Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

GTS Task Force Report:
Defining a Path Forward for Georgia Tech-Savannah

Appendix N: Degree Completion Strategies and Related Faculty Transitions

Pending the formal acceptance of the recommendations, the task force offers the following thoughts and strategies related to successful degree completion of current GT students in Savannah and the effects of the transition on the GTS faculty. A detailed degree completion plan for GT students in Savannah will be released in fall 2011.

- Current degree programs should undergo a gradual phase-out over the next two years; there should be no change for course offerings in fall semester 2011 except for the usual minor modifications that occur each semester in response to student demand.
- Before registration opens for the spring 2012 semester, projected course schedules should be available through spring 2013, the last semester that courses for the current degree programs would be offered in Savannah. These schedules will be planned in accordance with the graduation needs of current GTS students.
- Pending finalization of plans with Georgia Southern, it is Georgia Tech's intention to continue broadcasting courses for that campus during the spring semester of 2012.
- Academic advisors will work with students to provide each with a path to a GT degree. Every current GTS student will have access to the coursework needed to graduate, and most current undergraduates already admitted to GTS should be able to complete their degrees by spring 2013.
- If participating in cooperative education is part of a student's educational plans, course completion plans should be provided, with the understanding that taking courses in Atlanta may be necessary for those students.
- Those who either cannot finish in Savannah by then or simply want to change locations should have the option of changing campuses to Atlanta. At the student's choice and meeting transfer criteria, all Georgia Tech students registered in programs at the GTS campus should be offered the opportunity to immediately transfer to the Atlanta campus.

- Engineering Alliance (EA) students in good academic standing who have not transitioned to Georgia Tech by fall 2011 should expect to complete their local program requirements and then transition directly to the Atlanta campus.
- Students participating in GTS transfer programs at partner colleges through GTREP and similar agreements should be able to transfer to the Atlanta campus as RETP students.
- Full-time master's students in good academic standing will be able to graduate during the two-year transition period.
- Part-time or other students needing more time will either move to Atlanta or take advantage of existing distance learning master's programs in ECE and ME. Academic and financial aid advisors will work will these students to understand financial needs and offer support to the full extent possible.
- Georgia Tech PhD students study and conduct their research in a variety of locations around the world. GTS PhD students have been similarly mobile and typically spend semesters in both Atlanta and Savannah. These students should be located at the same campus as their advisors or wherever they need to be in order to access the resources necessary for their research.
- Changes to the undergraduate degree programs are subject to approval by the Board of Regents and ABET notification.
- Georgia Tech-Savannah faculty members are tenured or on the tenure-track with Georgia Tech and not specifically affiliated with the Savannah campus.
- All faculty members at the Georgia Tech-Savannah campus will be invited to join their disciplinary colleagues in Atlanta and should be offered a relocation package (where appropriate) as well as continuation of their academic appointments at the Atlanta campus.
- During the two-year transition period, tenured and tenure-track faculty will relocate to Atlanta in accordance with the degree completion plan and upon fulfilling Savannah teaching obligations.
- As transition plans are finalized, the assignment of specific faculty members will be considered and discussed individually.
- Because the timing of these relocations will depend on projected course schedules, availability of space in Atlanta, professional interests and goals of each faculty member, as well as personal and family considerations, the engineering dean's office and associated school chairs will play a critical role in coordinating faculty transitions.