State Senate Passes FY13 Budget Bill

GOV’T AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The State Senate approved their version of the FY 2013 budget last week under the Gold Dome. Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill (R-Reidsville) opened his presentation by saying the “2013 budget is all about growth and funding....a growing state.” Few changes exist between the House and Senate versions.

The requested $59 million in bonds for the construction of the Engineered Biosystems Building remain intact. There was no change to the amount of formula funds ($113.8M) or funds for major repair and rehabilitation ($45M) for the University System of Georgia.

For more information on the Senate Version of the FY 2013 budget, please visit http://tinyurl.com/FY2013-Senate.

For more information on higher education funding, please visit http://tinyurl.com/FY2013-Sen-HED.

GT Public Policy Class Visits with Senators, Staff

GOV’T AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The students of Dr. Brenda Rowe’s Public Policy class visited the state Capitol earlier this month. They engaged with Senate staff and several state senators as they received an in-depth look at the inner workings of state government. Sens. Charlie Bethel (R-Dalton), Johnny Grant (R-Milledgeville) and Lester Jackson (D-Savannah) spoke with the students about important issues facing Georgia and the need for student and citizen involvement in state government.

Adam Sweat of the Senate Press Office and Angie Fiese of the Senate Research Office talked about their roles supporting the elected members in their daily business.

HILL HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26 - 27
Legislative Day 38 - 39
Senate/House Chamber

March 26
House State Institutions & Property
CLOB 515, 4:00 PM

March 29
Legislative Day 40, Sine Die
Senate/House Chamber

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Georgia Tech in the Spotlight

Marlit Hayslett, director of GTRI’s Office of Policy Analysis and Research, was recognized last week in the House for her contributions to the House Science and Technology Committee (HR 1766) and in the Senate for her work with the Science and Technology Strategic Initiative Joint Study Commission (SR 1194).

The Georgia Tech Cooperative Program was recognized by Sen. Hardie Davis on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration during the 2012-2013 school year. SR 1173 was adopted to honor the program’s rich history of growth and excellence.

Get to Know Your State Capitol: Senate Press Office

GOV’T AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Senate Press Office serves as the official center of media relations for the Georgia Senate. The staff assists members in their communications with the media and their home communities. Director Natalie Dale says “Our office has a unique role in the Senate. From ‘Tweeting’ actions on the floor of the Senate to coordinating press conferences and writing speeches, we aide the members in communicating to their constituents. This communication is essential in state government, especially as the busy legislative session progresses.”

Daily press releases regarding legislation, weekly columns about happenings at the Capitol and media advisories on upcoming events are all regular business for the staff. The staff members also write speeches for events the Senators attend in their communities.

A large part of the office’s mission is to act as a gatekeeper between members of the media and the elected leaders. Reporters use the office to connect with senators when they need an interview for a story. Staff coordinate the interviews as well as press conferences. One of the most valuable ways the press office can help senators is in preparation for interviews. From national news like Hardball with Chris Matthews to Atlanta’s WSB-TV with Lori Geary, elected leaders participate in interviews with a wide variety of outlets and thorough preparation can be the difference between a successful interview and a disaster.

In recent years, the broadcast portion of the office has grown from occasional radio messages and audio recordings of committee meetings to a full range of services. Many senators use the office to record regular YouTube messages for their constituents. Every senate press conference and event is recorded for distribution and for official record. Each press release and column released is posted on the official Senate Press Office website as well as their Twitter and Facebook feeds. These various outlets provide multiple opportunities for staying connected to the many happenings at the State Capitol.

The duties of the office go beyond drafting and recording meetings. The office staff also helps craft communication plans for complicated, sensitive or hot issues. From conception to execution, the press office can be a significant resource for the senators.

Thank You to our Capitol Jackets

We would like to say thank you to one of our dedicated Capitol Jackets members who recently shared with us a copy of his correspondence to his legislators explaining the importance of supporting our legislative priorities.

Richard Guthman

Stay Tuned for the Sine Die Edition of the Capitol Buzz!

The Legislative Round-up will return in Thursday’s final issue of the 2012 volume of the Capitol Buzz Newsletter. A complete list of the bills we are watching this session will be included.

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GETTIN’ BUZZY
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.

- Please fax a note of appreciation to the budget conferees for their support of public higher education.

Budget Conferees:
Sen. Jack Hill
Fax: (404) 657-7094
Sen. Greg Goggans
Fax: (404) 651-6768
Sen. Tim Golden
Fax: (404) 651-6767
Rep. Terry England
Fax: (404) 463-2249
Rep. Larry O’Neal
Fax: (404) 656-5902
Rep. Jan Jones
Fax: (404) 657-0498

- 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.

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