



OUR VIEWS Consensus Opinion

Accept some substitutes

Grade substitution is a policy that has the potential to beneficially impact many students, if the plan is implemented with the right restrictions and with the right goals in mind.

Last October, when the Student Government Association held an issue meeting to open a forum for discussion of the topic, the details of and motivations for the possible change were fuzzy. At that time, the *'Nique's* editorial board recommended that grade substitution would be acceptable only if it was implemented to benefit students and not if it was just an attempt to increase Tech's rankings. The further details available now show grade substitution to be a move in the right direction.

Since grade substitution will apply only to three 1000-level classes for students who have less than 61 hours, the new policy will not have sweeping effects on the Institute's average GPA, the retention rate or the six year graduation rate. The proposed policy will, however, help first year students who have trouble adjusting to the rigors of college and the type of studying required.

However, since this appears to be the main benefit of grade substitution, there may be a better way to provide a cushion which allows struggling students time to adjust. Instead of the current restriction to 1000-level classes, the policy could allow that any first semester class, regardless of the level, qualify for grade substitution. Keeping the substitution policy applicable only to first semester classes would ensure that the quality of education a Tech degree represents would not suffer, while aligning our freshman grading system more closely to our peer institutions such as MIT.

Traditional concerns that arise in discussing grade substitution include preventing grade inflation, preserving the quality of a Tech degree and hurting "C" students who aren't able to retake classes. A possible concern for the currently proposed substitution system in particular is the not uncommon scenario of a junior or senior student taking a 1000-level class, like EAS 1600, for the first time after they have 61 hours. If the older student fails the class, it is unfair for them to be unable to retake the class while a younger classmate would be able to retake the course. This is another reason why restructuring the substitution policy so that it applies to just first semester courses makes sense.

As these nuances are figured out, the implementation of a limited grade substitution policy that helps individual students overcome a difficult adjustment to college will prove to be a positive development.

Consensus editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board of the Technique, but not necessarily the opinions of individual editors.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Tony Klumper, *Editor-in-Chief*

Justin Partlo, *Managing Editor*
Daniel Amick, *News Editor*
Jennifer Lee, *Focus Editor*
Art Seavey, *Entertainment Editor*
Jennifer Schur, *Opinions Editor*

Kimberly Rieck, *Sports Editor*
Scott Meuleners, *Photography Editor*
Karl Guertin, *Online Editor*
Julia Trapold, *Advertising Manager*
Jody Shaw, *Associate Editor*

Copyright Notice

Copyright © 2003, Tony Klumper, Editor-in-Chief, and by the Board of Student Publications. The Technique is an official publication of the Georgia Tech Board of Student Publications. No part of this paper may be reproduced in any manner without written permission from the Editor or from the Board of Student Publications. The ideas expressed herein are those of the Editor or the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Board of Student Publications, the students, staff or faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University System of Georgia.



By Matt Norris / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Put the technology back in "Tech"

With the impending doom of an increased technology fee, some students are hiding, hoping the bursar's office won't find them, while others are hoping to graduate as soon as possible in order to avoid paying the extra fees.

While I don't agree with increasing fees for the sake of increasing fees, if the increase in fees is needed due to changing times, it is a necessary evil. These changing times include increases in the technology fee for a technological climate today that simply didn't exist ten years ago and for increases due to rising costs and inflation.

The proposal to increase the technology fee is much needed, as long as the funds are used in such a way that they benefit students, and increase the amount of technology on campus.

The current technology fee has managed to do a great job providing technology on campus, and to increase the technology fee, we should see a noticeable increase in student usable technology on campus.

Every year we use more and more technology in our lives, and attending one of the premier technological universities in the country, it should be our goal to not only lead in research but also in general technology around campus.

A lot of campuses around the country are adding full campus wireless networks, and we seem to be lagging behind in this area. Even the University of Georgia, a non-technology oriented school, has already added campus-wide wireless ethernet. Can we really let our big in-state rival have better technology than us, the GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY?

UGA has also added things like student-id access and even palm readers to access their dorms. While some might say that palm reading should be left to the fortune tellers, it still



"If increasing the technology fee, we should see a noticeable increase in student usable technology on campus."

Scott Meuleners
Photography Editor

shows that they are trying to use technology in any way that will help the students out.

One thing the technology fee could be used to improve is student access to computers around campus. Right now, the only labs that all students can access are located at the center of campus, in the library, Student Center and French building. It would be nice to have computer labs in newer areas of campus where students of all majors frequent.

The first area that comes to mind is the new Technology Square. It is a very nice development that has been long needed at Tech, but for students who are not Management majors, there is no where to log on to a computer within the vicinity. The nearest public computer lab is in the French building, which is a considerable walk away.

The administration should be applauded for all they are getting done now, but many more things can be done on campus to make us the premier technological university that we claim to be.

As long as the additional funds are needed to accomplish this goal, the increase in the technology fee is a needed change.

I know that the technology fee is not just for computer labs and general student services like this, but it would make the campus a much better place to live and study.

As far as the other fee increases go, I think that the Athletic Associ-

ation gets plenty of money from ticket sales and other sources that they don't need an increase in the athletic fee.

As my colleague noted last week, there are already not enough seats for students at the basketball games. The athletic fee is paid to allow students to attend sporting events for free.

While I would like to see the attitude of the average Tech student change towards supporting sports, this is a service that the average Tech student does not use.

To even think about increasing the fees at Tech, the Athletic Association needs to look at what they can do to make the experience better for students. The students are by far the most rowdy people at any and all of the sporting events and are an important part in the "home field advantage" that the athletic teams enjoy so much.

If the Athletic Association starts charging admission for students or increases the student fees, this would show the lack of care for this school's number one fans, the students.

The bottom line is that, when increasing fees, make sure that the fee is needed for the changing times and is something that benefits the average student. I hope that with the proposed increased fees, students in the future will be able to see a noticeable improvement, instead of having the extra money getting wasted or not used efficiently—because it is just that, extra money.

Get to know your community—and yourself

At some point last year, I started evaluating the experiences my stay here at Tech has brought my way—not just academic experiences, but social, spiritual and emotional as well. As I looked at my transcript and resumé and reflected on my grades, extra-curricular activities, work experience and time with friends, I was impressed by everything I have accomplished for myself over the last few years. However, I was also troubled by that thought at the same time. I couldn't escape the fact that without exception, everything that I had done up until then I had done for *myself*.

I struggled with this thought for several weeks. I tried to dismiss it—after all, I am supposed to be doing things for myself at this stage in my life, right? I figured that once I finished school, got a job, started a family and accomplished all the things I want to do, then I could begin to give back and start to do things for others.

It didn't take me long to realize how flawed my logic was. So, I decided to find something that I could do for others on a regular basis. I considered getting involved in everything from working at a soup kitchen to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

Ultimately, I decided to contact the local Big Brothers and



"When I walked into the room, his face lit up and he smiled one of the biggest smiles I have ever seen."

Justin Partlo
Managing Editor

Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) office to find out more about their program. At first, I was a little unsure about the whole thing; volunteers are asked to spend at least an hour each week for an entire year with the children they mentor. For most people, especially me, devoting an hour each week to something like this is a big sacrifice.

As I learned more about their program and about how it has positively influenced the lives of so many children, I decided it was a great way for me to do something to help out in the community and set a good example for a child in need of a positive role model.

The BBBSA office paired me up with a five-year-old boy named Keith. Keith's father passed away from a heart attack a few years ago. Keith currently lives with his older sister at his grandmother's house and apparently does not have any contact with his mother.

As I went to meet Keith for the first time, I was extremely nervous. The last time I've had any significant experience with five-year-olds was when I was in kindergarten! I was afraid he would be too high-maintenance for me—more than what I could handle. However, when I walked into the room in which he had been patiently waiting, his face lit up and he smiled one of the biggest smiles I think I have ever seen. At that moment, I knew I had made the right choice, and every concern and insecurity I had about being a big brother seemed to vanish.

Keith and I have gotten together the past four weeks. We've gone bike riding together, played baseball and basketball, driven a dump truck around a parking lot, played with my pets, played video games and gone horseback riding. He is happy doing anything and is just glad to have someone interested in him enough to spend time with him

on a regular basis.

At this point, you might be asking yourself what the point of this editorial is. I'm not trying to brag or convince you all that I have found a sense of completeness in my life because of BBBSA. Instead, I want to encourage each of you to find something you can do to make a difference in the lives of others in need. I cannot adequately describe in words how rewarding volunteering with BBBSA has been for me so far. I think it will have just as much, if not more, of an impact in my life than in the life of my "little brother."

The Tech student body has an unfortunate reputation of being apathetic and self-centered. I want to challenge all of us to take steps towards changing that reputation into one of being a caring, community-focused student body driven by love for others.

I realize that not everyone has an hour to give each week due to varying school and work schedules. However, if you feel compelled to make a difference, take some time to look up volunteer activities and organizations on campus and in the community that will work with your schedule. I assure you that you will feel better knowing that you are contributing to something other than your own education and career development.

OUR VIEWS Hot or Not

HOT-or-NOT



Fun 'til four!

The great Buckhead bar move that is rumored to see several respected establishments open new locations at Underground Atlanta holds great promise for the happening crowd. The Underground's easy accessibility to campus (on MARTA), later hours (bars can be open until four a.m.) and open container laws in a contained area with plentiful parking promise a closer-to-home option for fun times.



Tix to Dook?

The AA's lack of a consistent basketball ticket distribution policy has reached a new level of absurdity with their plan for how students will get into Saturday's Duke game. To secure a spot in the Coliseum, fans will have to wait in line twice—once to get a ticket voucher, next to actually get into the gate. The voucher system accomplishes nothing, other than wasting students' time, which is not a new AA policy.



Respect your Elder

Will the impressive basketball action displayed this season ever end? We certainly hope not. The intense drive of this team is reiterated every week; the latest testament to their heart was demonstrated by BJ Elder, the guard who managed to score 36 points while having the stomach flu at the Clemson game.



Stay out of our bins

The shiny new bins strategically placed around campus to provide the Institute's students with easy access to their favorite college newspaper have been corrupted. Rogue publications and advertisements have been subversively placed in the stands. When you see something other than the 'Nique in a bin, trash it!

YOUR VIEWS Letters to the Editor

Fee increase is necessary

While browsing the *Technique* website I happened upon an opinions piece regarding the recommended technology fee increase and an accompanying poll.

Of the students polled, 59 percent described the technology fee increase as a "rip-off."

The opinions piece only resonated the same sentiment. As a student member of the Technology Fee Committee I would like to illuminate how the technology fee is spent and why the fee increase is so desperately needed. This year the technology fee poured \$2.7 million into student coffers. This allowed the committee to fund only 45 percent of the 124 department/col-

lege request. The majority of this money was spent on the replacement and renewal of existing equipment and software.

For example, some of the money was spent on a computer cluster upgrade in the CAE and a recurring College of Engineering Matlab site license fee. Last year approximately 70 percent of funded proposals were merely projects that were due for a renewal in funding. The other 30 percent went to-

wards new initiatives such as new computing facilities, AV equipment and innovative teaching labs.

These numbers represent an

See *Tech Fees*, page 10

"The current fee is not enough to ensure that new technologies are available."

Letter Submission Policy

The *Technique* welcomes all letters to the editor and will print letters on a timely and space-available basis. Letters may be mailed to Georgia Tech Campus Mail Code 0290, emailed to editor@technique.gatech.edu or hand-delivered to room 137 of the Student Services Building. Letters should be addressed to Tony Klumper, Editor-in-Chief.

All letters must be signed and must include a campus box number or other valid mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted by 8 a.m. Wednesday in order to be printed in the following Friday's issue. Any letters not meeting these criteria or not considered by the Editorial Board of the *Technique* to be of valid intent will not be printed. Editors reserves the right to edit for style, content, and length. Only one submission per person will be printed each term.

Advertising Information

Information and rate cards can be found online at www.nique.net. The deadline for reserving ad space and submitting ad copy is noon on Friday, one week prior to publication. For rate information, call our offices at (404) 894-2830, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advertising space cannot be reserved over the phone. The *Technique* office is located in room 137 of the Student Services Building, 353 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0290. Questions regarding advertising billing should be directed to Marcus Kwok at (404) 894-9187, or RoseMary Wells at (404) 894-2830.

Coverage Requests

Press releases and requests for coverage may be made to the editor-in-chief or to individual section editors. For more information, visit <http://nique.net/stuorgguide.pdf>.

BUZZ

Around the Campus

Should music be brought back to the Campanile?



Mauricio Goez
MGT Senior

"I like the peace and the quiet."



Zac Weeks
PSYCH Sophomore

"The music was irritating to begin with, but it might help people relax."



Zach Wyatt
EE Senior

"It's better than a watch. Shouldn't bother anybody."



Darin Yawn
ME Freshman

"I think it should be there. It would add something to the campus."

Photos by Ayan Kishore

A global trek with view from Tech

Provost's plan aims to throw Tech into the global game

"Globalization is happening very rapidly, like it or not," Tech Provost Jean-Lou Chameau recently said to members of the faculty. "It's very important for Georgia Tech to be in the game."

What exactly that game is, though, remains to be seen in a world where the sort of contrasting stories that struck me as I read the *New York Times* online Monday evening still exist. The first, entitled "Low Wage Costa Ricans Make Baseballs for Millionaires," was a feature article about a factory run by Rawlings, the exclusive supplier of balls for Major League Baseball, and the contrast between the \$2,750 average salary paid to the Costa Ricans who make baseballs by hand and the \$2,377,000 average salary paid to the athletes who play with them for our entertainment. The Rawlings factory operates in a special free trade zone, where it pays neither taxes nor import duties on its raw materials, and it compensates its employees with just 30 cents for each ball produced, while demanding machine-like perfection and efficiency.

The second headline read as follows: "Costa Rica to Be Fifth Country in New Trade Pact with U.S." The Central American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, which is still under negotiation, will surely bring more drawback industries, like the making of baseballs, to Costa Rica, as well as to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, the other countries included in the pact.

While these foreign companies bring jobs to their locations, they often bring little in terms of hope for upward mobility, and they expose the growing gap in terms of income that exists in today's world.

International trade remains a paradox. It does provide mutual gains, as developing countries, like those in Central America, gain jobs through increased exports to the U.S., as well as access to new technologies and cheaper imports. The U.S. gains new markets for its products, a duty-free supply chain for textiles and, most importantly, foreign markets for some of its services.

Trade also poses mutual political problems; foreign competition can damage domestic industries, which can result in job displacement and angry voters. In the U.S. one only needs to look to anti-NAFTA rhetoric or the protectionist steel tariffs implemented by the Bush administration. Poorer countries also become frustrated when technology transfer fails to materialize or their workers feel exploited by foreign enterprises, and their leaders face similar public outcry and calls

for the protectionism seen by their American counterparts.

Though these domestic concerns pose problems for certain domestic constituencies, as members of an international community of consumption, we win when the global economy is more efficient, something that comes by exploiting competitive advantages via international trade. Political scientists and economists have linked open markets and foreign trade in the developing world with other desirable factors—less corruption, economic growth and stronger democracy.

So while the globalization of markets poses potential problems and pitfalls, it also presents possibilities for posterity. The developing world may experience growing pains, but it should ultimately be better with it than without it. And though the U.S. may lose certain types of jobs through foreign competition, opportunities for new ideas and innovations will emerge to replace them.

Such innovations are likely to come from our very own Institute; Georgia Tech has prided itself as a place committed to "shaping futures through innovation."

Provost Chameau's comments about globalization were backed by the international education initiatives recently outlined by his office; they

clearly demonstrate the Institute's desire to make this abstract goal, for Tech to be a part of the globalization game, something tangible.

Nearly 35 percent of Tech students already have some international experience by the time they graduate. The Provost's Office will sponsor a faculty retreat this semester to create an operational plan to increase the percentage of Tech students with international experience to 50 percent and discuss the idea of creating an international degree designation.

The international degree designation would be similar to a co-op designation, with foreign language study, work or research abroad and study of international subjects required to obtain it.

Though such a designation is years away, it shows the forward-thinking nature of the members of the Tech administration. They see that globalization is not a mere buzzword nor a passing phase, but rather a new reality to which we must all grow and evolve to continue succeeding.



JODY SHAW
COLUMNIST



Tech Fees from page 9

ever-growing divergence from the technology fee's two-sided focus: to provide enhanced technology to students and to offer new technologies that enhance education.

Consequently, new technologies lead to ever-growing renewal costs. As an example, computer labs paid for by the fee five years ago are now outdated. The burden of replacing these outdated machines now falls once again to the technology fee.

For the past seven years, the technology fee has not seen a single increase. The cost of replacement rises while available revenues remain the same. The ever-growing cost of upkeep of the Institute's technological resources is robbing Georgia Tech of technological innovation in the classroom.

The current \$75 per student technology fee is simply no longer enough to ensure that an adequate level of new technologies are available for students. Leaving this unchanged for another year would only further unbalance the dual focus of the technology fee.

A \$25 per term increase will provide the technology fee with an additional \$750,000 to spend next year. This would enable the continued distribution of roughly 55 percent of the currently renewable projects and 45 percent of the newly initiated proposals.

It is this type of spending that keeps Tech where it belongs, at the academic and technological forefront.

Ed Greco
gte360x