

CAPITOL BUZZ



Georgia Tech Updates from the State Capitol
VOLUME IX, ISSUE VII – Thursday, March 24, 2016

General Assembly adjourns Sine Die



Tonight, the 155th Georgia General Assembly adjourned Sine Die. All Bills passed this legislative session now await Governor Deal's signature and have until May 3, 2016 to be signed into law.

Photo: Georgia House of Representatives

Final FY17 budget approved by House and Senate

On Tuesday morning, the House and Senate Conference Committee agreed to a final 2017 Fiscal Year budget. That afternoon, both chambers agreed to the report. The FY17 budget now awaits Governor Deal's signature.

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

- \$43.5M in new formula funding for enrollment growth

and square footage at USG institutions

- \$59.8M for USG merit-based pay adjustments and employee retention

- \$60M total in bonds and cash for Major Repair and Rehabilitation funds for USG facilities

- \$10,588,143 in new funds to Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute to support



Invest Georgia and the expansion of ATDC.

As previously reported, the Georgia Tech Library renewal project will continue forward with pre-construction work and will be reconsidered for construction bonds in the FY18 budget.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Final status of bills and resolutions from our watch list:

- HB 54** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Provides full undergraduate USG tuition grants to children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.
- HB 745** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Renews provision allowing USG institutions to carry forward a small amount of funds from one fiscal year to the next.
- HB 750** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Amended Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations bill.
- HB 751** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2017.
- HB 779** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
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; Sent to Governor**
Permits the carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by students or employees at a public university.
- HB 801** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
Revises current provisions regarding the HOPE scholarship to include certain STEM-related courses as optional rigor requirements.
- HB 859** **Passed; Sent to Governor**
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.
- HB 977** **Will not move forward this session**
Outlines provisions limiting University System tuition and student fee increases based on prior year rate of inflation.
- SB 812** **Will not move forward this session**
Establishes minimum HOPE award amount as \$2000 per semester or \$134.00 per credit hour.

Final study committees adopted:

Data Security and Privacy Study Committee

Cyber Challenge Study Committee

Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless & Foster Youth Study Committee

Higher Education Affordability Study Committee