Today marks the thirty-sixth legislative day.

The final version of the amended FY 2018 budget was passed by both chambers and signed by Governor Deal on March 9th.

That day, the House passed its version of the FY 2019 budget. It is now under consideration in the Senate.

The General Assembly will adjourn Sine Die on March 29th. Look out for the last issue of Capitol Buzz with final updates!

Students serve as “Ramblin’ Reps”
This year, the Student Government Association established a new student group dedicated to advocating for Georgia Tech at the state level. Eleven students were selected as “Ramblin’ Reps” during the fall semester and have worked to further their understanding of the legislative process and advocate on behalf of the student body. Created by SGA Vice President of External Affairs, Evan Gillon, the Reps have visited the Capitol several times this session to engage in the legislative process. Photo by Tom Hightower.

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget passes House of Representatives
On March 9th, the House of Representatives passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget including Georgia Tech and University System of Georgia priorities. A report on the priorities included in the budget is below:

- $30.6 million in bonds to construct phase two of the Price Gilbert/Crosland Tower Library Renewal Project
- $5 million in bonds for dedicated equipment for the Georgia Advanced Biomanufacturing Center at Georgia Tech
- $51 million in new Formula Funding for the USG
- $60 million in bonds for Major Repair and Rehabilitation funds for the USG

The House budget also retained the new funds included in the Governor’s budget recommendation to the Georgia Student Finance Commission to increase the HOPE scholarship award amount by 3%.

The FY19 budget is now under consideration in the Senate Appropriations committee.
Updates on bills and resolutions from our watch list:

HB 683 ............................................................. Passed; Signed by Governor
Amended Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill.

HB 684 ............................................................. Passed House; Assigned to Senate Appropriations
General appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2019.

HB 700 ............................................................. Passed Senate Veterans, Military, & Homeland Security
Expands current service cancelable educational loans to include graduate degree programs.

HB 951 ............................................................. Passed Senate Economic Development
Establishes the Center for Rural Prosperity and Innovation at the University System of Georgia.

SB 315 ............................................................. Passed House Judiciary Sub-Committee
Establishes new provisions related to unauthorized computer access and penalties.

SB 339 ............................................................. Passed House Judiciary
Establishes requirements for free speech policies for institutions of the University System.

SB 348 ............................................................. Assigned to House Public Safety
Reduces campus police jurisdiction from 500 yards to 500 feet beyond university property.

SB 357 ............................................................. Passed; Sent to Governor
Establishes the Health Coordination and Innovation Council.

SB 405 ............................................................. Assigned to House Higher Education
Provides criteria for grants for certain eligible students with demonstrated financial need who are enrolled in an institution of the University System of Georgia.

SR 821 ............................................................. Passed House Economic Development
Recognizes Augusta and Savannah as official innovation corridors.

SR 950 ............................................................. Adopted
Commending University System of Georgia Outstanding Scholars on Academic Recognition Day 2018.