Senate Passes Amended FY 2012 Budget

GOV'T AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Last week, with little debate, the Senate passed the amended Fiscal Year 2012 budget. This budget is marginally higher than the original budget to account for growth in K-12 education programs. There was little difference in the Senate and House versions, but the two chambers must reconcile their differences before the bill is sent to Governor Deal for his signature.

The legislature will now tackle the FY2013 budget.

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

GT Co-op Program Marks 100th Anniversary, Recognized in House

The Georgia Tech Cooperative Program was commended last week on its 100th Anniversary by the adoption of House Resolution 1553 in the House of Representatives. The Government and Community Relations team worked with General Assembly staff and legislators to honor the program’s growth and prestige. Regularly recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the “Program to Look For,” the co-op program has graduated scores of alumni who often become state and national leaders in industry, education and government. They stand ready to continue their path of success under the leadership of President Peterson and the GT Department of Professional Practice Executive Director Patrick Antony.

Thank You to our Capitol Jackets

We would like to say thank you to several of our dedicated Capitol Jackets members who recently shared with us a copy of their correspondence to their legislators explaining the importance of supporting our legislative priorities, particularly the requested bond funding for construction of the Engineered Biosystems Building.

Tom Gurley  Jack Widener
Daren Pietsch  Joe Anderson

Governor Deal Recognizes Pratt and Whitney for Employee Education Program

Gov. Deal commended Pratt and Whitney, as part of United Technologies Corporation Employee Scholar Day at the capitol last week. Their Employee Scholar Program is one of the most “comprehensive, company-sponsored employee education programs in the world.” Georgia Tech’s Dr. Stephen Cross, Executive VP for Research, was in attendance to congratulatge Pratt and Whitney.

HILL HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27 - 29  Legislative Day 26 - 28  Senate/House Chamber
February 28  Senate Higher Ed. Committee  310 CLOB
March 5  Legislative Day 29  Senate/House Chamber
March 7  Legislative Day 30, Crossover Day  Senate/House Chamber

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**Capitol Buzz**

- **Calls to Action**

  **In this regular section you will find specific ways that you as a Capitol Jackets member can become involved in active advocacy for Georgia Tech.**

  - **FY2013 budget** will have cleared the House by the time the next *Capitol Buzz* arrives in your inbox. Please take one last opportunity to mail or fax a handwritten note to your state representative and ask them to support the EBB funding in the House version of the FY13 budget.

  - **Please fax or mail a copy to us at (404) 894-6475.**

  Find your legislators and their district mailing addresses by visiting www.gov.gatech.edu and selecting “Find Your Legislator” from the “Important Links” on the right. We would appreciate notification of any communication with our state leaders so we can be aware of all advocacy efforts on behalf of Georgia Tech.

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**Legislative Round-up**

**Bills and Resolutions from our Watchlist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HB 741</strong></td>
<td>This bill is the amended budget for Fiscal Year 2012.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HB 742</strong></td>
<td>This bill is the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HB 863</strong></td>
<td>This bill changes certain provisions regarding state purchasing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 402</strong></td>
<td>This bill would allow the state to invest up to 5 percent of the Employee Retirement System's assets in alternative investments, like venture capital. This bill would exempt the Teachers Retirement System.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 458</strong></td>
<td>This bill would ban undocumented immigrants from attending Georgia’s public colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SR 919</strong></td>
<td>This resolution honors Georgia Tech undergraduate student Kristin Theresa Herrel as a 2012 USG Outstanding Scholar.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Get to Know Your State Capitol: House Budget and Research Office**

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**

A majority of members of the Georgia House of Representatives would argue that the House Budget and Research Office is essential for the legislature to sail smoothly toward Sine Die, the fortieth and final day of the legislative session.

According to information from Martha Wigton, Director of the House Budget and Research Office (HBR), the staff of the HBR provide objective budgetary information and policy analysis. The analysts focus on specific policy areas, allowing them to become experts in the subject matter. They offer representatives independent analysis and research for legislation and best practices.

Staff, with the help of session interns, provide support for the busy Appropriations Committee and 38 other standing committees through the year. The office works to aid committee chairman and members by summarizing, researching and tracking legislation through the entire process.

The HBR is also responsible for providing non-partisan support during the long and complex budget process. Budget analysts work closely with financial and budget personnel in state agencies to provide reports to the members.

Historical and current budgetary information, including expenditure and revenue data is kept on hand to support the process. One of their most important tasks is to analyze the governor’s budget recommendations, which they use as a basis to draft the House version and eventually help produce the final appropriations bill.

For more information on the HBR, including budget documents, please visit http://tinyurl.com/HouseBRO.

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**Capitol Buzz** is a biweekly publication of the Georgia Tech Office of Government and Community Relations distributed to the Georgia Tech Capitol Jackets on the first business day of every other week during the Georgia General Assembly’s legislative session. Email k.wright@gatech.edu to subscribe.