



**A STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE FIGHT SONG AND
GENDER EQUALITY ON CAMPUS**
MARCH 30, 2021

In February of 2021, a request from School Chairs to honor Georgia Tech’s women students in “The Ramblin’ Wreck” was brought before the Faculty Senate, proposing a one word change to the song’s lyric when referring to the daughter of the Ramblin’ Wreck being dressed in white and gold and put on campus to *cheer* the brave and bold. This being the third formal request from faculty to address the change, first in 2007 and then again in 2015, the student body was polled, through the form of a referendum, to collect student sentiment on the matter.

A total of 2,601 individual responses were collected from 2,170 undergraduate students and 431 graduate students. From the collected responses, 50.5% of students indicated that they “support keeping the Ramblin’ Wreck Song as is” and 49.5% of students indicated they “support changing the word '*cheer*' to '*join*' in the Ramblin’ Wreck Song.” Further, 65.7% of students who identified their gender as ‘Female’ indicated that they “support changing the word '*cheer*' to '*join*' in the Ramblin’ Wreck Song.” Additionally, 51.4% of students indicated that “there is a pertinent issue of gender equality on our campus,” with 65.9% of female respondents agreeing to this statement.

The 2020-2021 academic year has been historic for many reasons, one being that for the second time in Georgia Tech history two females have filled the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Body President positions. We have been proud to represent all female students, and specifically women in STEM, in our elected roles. However, throughout this last year we have been reminded of the work that is still to be done on campus to create true gender equality.

While we believe that the proposal to edit the “The Ramblin’ Wreck” has been made with the best interests of women at Tech at heart, changing one word of a fight song will not change the campus culture or a deeply rooted system of inequality. While editing the fight song might not be top of mind for many students, daily reminders of gender inequality show up as examples such as: when women walk into a classroom or research lab where they feel underrepresented due to the disproportionate amount of other women present, when there are few women faculty researchers or professors in their department, when nonbinary/third gender students have peers and faculty members not respect their chosen pronouns, and even recently with the overt disparities between the men’s and women’s NCAA tournaments our own student athletes faced.



Understandably, it is important to factor in the student opinion when deciding next steps to take regarding the proposed changes to the fight song, we also ask that the same passion and consideration that has been shown regarding the proposed change be given to truly understanding the current inequalities our campus face and solutions on how we can collectively improve.

In Progress and Service,

Lea Harris
Graduate Student Body President

Brielle Lonsberry
Undergraduate Student Body President