



Tech Fares Well in State Budget

The dust has now settled on the 2008 General Assembly session as we await final signature on the budget and other legislation from Gov. Sonny Perdue. The governor has until May 14 to sign the budget. The final gavel sounded April 4, 2008 with a positive outcome for the

University System and Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech officials have characterized the session as very successful in meeting the most urgent campus needs. **The approved budget includes \$10 million for planning and design of the Inno-**

vative Learning Resource Center (ILRC) and \$6.4 million for renovation of the Hinman Building. Both of these capital outlay items are at critical junctures and funding in Fiscal Year 2009 is vital. President Wayne Clough and Govern-
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Legislative Wrap-Up

The following is legislation that was of interest to Georgia Tech and the University System during this legislative session.

- HB 1183** Carry Forward Funds – PASSED
Allows University System institutions to carry forward certain revenues, such as up to 3% of tuition, from one fiscal year to the next.
- HB 815** Optional Retirement Plan changes – PASSED
Changes provisions of the ORP to allow the Board of Regents to set the contribution rate and allow different investment options for participants.
- HB 972** Management of Foundation Investments – PASSED
Increases the flexibility for investments by charitable foundations such as the Georgia Tech Foundation.
- SB492** Codification of BOR Residency Requirements – PASSED
Places Board of Regents residency requirements into the Georgia Code.
- HR 1627** Creation of Study Committee on Education – DID NOT PASS
Forms the House Committee for Making Georgia #1 in Education. This review would have included the Department of Education, the Department of Technical and Adult Education and the Board of Regents.
- HB 1156** Changes to Board of Regents, terms, duties, etc. – DID NOT PASS
Called for the dissolution of the current Board of Regents in favor of a Board of Higher Education and would change the position of Chancellor and terms, duties, etc. of board members.
- HB 1095** Georgia Innovation Center Act – DID NOT PASS
Would have created a state center to shepherd commercialization and innovation efforts.

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Rep. Bob Smith, chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, recently toured the Klaus Advanced Computing Building and met with School Chair Ellen Zegura.

President Clough Honored at State Capitol

Outgoing Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough was honored by the House and Senate during the final week of the session. Speaker Glenn Richardson had called an end to inviting honorees to the floor during the last week due to time constraints; however, he lifted the ban for President Clough because of

his many contributions to the state.

HR 1697, sponsored by Rep. Richard Royal (R-Camilla) and SR 1220, sponsored by Sen. Chip Rogers (R-Woodstock), both Georgia Tech graduates, commended, "Dr. G. Wayne Clough for his many years of efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service

to the Georgia Institute of Technology, his community, this state, and this nation; congratulate him upon the grand occasion of his appointment as Secretary of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and extend to him their most sincere best wishes for continued success, health, and happiness."

State Budget continued

ment Relations Director Dene Sheheane have expressed their appreciation to legislators for the inclusion of both of these items.

The University System of Georgia will receive full funding of its operations formula in the amount of \$114 million. It also will receive \$60 million for

Major Repair and Renovation (MRR) of facilities throughout the System's 35 institutions. University System faculty and staff are slated to receive a 2.5 percent average salary increase in January 2009.

Other Georgia Tech budget items included in

the final version are \$4.4 million in debt adjustment on the Olympic dorms, a portion of the \$36.5 million for the Georgia Research Alliance, and continuation funding for the Georgia Tech Research Institute and the Enterprise Innovation Institute.

Budget Tracking Table

Budget Item FY 2009	Governor's Recommendation (Revised)	House Recommendation	Senate Recommendation	Conference Committee FINAL*
Full Formula Funding USG	\$114 million	\$114 million	\$114 million	\$114 million
Salary Increase	2%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Georgia Research Alliance GRA Venture Fund	\$36.5 million 5.0 million	\$36.5 million 5.0 million	\$36.5 million 7.5 million	\$36.5 million 7.5 million
GTRI and EII	Continuation Funding	Continuation Funding	Continuation Funding	Continuation Funding
Innovative Learning Resource Center	0	\$10 million	\$10 million	\$10 million
Hinman Renovation	\$6.4 million	\$6.4 million	0	\$6.4 million
MRR Bonds USG	\$65 million	\$65 million	\$65 million	\$60 million
Debt Adjustment Olympic Dorms	\$4.4 million	\$4.4 million	\$4.4 million	\$4.4 million

Chancellor Davis Visits Georgia Tech

University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. recently spent the day on the Tech campus as part of his tour of all 35 institutions. He met with President Clough, his administrative team, students, alumni and faculty members to hear their concerns and offer his outlook on Georgia Tech's

future. While on campus, Chancellor Davis made the announcement that Provost Gary Schuster will serve as interim president until a new president is selected.

During the day's activities, President Clough led the chancellor on a tour of the proposed construction site for the Innovative Learning Resource Center, the exte-

rior of the Hinman Building, the interior of the Rich Building to demonstrate the need for additional information technology space, and the Solar Decathlon House. He shared lunch with state government leaders and several members of the Alumni Association Board of Trustees.

Legislation Continued

HB 1113

State Purchasing Card— PASSED

This provides additional oversight guidelines for state purchasing cards and establishes penalties for misuse.

HB 154

Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act — DID NOT PASS

Would have required all USG institutions to submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding efforts to ensure intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas.

Call to Action

The feedback we received from the faxes and letters sent to House leaders for their support of Georgia Tech in the FY 2009 Budget was positive and very well received. We request that you now contact your Senate leaders and express your appreciation for their support of Georgia Tech. A short, hand written faxed note is sufficient.

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Honorable John Wiles
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President Clough presented presidential citations to House Majority Leader Jerry Keen and Senate Rules Chairman Don Balfour at the recent Georgia Tech Advisory Board meeting. They were honored for their unwavering support of Georgia Tech.

New Regent Named

William H. "Dink" NeSmith, Jr. has been appointed to represent the Tenth Congressional District on the Board of Regents. He is the co-owner and president of Community Newspapers, Inc., an Athens-based publisher of several dozen newspapers in Georgia, Florida and the

Carolinas. Regent NeSmith is a University of Georgia graduate and is the chairman of UGA's Fanning Institute for Leadership, which promotes public service and outreach. He is the past president of the UGA National Alumni Association, the Georgia Press Association, and the

former chairman of Leadership Georgia. Gov. Perdue recently appointed him to the Commission for a New Georgia and he also serves on the board of directors of Athens First Bank and Trust, Southern Mutual Insurance Company, and Pattillo Construction Company.

Intern Profiles

Andrew Rodrigues is a fourth-year Public Policy student from Gainesville, GA. During the legislative session he worked in the House committee offices of the Banks and Banking, Retirement, and Regulated Indus-

tries. At Georgia Tech he is an equipment manager for the football team, a lifeguard at the Campus Recreation Center, and former President of Zeta Beta Tau.



Andrew Rodrigues



Jeff Barnhill

Jeff Barnhill served as an intern this

legislative session in the House Appropriations Office. Having graduated in 2005 from Collins Hill High School, Jeff is a senior at Georgia Tech majoring in Economics and International Affairs. On campus, Jeff is a tutor for the Georgia Tech Athletic Association and a

campus leader for Chi Alpha Atlanta. Jeff expects to graduate in December and plans to pursue an MBA. He would like to work for a private company or government organization focused on promoting local businesses and/or encouraging foreign firms to invest in the U.S.

Government Relations

The Office of Government Relations would like to express our thanks to all legislative network members for their support of this office and Georgia Tech during the legislative session. This is the last newsletter for the 2008 session, however the Office of Government Relations will continue to keep the Georgia Tech community updated on legislative news and higher education policy development. Meanwhile, we will send an email notification after Governor Perdue signs the budget. Please notify your colleagues and fellow alumni of the availability of our newsletter. A request to be added to the distribution list may be sent to either email address listed below.

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