

re(in)novation



FAQs |

GENERAL (cost, timeline, why) |

Why is this expansion necessary?

The Georgia Tech Student Center and Stamps Commons are the central gathering place for the campus, where students, faculty, staff, and alumni gather for meetings, events, services, and fun- but it needs to renovate and expand. Here are a few fast facts to illustrate why:

- The original building, completed in 1970, was meant for a campus of 7,000 students with additions and renovations throughout the 1990s to accommodate the 16,000 students at the time. Now with over **23,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff**, the building's space is far short of what is needed.
- 17,000 people** walk through the building every day.
- The building hosted **10,297 room reservations** last year (roughly 735 per room per year).
- The national standard for student center space is 10 ft² per student. The Georgia Tech Student Center has 6.5 ft² per student.
- The Student Center Team puts on more than **100 of our own programs** each year for the campus community, in addition to the hundreds of other campus events hosted within the building.
- The building's mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems are original, and well beyond their normal life expectancy.
- The Student Center contains just **6 office spaces to support the 400+ student organizations** on campus.

The original 100,000 square foot Student Center opened in 1970 to serve a campus of 7,000 students. Additions and renovations completed in 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1996 to accommodate campus growth, bring the existing Student Center to approximately 160,000 square feet. Campus population has now grown to over 30,000, which well surpasses the population that the facility was intended to serve. As a result, students do not currently identify the Student Center as a hub for social activity or a home for student organizations. It is viewed largely as a transactional space that provides retail and dining, but not a space that provides a break from the rigorous academic demands of Georgia Tech.

The expansion is in line with the Student Center's mission to build a strong sense of campus community, as well as the Institute's strategic vision that will define Georgia Tech as the technological research University of the 21st century. Specifically, a re(in)novated Campus Center aligns with the Institute goal to be among the most highly respected technology-focused learning institutions in the world by enhancing the student experience and developing the campus as a vibrant live-work-learn-play environment. This Center will also enhance and support campus initiatives through the new department for Community Health & Wellbeing. Completing this project is critical to the growth and development of Georgia Tech, and to securing Georgia Tech's position as a world class institution.

Has it been determined what services will be in the new building?

At this time we are still in the funding stage and no design details have been confirmed. However, the 2015 Visioning Study created a list of possible spaces, which included

- expanded dining and seating options
- additional meeting rooms/community building space
- a second ballroom
- student organization office and work space
- expanded recreational and entertainment areas
- additional retail opportunities
- study space
- social/experiential/restorative spaces
- technology enriched areas
- and behind-the-scenes space within the facility to support the new operations

It is estimated that the proposed project will net an additional 130,000 square feet. Further study to determine what spaces will be in the new facility will take place after the Board of Regents has approved the fee and given project authorization in Spring 2017.

How much will the project cost, and how will it be funded?

The project has a current cost estimate of \$100 million. 50% of the project cost will be paid for through a mandatory student building fee. Institute funds will cover 25% of the cost, and auxiliary revenues the remaining 25%.

The proposed fee would not exceed \$85/semester, and would be implemented once the new facilities are open for student use. The GT student body will get the chance to voice their opinion and vote on the fee March 9 – 16, 2016.

What is the project's timeline?

Below is the tentative timeline for the project:

November 2016 | Student Fee Committee Reviews Proposed Fee
January 2017 | Fee Recommended to Board of Regents for Approval
April 2017 | Board of Regents Fee Approval
August 2017 | Board of Regents Approval of Design Team
Fall 2017 | Program Confirmation (2 months)
Fall 2017 | Project Design (18 months)
Summer 2019 | Phased Construction (24 months)
August 2021 | Grand Opening

How has the campus community been engaged about this project?

Students have formally expressed the need for expansion beginning in 2009, and again in 2013, with SGA resolutions and a white paper that communicated their support for the project to the President.

In 2012 the Student Center Expansion Committee (SCEC) was established and has been active since its inception. This committee is made up of student leaders that have been responsible for funneling student opinion and educating the campus on this initiative.

In Spring 2015, Workshop Architects, Inc. facilitated visioning exercises for the future Campus Center. Workshop Architects assessed the needs and vision of the Student Center through significant conversations and hands-on activities involving over 250 students, faculty and staff. Their key findings, published in the Campus Center Strategic Positioning Study, have established the baseline for a conceptual program and project budget. As part of their work, the following goals were established:

1. Serve the entire Georgia Tech community.
2. Provide a place to reset, restore and refuel.
3. Showcase Georgia Tech's brand and be the catalyst for creative expression.
4. Foster friendships and bridge cultures, disciplines and interests.
5. Promote leadership, involvement, and finding one's niche.
6. Activate Tech Green.

On January 19, 2016 both the Undergraduate Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Government Association passed a resolution stating their support in holding a student referendum for the student body to vote on the implementation of a new fee to fund the project. Voting will be online March 9 – 16.

The Student Center encourages all members of the campus community to provide us with ideas, feedback, and concerns via this feedback form managed by the Student Center Expansion Committee (available at reinnovation.studentcenter.gatech.edu). This FAQ list will be periodically updated to help to address questions and further clarify information.

Upon approval of funding, design development work will begin and there will be further opportunities for the campus community to provide input and feedback on the future of the facility. Watch this site for further developments.

What is a pilot space?

A pilot space has been created to engage the campus community and help them to understand what some of the lounges in a new facility could look and feel like. The first floor of the Student Center near to the theater has been outfitted with a variety of soft seating, bean bags, and furniture that is movable to create opportunities for group conversations. Outdoor lounge seating was placed near the second floor entrance, and paired with solar charging umbrella stations. Both spaces have been heavily used and feedback has been positive from the entire

campus community. The pilot spaces have affirmed earlier research regarding the need for more lounge space in the Student Center and the types of lounge spaces that are desired.

Who can I contact if I have specific questions?

Kate Curnow, Communication & Marketing Manager | Student Center, shall serve as the primary communications contact for the project. Kate can be reached at kate.curnow@stucen.gatech.edu or 404.894.8105.

Lindsay Bryant, Interim Director | Student Center. Lindsay can be reached at Lindsay.bryant@stucen.gatech.edu or 404.894.9373.

Samantha Holloway, Chair | Student Center Expansion Committee. Samantha can be reached at president@scpc.gatech.edu

FUNDING |

How much will the new fee be?

The new fee would not exceed \$85/semester, and would be implemented once the new facilities are open for student use. This fee would cover 50% of the project's costs with the remaining funds coming from the Institute (25%) and Auxiliary Services (25%).

When will the fee take effect?

The new building fee will not commence until AFTER facilities are open for student use. Only those students able to benefit from the new facility will pay for it.

Can my tuition dollars pay for it?

No, the Student Center expansion fee is a separate mandatory fee on state campuses. Tuition dollars, per state mandates, cannot be allocated for building projects such as the expansion of the Student Center.

I won't be here when this is built, why should I pay?

Currently enrolled students will not be charged the new fee unless they continue to be enrolled as a student after facilities are open for use.

How was the fee calculated?

There were several factors that went into the fee calculation including the length of the bond and total student enrollment. The fee will not exceed \$85 and not start until the building is open and ready for use.

FUTURE BUILDING (what will go in it) |

How do we know what we want to build?

At this time we are still in the funding stage and no design details have been confirmed. The Workshop Architects assessed the needs and vision of the Student Center through significant conversations and hands-on activities involving over 250 students, faculty and staff during Spring of 2015. Their key findings have established the baseline for a conceptual program and project budget. As part of their work, the following goals were established for the building:

1. Serve the entire Georgia Tech community.
2. Provide a place to reset, restore and refuel.
3. Showcase Georgia Tech's brand and be the catalyst for creative expression.
4. Foster friendships and bridge cultures, disciplines and interests.
5. Promote leadership, involvement, and finding one's niche.
6. Activate Tech Green

Which Institute Departments will be housed in the new building?

At this time, no final decisions have been made about which offices will be in the new building. This issue will be addressed after final fee approval from the Board of Regents.

Will the new facility be designed with sustainable building practices in mind?

Yes. Consistent with Georgia Tech's Serve/Learn/Sustain Quality Enhancement Plan, the new facility will be a leading example of Georgia Tech's commitment to sustainability.

Where will the new building be built?

Details regarding the new facility's location will be decided once we are in the design phase. We are currently looking at the building being in the same footprint that it is now. In regards to a new or expanded building, further study is required. We do know that we want the building to activate Tech Green, similar to a front porch feel to keep in line with the goals of the buildings (see question – "how do we know what we want to build?")

Are students involved in the planning/design process?

Yes. Students have been included in the various studies and reviews over the last ten years and actively participated in the visioning sessions that were held in Spring 2015. Students have voted on the theme for the campaign, picked images to use for marketing and given feedback every step of the way. A pilot space on the first floor has been created to engage the campus community and help them to understand what some of the lounges in a new facility could look and feel like. The idea for the pilot was a student led initiative. With students paying 50% of the project cost, it is imperative that we hear their voices and wishes during this entire project.

Students will be involved in every step of the process. These opportunities will be communicated on the Student Center website and other marketing venues on campus when they arise.

What services will exist in the new building for grad students?

The new buildings will have a specific space for graduate students. The needs of graduate students, which now make up over 30% of the student body, will be addressed for the first time in a central, social space on campus. Research still needs to be completed, and conversations with graduate students need to occur to better understand what graduate students would like to see in the space. As we continue to engage graduate students in this process, opportunities to get involved will be communicated on the Student center website and other marketing venues on campus when they arise.