

CAPITOL BUZZ



Sine Die Edition

Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol
VOLUME VIII, ISSUE VII – Thursday, April 2, 2015

General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die



Image courtesy of Senate Photo Office

ADVOCATE

for GeorgiaTech

Thank you to all Capitol Jackets members whose efforts ensured Georgia Tech's priorities were supported this legislative session.

Please consider sending a hand written note to your legislators, Lt. Governor Cagle, and Governor Deal thanking them for their service to the state and support of Georgia Tech and higher education in Georgia.

District mailing addresses are listed online by legislator at www.legis.ga.gov



BUDGET REPORT

The House and Senate Conference Committee agreed to a final FY16 budget and both chambers passed the final budget on Tuesday, Day 39. The FY16 budget now awaits Governor Deal's signature.

Final budgetary items for Georgia Tech and the University System of Georgia:

- \$5M in bonds for the Holland plant expansion and modernization project
- \$1.2M in funding for the expansion of ATDC to assist more startup companies in Georgia
- \$60M in bonds to be allocated among USG institutions for major repairs and renovations
- New formula funds to be allocated among USG institutions for critical operations, including \$11.3M for the merit based salary increase pool for USG employees
- \$10.8M in bonds to support research through the Georgia Research Alliance
- \$16.8M to increase the HOPE Scholarship factor rate by 3%

Letter from the President



**Georgia Institute
of Technology®**

Office of the President

Dear Capitol Jackets:

Former Georgia Governor Zell Miller often reminded his staff that a turtle cannot climb to the top of a fencepost alone. One of my favorite quotes from Governor Miller reminds us that success is achieved through the efforts of many partners working toward one goal. As the General Assembly adjourns Sine Die for the 2015 legislative session, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Georgia Tech Capitol Jackets, the campus community, and thousands of alumni and supporters across the state who support Georgia Tech and help us achieve our legislative priorities.

We have much to be proud of as the legislative session comes to a close. In addition to our budget priorities receiving support from the General Assembly and Governor Deal, our students, faculty and staff also maintained a constant presence in the Capitol this session. These efforts positioned Georgia Tech as a strong partner of the State of Georgia and helped to achieve our goals.

I would like to thank the Georgia Tech interns who served in legislative offices this session for representing our Institute and providing a much-needed service at the State Capitol. Additionally, I extend my utmost appreciation to the Capitol Jackets Steering Committee Chair, David Jackson, and the committee members who worked to ensure Tech's priorities received funding.

Your support and thoughtful approach to advocacy has an impact far beyond this legislative session. As we begin our travels throughout the state to meet with legislative leaders, your impact precedes us and will multiply our positive momentum for Georgia Tech. Thank you for your support and commitment to furthering Georgia Tech's impact across Georgia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.P. Peterson".

G.P. "Bud" Peterson
President

Final Status of Bills and Resolutions from our Watchlist

- HB 3** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Provides sanctions for persons that enter into or solicit transactions with student-athletes that result in sanctions to the student.
- HB 5** **Will not move forward this session**
Provides for the lawful use of unmanned aircraft and prohibits infringement of privacy and security violations.
- HB 18** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Exempts defense, aviation, space, and aerospace companies from regulations relating to professional engineers and land surveyors.
- HB 44** **Will not move forward this session**
Prohibits operation of unmanned aerial vehicles in certain areas relating to interference with property rights.
- HB 57** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Provides financing for and allows the use of solar technology in the generation of electric energy.
- HB 75** **Passed; Signed by the Governor**
Amended Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill.
- HB 76** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016.
- HB 93** **Will not move forward this session**
Prohibits law enforcement from retaining license plate data obtained from automated license plate recognition systems.
- HB 107** **Will not move forward this session**
Provides for in-state tuition at University System institutions for students from foster care or homeless situations.
- HB 157** **Will not move forward this session**
Outlines regulations for the operation of aircraft in certain airspace; provides for privacy against un-warranted surveillance.
- HB 186** **Will not move forward this session**
Redefines prohibited "weapons" carried on campus to exclude only firearms and expands current law regarding where license holders can bring weapons.
- HB 237** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Extends the angel investor tax credit for three years.
- HB 255** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Requires equal credits be given to certain forestry certification systems when using green building standards in state construction projects.
- HB 259** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Creates the "Georgia Business Act" providing for an exemption for certain state purchasing from competitive bidding procedures.
- HB 287** **Will not move forward this session**
Limits scientific research with regard to certain genetic material.
- HB 320** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Establishes specific personal records that must be held confidential by the Georgia Student Finance Commission.
- HB 544** **Will not move forward this session**
Changes current provisions relating to the carrying of weapons on college campuses.
- SB 2** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Allows high school students to enroll in a post-secondary institution and work towards an associate degree, technology diploma, or industry certification, while counting that coursework towards high school graduation requirements.
- SB 37** **Will not move forward this session**
Requires university system law enforcement officers to report any allegations of rape to local law enforcement agencies.
- SB 113** **Will not move forward this session**
Creates definitions for autonomous vehicles and regulations for the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads for testing.
- HR 71** **House Adopted**
Creates the House Study Committee on the HOPE Scholarship Program Award Amount for Critical Fields of Study.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



LEFT: George P. Burdell recognized by the State Senate for his contributions to the state of Georgia.

MIDDLE LEFT: GT Parent, Speaker Pro Tem Jan Jones, speaks with Georgia Tech students at the Capitol.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Georgia Tech students serve as legislative interns this session.

LOWER LEFT: President Peterson and SGA leaders meet with Irene Munn, General Counsel to the Lt. Governor.

LOWER RIGHT: Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle and Speaker David Ralston meet in the House Chamber.

