House Passes Amended FY 2012 Budget

The House of Representatives recently voted 159-0 to pass the amended budget for fiscal year 2012. The amended budget totaled $18.5 billion, including $1.7 billion in state funds for the University System of Georgia. This reflects an anticipated 2 percent reduction for all state agencies. House Bill 741, the budget bill, will now head to the Senate for consideration. It has been assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee chaired by Sen. Jack Hill (R-Reidsville).

The Appropriations Committee will analyze the bill and the full Senate will vote on their version. Any differences between the Senate and House versions will be resolved in a Conference Committee. It will then be signed by the governor and enacted.

For more information on the House version of the amended FY12 budget, please visit http://tinyurl.com/AFY2012-house.

Tech Students Intern, Gain Skills at State Legislature

Introducing at the State Capitol is an enriching experience that students never forget. The opportunity teaches students about the legislative process and the importance of networking. “Not only do I interact with my chairman every day we’re in session, but I’ve had the opportunity to have great conversations with a number of representatives from the Judiciary Committee,” says Graham Goldberg, PUBP/BA, of his experiences. This year, the Office of Government and Community Relations is sponsoring eight student interns in the Georgia Legislative Internship Program.

Pictured from top left: Steven Waugh, INTA; Michael Boland, IAML; TJ Kaplan, PUBP; Madison Lee, IAML; Casey Aultman, IAML; Graham Goldberg, PUBP/BA; JJ O’Brien, PUBP. Not pictured: Sarah Nehf, INTA
This new section will feature the inner-workings of the State Capitol. Staff offices that aid Georgia Tech and our state leaders in conducting daily business will be highlighted as well as interviews with legislators regarding their roles in shaping our state.

**GOV’T AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Sen. Hardie Davis (D-Augusta), a Georgia Tech alumnus and pastor, was elected to serve in the Georgia General Assembly in 2006. He saw a need for “strong leadership with integrity” that his Augusta community sorely needed.

There are only six Georgia Tech alumni serving in the legislature, but their experiences at Tech helped them to lead the state as an elected official. Davis says his time at Tech helped to sharpen his “analytical thinking and ability to solve problems while working with a diverse group of people.” These skills are vital when thinking about the needs of a large community, like Augusta.

When not in Atlanta working to craft and analyze bills that produce solutions for the state, Davis is out in his community. This past summer, he spent a day with President Peterson touring Augusta. “We visited with manufacturing representatives in the community,” said Davis. “It was significant to come together and meet with students who intern at E-Z-GO,” a golf cart manufacturer. He said it was great to see “students help with production problems, taking co-op ideas to production of low-speed vehicles.” Davis understands this is nothing short of the high standard Georgia Tech students have set for themselves. They are “constantly making contributions across the state and country,” says Davis.

Get to Know Your State Capitol: Sen. Hardie Davis

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For more information on Sen. Hardie Davis, including sponsored legislation and committee assignments, please visit http://tinyurl.com/Sen-Davis.