National academic reforms aim to keep student-athletes on track for graduation

Sean Selman
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

ew measures designed to improve the graduation rates of National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I student-athletes became effective this fall, creating a new academic profile that prospects and enrolled athletes must meet to earn the privilege of participating in intercollegiate athletics.

“We aren’t guessing at what the results from these standards will be,” said Robert Hemenway, chairman of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and vice chancellor of the University of Kansas, when the reform proposal was announced this past year.

“If you continue to meet the academic profile in your first, second, third, fourth and fifth year, you will be on track to graduate,” Hemenway said. “If you don’t meet the academic profile, you won’t be participating in college sports.”

The new academic reforms include, among other things, provisions that require incoming freshmen student-athletes to earn six hours of academic credit each semester for a total of at least 18 semester hours each academic year.

Earning those course hours comes in addition to a freshman football player’s schedule. On a typical Wednesday, that schedule includes a mandatory 30-minute study hall session beginning at 7:15 a.m.; a team meeting for an hour and 45 minutes in the afternoon; football practice for two hours and 15 minutes; and another mandatory study hall session at 7:45 p.m. — for as long as needed — through 10 p.m.

Jim Stevens — director of academic services for the Georgia Tech Athletic Association — and his staff of seven advisors have been charged with the task of implementing the new academic reforms this fall.

“It’s a fact that our student-athletes have a lot on their plates. They’re going to have stresses put on them,” Stevens said. “(The academic reforms) require us to be more precise in the course options we line up for the student-athletes, and they’ve all got to work at it.

“But I don’t want any of our student-athletes treated differently than any other student at Georgia Tech,” he said. “My expectations are high for them. I expect them to be at class and to be prepared for that class. They should, in fact, be able to

Reforms continued, page 3

From lab to market: New study assesses the impact of licensing university research

Elizabeth Campbell
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

o most, getting more university research into the real world to improve the quality of people’s lives sounds like a good thing. However, in the 23 years since the passage of the Bayh-Dole Act — which encourages more federally funded research to make the leap from the lab to store shelves — achieving that goal has proved controversial.

Bayh-Dole allows universities to patent and exclusively license federally funded inventions and appears to have fueled dramatic growth in university licensing. Critics charge that Bayh-Dole restricts future research on a technology, is unnecessary and motivates researchers to pursue profitable areas of research, rather than pure basic research.

Study continued, page 3

Because of Tech’s rigorous curriculum, student-athletes here often face a challenge greater than many of their conference peers.
Report shows increasing demand for engineering education

Larry Baouie
Institute Communications and Public Affairs

Across the nation, engineering is gaining in popularity at all degree levels, and bachelor’s degrees could be on their way to surpassing the 70,000 mark last reached in 1988, according to a recent survey by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).

The ASEE reports bachelor’s degrees awarded in 2001-2002 increased 3.4 percent, marking the third year of growth nationally at the undergraduate level. Overall, bachelor’s degrees have increased 7.9 percent since the 1998-1999 academic year.

While the number of undergraduate degrees conferred at Georgia Tech’s College of Engineering saw a slight increase during 2001-2002, Tech awarded the nation’s second-highest number of bachelor’s degrees in engineering (1,231), according to the ASEE report. Having awarded 14 more degrees than Tech, Pennsylvania State University finished first.

Latest enrollment figures show the upward trend continuing at Tech; the College’s strong undergraduate recruitment program has led to the Institute’s status of being the largest producer of engineers in the country.

“Our undergraduate enrollments have grown in the past two years due to the success of the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program at the GT-Savannah campus and due to the recruiting efforts of the Women in Engineering program here in Atlanta,” said Yarl Davidson, associate dean of engineering.

Nationally, electrical and computer engineering remains the most popular engineering discipline at the undergraduate level. In 2001-2002, the highest undergraduate enrollment of all engineering disciplines was in electrical engineering (1,826) and awarded the most degrees (333).

Graduate Engineering

The numbers tell a slightly different story at the graduate level. While enrollment for master’s and doctoral programs both jumped by more than 14 percent from last year, the number of master’s degrees awarded increased by only 1.4 percent. Doctoral degrees awarded decreased by 6.7 percent.

“The weak labor market might be causing more Ph.D. candidates to postpone graduation,” said Michael T. Gibbons, a project manager at ASEE. “This trend in matriculation comes as a relief to many universities in need of increased teaching support, but unable to hire faculty because of hiring freezes.”

With 3,165 students, Tech was first in the nation for the number of graduate students enrolled in 2001-2002, ranking fourth in the number of master’s degrees awarded (708) and fifth in doctoral degrees awarded.

At the master’s and doctoral levels, electrical and computer engineering at Tech had the highest undergraduate enrollment of all engineering disciplines. Tech awarded the nation’s second-highest number of master’s degrees (214), according to the ASEE report. Having awarded 14 more degrees than Tech, Georgia State University finished first.

Other data for the 2001-2002 academic year show:

• Georgia Tech is the top producer of women engineering graduates at the bachelor’s level. Tech awarded 350 bachelor’s degrees in engineering to women.

• Georgia Tech leads the nation in the number of women engineering faculty who are tenured or tenure-track (44). Rounding out the top five are: MIT (40); Pennsylvania State University (39); Ohio State University (31); and Purdue University (30).

Recently, Chancellor Thomas Meredith sent a letter to the faculty and staff of the 32 member institutions within the University System of Georgia, providing a brief assessment of its health as well as future challenges. The following is the text of that letter.

On behalf of the Board of Regents, let me thank you for your extraordinary effort during these challenging times.

There are two primary challenges. One is a very lean budget. Without question, our funding from the state has significantly declined in recent years. Our current academic year appropriation is $56 million less than last year’s appropriation. Our System is $87.7 million down from two years ago. Now state officials have announced a possible reduction of $42 million for the current year and an additional $84 million for next year. The second challenge is an increasing demand for our services. Reduced funding is in sharp contrast to record enrollments, which will continue for quite some time. When this fall’s expected numbers are recorded, the System’s enrollment will have increased by more than 30,000 students since fall 2001. We added the equivalent of another Georgia Tech to the System last year, and we can anticipate at least the same this year. In addition, more students are now taking even heavier academic loads, as reflected by the FTE enrollment.

In response to these economic challenges, institutions have kept faculty and staff positions vacant, in addition to other strategies. This means our System family has had to provide more services with fewer resources and fewer people. The Board and I are extremely appreciative of your extraordinary commitment. We know you are working harder than ever for the good of Georgia and your students. Thank you.

Our record enrollment is good for Georgia, even though we are struggling to accommodate these students. Georgia has long been on the bottom end of the scale in terms of participation in post-secondary education. Relief from reduced state funding will not come quickly. Even after the economic recovery begins, it will take a while for jobs to be filled, wages to be earned, taxes to be collected, and dollars to be appropriated.

It will remain important for us to continue our focus on serving students, as you have done so well. The Board of Regents is committed to “Creating a More Educated Georgia.”

Thanks to you and your hard work, we all are part of the best system of higher education in the country. Thank you again for your continuing good work during these challenging times.
Preliminary findings of the Thursby study:

Would technologies be transferred out of the lab without the Bayh-Dole Act?
Yes, but Bayh-Dole provides another channel beyond the traditional publica-
tions, meetings and consulting.

Are technology transfer offices at universities profit centers?
Profits are not the sole goal of licensing, and the average income per active license is $66,465, but only 43 percent of licenses earned royalties.

Does licensing technologies to outside firms restrict the spread of the academic research?
Research that is company sponsored, rather than federally funded, is usually not shared as readily.

Have financial incentives from licensing technology diverted faculty away from pure basic research to more lucrative research areas?
Based on the limited evidence available, the answer is no.

Full details of these conclusions are in the paper entitled “University Licensing and the Bayh-Dole Act,” in the August 22 issue of Science.

Licensing provides incentives for businesses to use the resulting discoveries, but it is important that these incentives not destroy the fundamental research mission of universi-
ties.”

According to Jerry Thursby, “The critical nature of universi-
ties in the U.S. innovation sys-
tem is well known. What is less well known, and hence our interest as economists, is how technology transfer is affected by economic incentives.”

The authors examine four primary questions based on their own survey data as well as data from the Association of University Technology Managers’ 1991 and 2000 surveys and other studies (see chart, below).

Georgia Tech licensing, 1996-2001

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Source: Directorate of Innovation and Development of Industry Technology Managers

Reforms, cont’d from page 1

of great importance not only to universities and research insti-
tutions, but also to the public at large. Huge sums of federal dollars go toward research. Licensing provides incentives for businesses to use the resulting discoveries, but it is important that these incentives not destroy the fundamental research mission of universi-
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Reforms, cont’d from page 1

contribute to the class.”

Stevens said the new NCAA academic requirements will be rigor-
ous for Georgia Tech’s stu-
dent-athletes, but he has full confidence that they will rise to the challenge. The new “40-60-80 rule,” in particular, will be tough on Tech’s freshman ath-
letes, he said.

This reform states that, in order to compete, student-ath-
lletes must earn 40 percent of their degree requirements by the beginning of their third year of enrollment; 60 percent by the beginning of their fourth year; and 80 percent by the beginning of their sixth year.

The new 40-60-80 split applies to incoming freshman athletes for 2003; current sophomore ath-
lletes and above may still com-
pete under the previous 25-50-
70 percentage split.

However, the 40-60-80 rule also makes academic advising more straightforward and some-
what easier in terms of tracking student-athlete progress toward the degree. That’s because every course student-athletes take must be applicable to their degree. Stevens said.

Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough, a member of the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, has put his full sup-
port behind the new academic reforms.

“I have always expected, and will continue to expect, that our coaches will work with Jim Stevens and our academic sup-
pport personnel in a coordinated fashion to ensure that student-
athletes have the opportunity to meet the challenges of a Tech education and make steady progress toward graduation,” Clough said.

“I also expect our student-
athletes to achieve at an aca-
demic level comparable to that of the average of the student

body, including remaining on track for graduation,” he said.

“That is why our academic sup-
port services are so important. They are important to the per-
formance of our athletes and they are important for the ulti-
mate mission of the Institute.”

Stevens has implemented several new checks and bal-
ances in the academic advising process, and he also plans to implement several new forms of documenta-
tion to track the process, he said.

“What I’m interested in is that they come into study hall with a goal that they want to accomplish by the end of their session,” Stevens said. “They have a sign-in sheet, and they must fill out that objective when they come in for their study session. Their work is checked when they’re done, and they are quizzed to see that they’ve met that goal.”

IN BRIEF:

Decommissioning a reactor

As soon as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission processes the paperwork releasing Georgia Tech from its operating license, the Institute’s days as a university with a research reactor officially will be over.

At the time of its construction, the Frank H. Neely complex cost $4.5 million, a large capital project Tech had undertaken to that point. The facility was named for Neely because the executive vice president of Rich’s depart-
ment stores and Tech graduate was instrumen-
tial in raising funds for the project in the 1960s.

The reactor was shut down in 1995, and the eight pounds of high-grade uranium under it before the campus served as home of the Olympic Village for the 1996 Summer Games.

By 1997, Tech began decommissioning the reactor. No plans have been announced for the site of the now-empty reactor building.

Four graduate students named as NASA fellows

Four Georgia Tech students have been selected by NASA this year to receive a prestigious fel-
lowship award that provides support to women, minorities and persons with disabilities for grad-
uate education leading to doctoral degrees in NASA-related disciplines.

NASA selected a total of 21 awardees for the Harriet G. Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship. The fellows are funded for up to three years with a stipend and tuition, and are paired with a NASA research mentor and participate in annual hands-on research experiences at NASA centers across the country.

The recipients are: Darenna Lewis, who is purs-
uing a Ph.D. in civil engineering; Omar Mireles, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in mechanical engineer-
ing; Manu Platt, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in bio-
medical engineering; and Jamal Wilson, who is purs-
uing a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering.

New center to focus on freight

Leaders from the state of Georgia have announced creation of the Savannah Maritime Logistics Innovation Center (SMLIC), a unique partnership between the Georgia Ports Authority and the University System of Georgia. The cen-
ter will address maritime logistics and security issues of national and international importance.

Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern University and Armstrong Atlantic State University will work directly with the Ports Authority to develop inno-
ative new technologies for the efficient, secure movement of freight.

The program is led by the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism’s Office of Science and Technology and focuses on boosting economic development opportuni-
ties in Georgia’s mid-sized cities — Columbus, Augusta, Macon and Savannah.

Library Archives sets new hours

The hours of operation for Archives and Records Management — a unit of Georgia Tech’s Library and Information Center — have changed for fall semester. Jody Lloyd Thomp-
son, acting head of the department, said the section’s hours will be 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday, beginning Sept. 8. Users may make appointments to use the facility at other hours. For more information or to make an appointment, call 894-4579 or e-mail jody.thompson@library.gatech.edu.

www.whistle.gatech.edu
CAMPUS EVENTS

Arts & Culture
Sept. 12
On the second Friday of each month, The Georgia Tech Bookstore hosts the Georgia Poetry Society Open Mic Night at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit gatech.bookstore.com.

Brown Bags/Conferences/Lectures
Sept. 11
The School of Public Policy welcomes William T. Endicott, former congressional and White House aide, who will lead a panel discussion on how to seek a variety of local, state and national political jobs, at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium.

Sept. 16
The School of Materials Science and Engineering and The Materials Council welcome Rainer Birringer, a visiting associate of the materials science faculty at the California Institute of Technology, on “Science and Technology of Nanoscale Materials,” at 3:00 p.m. in room 119 in the GCATT Building. For more information, call 894-2204.

CLASSIFIEDS

APPLIANCES
Frigidaire 5.0 cubic foot capacity, chest freezer, like new. Asking $100. Will deliver. Call Jessica at 894-4505.

European copper style fondue set. New and in box. $50. E-mail sonia.gatskin@cbe.gatech.edu or call 894-8471.

AUTOMOBILES
1985 Volkswagen Sirocco. Fast 4-cyl., 5-spd., 40+mpg, Pirelli tires, sunroof, alloy struts, speed gauges, new brakes. $1,800. Call Dave at 404-592-2040 or e-mail as_pope@bellsouth.net.

1990 Blue Honda Civic. $1,000 OBO. 1835 miles, 2-door hatchback. Visit www.valcano.com for photos/specs or e-mail alison.valcano@library.gatech.edu.

1997 Chevrolet Lumina. 4-door sedan, most extra, very good condition, 11,286 miles, original owner. $2,500. Call 894-0153 or e-mail jmlanner@yahoo.com.

1998 Toyota Corolla VE. AT, a/c, PS, 4-door, locally owned, dealer maintained, exc. condition, car 93K HW miles, very reliable. Asking $4,850. Call 894-0029 or e-mail ftinahis.para-chur@ege.gatech.edu.

1999 Dodge Durango SLT. Black, 4WD, loaded w/leather, tow package, CD w/premium sound, 84K miles, almost new extra-wide tires. $14,500. E-mail robert.elington@business.gatech.edu.


2001 Ford Focus sedan. Silver, automatic, a/c, 82K miles, great condition, wonderful car for student or postdoc, $4,000 firm. E-mail roger.narayan@mse.gatech.edu.

COMPUTERS
Heiwett Packard 1100 (black and white) laser jet printer. Cable, program CDs and instruction book included. Excellent condition. $50. Call Rebecca at 678-645-0213 during the daytime.

FURNITURE
Queen sleeper sofa, beige. Good condition. $75 OBO. See http://for sale.bellforts.com for pictures. Email jenifer.belford@otl.gatech.edu or call 404-6174.

Wood oak finish dining set: decorative borders and pedestal base w/turned accents. Includes leaf. 4 wide chairs with flower design cushion. $400 OBO. Pictures available. E-mail sonia.gatskin@cbe.gatech.edu or call 894-8474.

Large handmade, L-shaped oak desk, $500 OBO; 5-piece rattan seating suite, $400 OBO. Call 404-635-9766.

REAL ESTATE/ROOMMATES
5BR/2.5BA home in Stone Mountain area. Master BR w/balcony, marble jacuzzi and floor. $156,000. Call Tammy, 678-418-6432.

Roommate wanted to share a furnished house in Smyrna. $275/month + utilities. No smokers. Call 404-376-6032.

Roommates wanted for house near Emory. approx. 5-10 mins. from campus. $700/month rent + 1/5 utilities. + 1 month security deposit. E-mail darren.nowell@finaid.gatech.edu or call 404-815-9295.

2BR/2BA condo in Cross Creek golf, swim, tennis community. Located in Northside/Buckhead. Modern interior, W/D, end unit w/sunroom. 5 miles from GT. $1,100 rent. E-mail mbuck@yahoo.com or call 404-508-2301.

Roommate wanted. Professional female seeks roommate in 2BR/1BA house near Howell Mill and DeFoors. $400/month plus all utilities. Call Kelli, 404-855-1614.

5BR/2BA Buckhead townhouse. Walk to Chastain, updated appliances & décor, pool, FP, private patio, cable, $1,500/month. Photos available. E-mail rebsroco@yahoo.com.

Intown duplex, 5 mins. from GT, two blocks from City Hall East. 3BR/1.5BA w/big back yard, balcony, finished basement; W/D connection, central air. Offstreet parking; $975 monthly. Call 404-247-3775.

Roommate wanted to share furnished 1BR house in Jonesboro. $500 per month, all utilities included. No smokers. Call Bob, 678-969-0454.

Carriage house 1BR apartment for rent. Buckhead, three miles to Tech. $650 per month. Call 404-352-3646.

SPORTS/FITNESS/RECREATION
Wanted: used treadmill or elliptical machine in good condition. E-mail rahjem.boyah@cc.ege.gatech.edu.

Miscellaneous
Free oak firewood, approximately 5-6 cords. Cut to fireplace size, but needs to be split. Located in Home Park, next to campus. You load and haul away. Call 404-815-9295.

Free German Shepherd mix dog, 2 years old, very sweet and loving. E-mail robert.elington@business.gatech.edu or call 894-5488.

Pool cover, never used, new in box. 20x40 rectangular pool cover with 10 1x8 water tubes. $100 total. Call 894-8040 or e-mail carol.yohn@bellsouth.gatech.edu.

Tabbert cart, $75 OBO. Call 404-635-0756.

Free: two house cats, approximately 4 years old. One orange male, one black female. Both declawed and fixed. Call 770-845-1821.

1st ad runs for a maximum of three issues. The Whistle reserves the right to edit ads longer than 50 words.