| Joint allocation to African American Student Union | Stephanie Bent | tabled |
| Joint allocation to Lambda Sigma | Saira Amir | tabled |
| Joint allocation to Ultimate Frisbee Club Team | Justin Winter | tabled |
| Appointment of Institute Wide Committee members | Nate Watson | tabled |
| Joint allocation to African American Student Union | Stephanie Bent | tabled |

GSS: Bills Considered

| Title | Author | Status |
|--|---------------|--------|
| Joint allocation to Student Center | Alan Michaels | tabled |
| Joint allocation to SC Programs Council | Kasi David | passed |
| Joint allocation to African American Student Union | Kasi David | passed |
| Joint allocation to Lambda Sigma | Eric Clopper | tabled |
| Joint allocation to Ultimate Frisbee Club Team | Eric Clopper | passed |
| Joint allocation to African American Student Union | Kasi David | passed |

Obituary Robert Vincent Mackay

Georgia Tech lost a member of its community on Monday, January 5 when Robert "Robbie" Vincent Mackay, 20, passed away.

Robbie was a third-year International Affairs major. He was a graduate of The Athens Academy.

Those who knew Mackay remember him as a "really good man" who had a contagious smile and an adventurous spirit. He "was into all the things most kids were into," one friend said.

Mackay was a member of Swarm, an avid gamer and a fan

of science fiction movies. He was athletic, enjoying rugby and basketball. According to a former roommate, he was also a history buff, extremely well read and always eager for a good debate. He eventually wanted to work for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mackay entered Tech as a part of the Army ROTC program, but had to withdraw after a semester because of asthma. He continued to take ROTC classes and had a love for the program.

In September 2003, Mackay experienced back pain and was eventually diagnosed with leukemia. He

withdrew from Tech in October to undergo treatment. Those who knew Mackay were surprised by his passing because he seemed to be improving.

His life was celebrated at three memorial services, the latest on Saturday, January 24.

He is survived by his parents, Leigh and Victoria Mackay; and younger brother, Andrew Mackay, all of Greensboro, GA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Robert Vincent Mackay to The Athens Academy, 1261 Spartan Lane, Athens, Georgia 30606.

UHR

from page 3

Oates. Oates also asked the other members of UHR to consider his record of service, but spent little time in front of them as he had no formal speech prepared for the event.

Oates proposed that members would benefit from a new system of distribution of information for UHR that would speed up meetings by sending them zip files of info on the bills for the night so they would be informed as they entered the room each Tuesday evening. Oates also mentioned that he would be running for an executive position later this semester when elections for all

executive positions are held.

Handelman and Spanier were the last two candidates to address the House. Both spoke of their willingness to serve, but it was only Handelman that had years of experience with the Undergraduate House. Spanier noted his four-year involvement with JFC as well.

In addition to time as an undergraduate representative, Handelman had also been active as a FASET and Psych-1000 team leader, and had been involved in the Ivan Allen College Student Advisory Board, the Men's Glee Club, College Democrats and Pride Alliance.

Although Handelman opposed

Puckett last year in elections for VP and was defeated, representatives agreed in a straight majority, with no-runoff election, that he was the right choice to serve in the role of vice president. Handelman took over the rest of the night's meeting without missing a beat as he was immediately sworn in after his election.

However, the meeting ended prematurely when after a vote was taken, Handelman realized two members of UHR had left following the election and therefore the body had lost a quorum.

All bills up for consideration were then tabled until next week and the meeting was adjourned.

HOPE

from page 1

requiring a minimum SAT score for HOPE Scholars. During the question and answer time, Taylor responded to a student's inquiry about the SAT requirements, calling it a "slap in the face" for those who need to go to two-year colleges.

Instead of using the SAT as a standard in preventing grade inflation, Taylor would like to see the development of an end-of-course test for high school subjects that would set the bar for HOPE recipients.

The question of a possible income cap on eligible families was brought up during the discussion as well. This is not a foreseeable change to HOPE at the moment, though there was originally a \$60,000 income cap on HOPE when it was introduced.

Another concern brought up during the questioning period was the proposed 24-credit-hour re-evaluation period. A student expressed concern that though 12 credit hours is the minimum requirement for full time students, many at Tech take more, therefore making the re-evaluation period less than one academic year.

Taylor urged students to take action to have their voices heard.

"You are the people whom these changes will most affect," said Taylor in a statement released Wednesday, "your opinion is critical, your voice will be heard."

In response, Nate Watson, Student Body President said that after the discussion was over "I hope students will take the opportunity to get involved in the process and fight future cuts to our budget, because that's what causes tuition increases, not the HOPE program."

To that end, student government is forming a Lobby Board that will lobby legislators at the statehouse.

"We feel that by giving legislators the opportunity to directly interact with the students their budgetary decisions will be affecting, we will achieve a greater level of awareness on the part of these legislators about the concerns of Georgia Tech," said William Welch, SGA's chair of governmental and external affairs. The Lobby Board is modeled off of a successful program already in place at Auburn. "It is very important that we give legislators the chance to put a human face on their budgetary decisions," Welch said.

"There are absolutely no numbers coming out...saying that there is any financial problem until 2008."

Mark Taylor
GA Lt. governor

Submit a sliver and we'll print it in the paper! Go to www.nique.net/sliver, and express your feelings!

GSS

from page 3

"Unfortunately, we can't plan for the long term right now," said Materials Science and Engineering senator Kasi David. He said the Senate should "plug the holes we can right now."

In addition to concerns about the dollar amount, some senators raised questions about whether the money would go to the Student Center Programs Council or the Student Center Operations Board.

Senator-at-Large Alan Michaels introduced an amendment to change the allocation to \$14,000 and change the recipient to the Programs Council.

Before a final vote could be taken, the Senate lost quorum. The bill will come up for discussion again next week.

In other business, senators approved a smaller version of an allocation to fund the Sting Break concert. Last year, a similar concert brought the band Mighty Mighty Bosstones to campus.

Representative Adam Bernstein, who is involved in the planning of the concert, said organizers reduced their funding request from last year because they recognized that student government has limited funds. The total request came to \$15,000.

The Joint Finance Committee recommended that the bill be cut to \$9,000. Senators decided to split the difference by allocating \$12,000.

The Senate also gave funding to Ultimate Frisbee for a trip to San Diego. There, the team will compete in an invitation-only tournament.

Senators also approved two allocations to the African American Student Union.

The organization requested money to help advertise for upcoming Black History Month events and a leadership conference. There was some discussion about whether the organization could combine the ad-

vertising efforts described in the two bills but ultimately funded both bills.

Joint Finance Committee Chair Lisa Brown addressed the Senate to respond to confusion about recent changes to JFC policy. The new policy cuts all funding for decorations down to \$100.

Brown said that this move was taken in response to shrinking funds. She emphasized that the JFC only makes recommendations.

"I really encourage you guys to challenge me," Brown said. She urged members to "think about what's important for student life and 'the big picture.'"

Auxiliary Services Communications Officer Melissa Moore presented a quarterly report to the Senate describing that department's activities.

An allocation bill to Lambda Sigma to fund a dance marathon was postponed until next week because no organization representative was present.

"Unfortunately, we can't plan for the long term right now...[We have to] plug the holes we can..."

Kasi David
MSE senator

Ask Dr. Clough

President Clough answers your questions from last fall's State of the Institute address



What do you see as the greatest challenge currently facing Tech?

Currently, our greatest challenge is to maintain excellence in the face of significant reductions in the state budget. The University System of Georgia absorbed a two-and-a-half percent budget cut in Fiscal Year 2004, and there is a possible additional five percent decrease in FY 2005. To date, we have lost almost \$50 million in state funding through a series of cuts over the past two years.

Should the proposed new cuts be imposed, it will cause us to make hard decisions. Priority will be given to sustain academic programs and support operations, but, at this level of cuts, there will be some noticeable effects.

In spite of the budget woes, I remain very optimistic. We have weathered the cuts to this point well and continue to make progress. We have been able to hire a limited number of excellent new faculty and stay on track with most major construction projects. National recognitions continue to come our way.

Finally, higher education across the nation...is facing bud-

get challenges, so we are not alone. Our goal is to maintain focus and stay strategic till the revenue turnaround comes, as it inevitably will.

With the recent budget cuts, will there be a halt to new construction projects?

The slowing of state funding for capital construction, added to re-

"In the short term, construction is an inconvenience for everyone...However, in the long run, it is worth it."

Wayne Clough
Institute President

ductions in allocations from our endowment due to the stock market downturn, has delayed some construction plans that rely on these fund sources.

For example, the proposed Undergraduate Learning Center, which is largely dependent on state fund-

ing, has been delayed by two years... Projects financed entirely with non-state and private funds, such as gifts from donors, have been able to go forward as planned. An example...is the new Student Center Commons.

This space will provide places for group interaction and individual study, meeting rooms for team study groups and student organizations, additional themed food service outlets, high-demand retail outlets...and workrooms for student organizations. A private donor who appreciated the special value of this project to our students made it possible to proceed as planned.

Do you see all the construction on campus as an inconvenience to students, especially with so many projects coinciding?

In the short term, construction is an inconvenience for everyone: students, faculty, staff and visitors. However, in the long run, it is worth it. Having a campus that's both aesthetically pleasing and has state-of-the-art facilities for education, research and athletics is a goal every university strives for. A first class campus environment improves our reputation and rankings, and this adds value to a Georgia Tech degree. We do our best to minimize disruptions during construction, but this does come with progress. The good news is that the pace of construction...is going to slow from the rapid one of the past two years and the disruptions will be less intrusive.

It's a small world after all



By Gaurav Nagle / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A student listens to a company spokesperson at the International Internship Fair Wednesday afternoon in the MARC building.

CRC

from page 1

host racquetball courts, a squash court and some of the other recreational facilities offered in SAC.

The first floor of Phase II will host a cardio-theatre and weight room, locker rooms, four racquetball courts, one squash court and a climbing wall. Some equipment currently set up in the CRC will be moved to its new location once construction is complete.

A leisure pool will also be included in the second phase of the center's construction. McQueen said the pool came into being as a result of a donation.

"That pool will have six lanes for recreational swim, a 184-foot water slide and a lazy river," he said. "When the varsity swim team has the main pool for practice or meets, the leisure pool will serve us for recreational swim during those times."

Phase II will also host a café on the second floor, as well as an entry lounge area and administrative of-

fices.

Auxiliary Services has funded the construction of a parking deck as part of the facility, as well. Access to the deck's 500-600 parking spaces

"They have been there when we needed them and have kept us up to speed on all accounts."

Kirk McQueen
Interim CRC Director

will be available from both Ferst Drive and Tech Parkway. The deck is planned to be considered a new parking zone, W10.

McQueen said it has been a pleasure working with Skansa, the construction firm working on Phase II.

"They have been there when we needed them and have kept us up to speed on all accounts," he said. "It has been two and a half years and all has been exciting."

Construction on Phase I of the CRC was also completed ahead of schedule. Originally planned to be finished in October 2003, the facility was open for student use in August.

Phase I includes a 50 meter natatorium, complete with multiple diving platforms and spectator seating for up to 1800 people on the first two floors. The fourth floor houses six basketball courts surrounded by multi-purpose exercise rooms, an auxiliary gym and a game room, for amenities like table tennis.

The sixth floor has an indoor track, open in the middle with a view down to the courts. Also on the floor is a collection of cardio equipment, such as rowing machines. The entire south side hosts a clear view of the city through its windows.

Breaking the Bubble



A lot of things went on outside of the bubble of Georgia Tech this week. Below are summaries of a few of the important events taking place throughout the nation and the world.

Kerry gains momentum with NH primary win

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, frontrunner in the Democratic presidential candidacy, garnered 39 percent of the vote in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean finished second with 26 percent of the vote. Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark and Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina each earned about 12 percent. The win continues Kerry's "come-back" trend—polls as recent as two weeks ago showed him behind Dean by double digits in New Hampshire.

"MyDoom" called fastest spreading worm ever

The MyDoom mass-mailing worm struck thousands of computer users around the world this week. British security firm MessageLabs said Wednesday that the worm accounted for 1 in 12 emails handled.

Computers become infected when a user opens an email attachment, usually an executable or .zip file disguised as a normal text file.

Judge rules Schwarzenegger broke campaign law

A California judge ruled Tuesday that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger violated the state's campaign laws when he took out a \$4.5 million bank loan for last-minute campaign expenses. Schwarzenegger's campaign lawyer said the act was based on a 2002 interpretation of the law—an interpretation the recent ruling said is wrong.

Second NASA Mars rover encounters problems

While NASA's first rover on Mars, Spirit, continues to be idle due to problems that arose last Wednesday, Opportunity, the second such rover, has suffered a power drain. Mission manager Jim Erickson said the problem was likely caused by a heater on the robot that turns itself on and runs without commands from NASA to do so. NASA scientists do not believe the problem will overheat the vehicle, but are unsure of long-term effects. Erickson said the rover was otherwise in "pretty good shape."

Grades from page 1

"I don't think the number of students whose careers will be changed by this policy is that drastic," said McMath.

May concurred.

"There are many anecdotes about students who fail out of the Institute only to come back after sitting out one year or two years," May said. "Under this policy, they could stay at the Institute, continue to take classes and recalibrate themselves."

The current proposal also stipulates that students may only use grade substitution for classes taken in fall 2003 or later, and that they must do so before earning 61 or more credit hours at the Institute. The opportunity exists, however, to make the final policy more retroactive.

"In thinking more about the issue, there is a good argument for retroactivity," May said. "I'm not personally opposed to it, but I thought this initial proposal would be more palatable to the faculty."

In an April 2003 memo to the IUCC, May and McMath cite the grade substitution policies maintained at peer institutions such as UC-Berkeley, Johns Hopkins, Minnesota, Purdue and Stanford, along with their correspondingly higher freshman retention and six-year graduation rates.

Additionally the administrators hope the change will help correct what they see as another problem Tech graduates face—that potential employers are sometimes reluctant to interview Tech students because their GPAs are low relative compared to those at peer institutions.

"Ultimately, the potential employer will look at the entire transcript, but there will be some students for whom this policy will give them a chance [for a job opportunity]," McMath said.

If the proposed policy receives a

Proposed Grade Substitution Policy

The Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee proposed the following modifications to the Student Rules and Regulations to implement a grade substitution policy. The Student Rules and Regulations Committee, a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, takes up the issue Feb. 9.

Students who receive a grade of D or F in a 1000-level course, taken in Fall 2003 or later, may be eligible to repeat the course and have the original grade excluded from the computation of academic average. Grade substitution may be used only once per course, with a maximum of three courses total.

The course must be repeated at Georgia Tech before the student has earned 61 or more resident credit hours. The application for grade substitution must be filed with the Registrar's Office no later than the deadline for withdrawing from a course during the student's next term in residence after the course is repeated.

The original course and grade will continue to appear on the student's transcript, with a notation that the course was repeated and that the original grade is not included in computation of the academic average. Credit for the course will be counted only once.

If the revised academic average results in a change in academic standing for any term, then the revised standing will be reflected on the student's transcript. If standing is changed from Dismissal to a higher standing, it will be recorded as "standing from Dismissal" and the dismissal will continue to be counted with respect to regulations and policies related to withdrawal and readmission.

A course is not eligible for grade substitution if the student was found guilty of academic misconduct in the class.

The grade substitution policy (including, but not limited to, course eligibility, number of courses, time limits, and deadlines) is not subject to exceptions and may not be petitioned to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

green light from the SRRC, it heads to the Academic Senate when it meets April 20. Teaching and research members of the Tech faculty constitute the body, which sets academic, research and related policies for the Institute.

"I would fully expect a wide range of opinions [from the faculty]," McMath said. "There is no right or wrong answer on this type of issue."

According to May, however, as faculty members learn more about the limitations of the proposed policy, they become less concerned about softening the academic experience or creating opportunities for abuse.

Student opinion seems similar to that of the faculty; they are warm to the idea of a limited grade substi-

tution policy.

"I think three times seems like a little much, but it sounds like something that would be beneficial to get students acquainted with the [Tech] environment," Greg Leo, second-year Economics major, said.

"Freshmen have never dealt with classes this difficult. It's similar to teachers that allow students to drop a test so that they can become used to a particular teacher," he said.

Second-year Biology major Erin Dainer agreed.

"Your first year in college, a lot of people mess up. I had good teachers in high school, and I learned how to study, but I noticed a lot of my friends didn't know how," Dainer said.

Looking to get
involved on campus?

Join the
Technique staff.