

# CAPITOL BUZZ



Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol  
VOLUME IX, ISSUE V – Monday, March 7, 2016

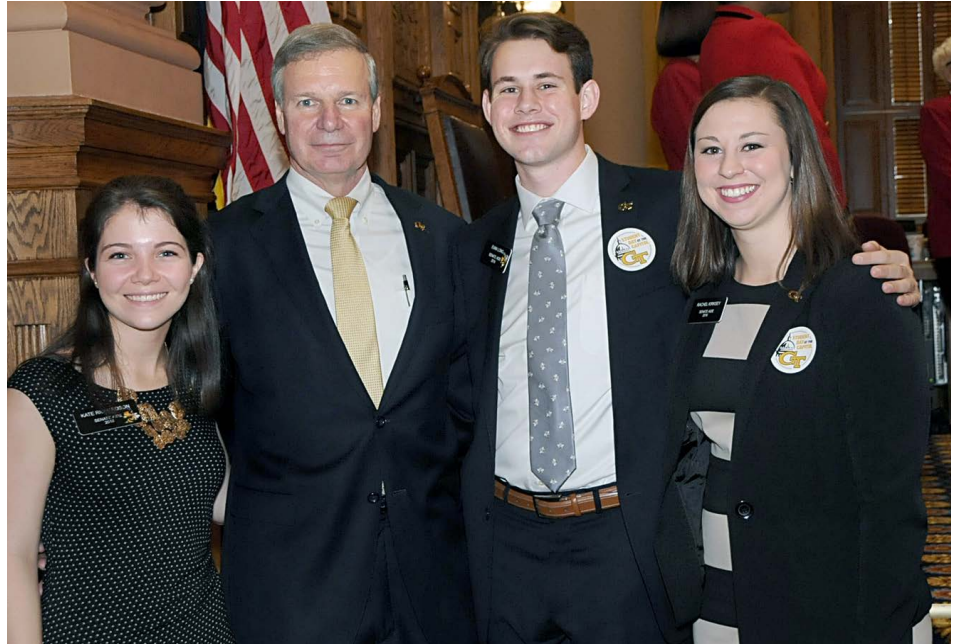
## FOLLOW

*Today marks the thirty-second legislative day.*

This morning the Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget supporting Georgia Tech and University System priorities:

- \$55.5M to the USG for merit-based pay adjustments and employee recruitment and retention initiatives effective July 1, 2016
- \$60M in bonds for Major Repair and Rehabilitation funds for the USG as well as new Formula Funding for the USG
- \$588,143 in new funds for start-up initiatives at ATDC

## Nine working days left in 2016 session



Georgia Tech President G. P. “Bud” Peterson pictured above at the State Capitol this session with Georgia Tech legislative interns Kate Richardson, Evan Long, and Rachel Kirksey. The Georgia General Assembly plans to adjourn Sine Die on Thursday, March 24, 2016.



Chancellor Hank Huckaby is the 12th chancellor of the University System of Georgia’s 29 institutions.

## Chancellor testifies on campus carry legislation

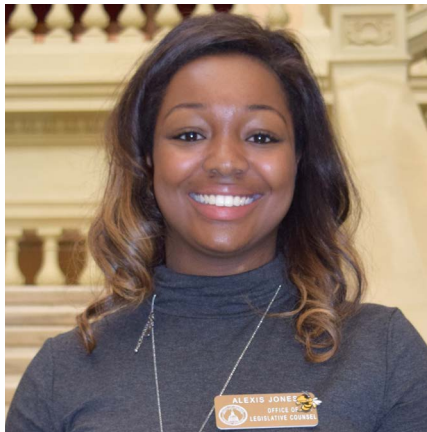
University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby provided testimony last Wednesday during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on House Bill 859, which would allow concealed firearms on public college campuses in Georgia. In the statement, Huckaby said that the Board of Regents, the presidents of its 29 institutions, its campus police chiefs, and many others support the current firearm law for campuses.

“We feel strongly that current law strikes the right balance between creating a safe environment on our campuses while affording those

individuals who are carry users a safeguard location,” Huckaby said. Other USG presidents have weighed in supporting Huckaby’s testimony, including Georgia Tech President G.P. “Bud” Peterson. “We appreciate Chancellor Huckaby’s leadership in testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of the 29 institutions in the University System of Georgia,” said Peterson. “He represented us well. I join him in supporting the current law and opposing the proposed campus carry legislation.”

“The bottom line — we oppose this legislation,” Huckaby said.

# Intern Spotlight



Alexis Jones is a Business Administration major from Columbus, GA. This session Alexis is working in the Office of Legislative Counsel.



Lizzie Lisenby is a Business Administration major from Forsyth, GA. This session Lizzie is working for the House Judiciary Civil and Non-Civil Committees.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

*The following bill will not move forward this session following Crossover day:*

**HB 977** ..... Assigned to House Rules Committee  
*Outlines provisions limiting University System tuition and student fee increases based on prior year rate of inflation.*

*Updates on bills and resolutions from our watch list:*

**HB 745** ..... Passed House; Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee  
*Renews provision allowing USG institutions to carry forward a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next.*

**HB 751**..... Passed Senate Appropriations Committee  
*General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017.*

**HB 779** ..... Passed House; Assigned to Senate Science & Tech. Committee  
*Provides definitions and regulations related to the use of unmanned aircraft systems and images captured by such systems for law enforcement purposes.*

**HB 792**..... Passed House; Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee  
*Permits the carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by students or employees at a public university.*

**HB 801** ..... Passed House; Assigned to Senate Higher Education Committee  
*Revises current provisions regarding the HOPE scholarship to include certain STEM-related courses as optional rigor requirements.*

**HB 859**..... Passed House; Assigned to Senate Judiciary Committee  
*Changes current provisions to allow certain licensed firearm holders to carry weapons on college campuses and restricts those persons from carrying into buildings or property used for athletic sporting events or student housing.*

**SB 312** ..... Passed Senate; Assigned to House Higher Education Committee  
*Establishes minimum HOPE award amount as \$2000 per semester or \$134.00 per credit hour.*

**SR 467** ..... Passed Senate Higher Education Committee  
*Creates Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Access & Success for Homeless & Foster Youth.*

**SR 983** ..... Passed Senate Higher Education Committee  
*Creates Senate Study Committee on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.*

**SB 312** ..... Passed Senate; Assigned to House Higher Education Committee  
*Establishes minimum HOPE award amount as \$2000 per semester or \$134.00 per credit hour.*