



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A Briefing for Faculty & Staff of the University System of Georgia No. 1, January 9, 2006

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

Full Formula Funding, Faculty and Staff Salary Increases and Capital Outlay Projects Top USG’s Budget Priorities

The Georgia General Assembly convened today under the gold dome of the State Capitol for the start of the 2006 legislative session, as the University System of Georgia awaits the recommendations of Gov. Sonny Perdue regarding its key budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2007.

Topping this list, as always, is full funding for the University System’s enrollment growth and maintenance and operations. The Board of Regents’

formula request for FY07 generates \$55.2 million. This includes \$31.4 million in enrollment earnings (reflecting a credit-hour enrollment increase of 1.6 percent), \$6.3 million for operations and maintenance of new facilities (based on a square footage increase totaling 1.27 million square feet), \$5.4 million for increased electricity costs, and a total of \$12.1 million for increased fringe-benefit costs, of which \$8.3 million is to meet increased health-insur-

ance premiums and \$3.8 million is for new retirees.

The funding formula is critical to enabling the University System to meet student enrollment demand.

Another key budget priority is a salary increase for USG faculty and staff to allow Georgia’s higher-education system to remain competitive with faculty salaries in other states.

Other key budget enhancements in the regents’ FY07 Budget

Request are initiatives designed to meet two critical statewide needs – for an increased number of qualified health-care professionals and improved teacher education.

MRR and Capital Outlay Budget

Major Repair and Rehabilitation (MRR) funding ensures that repairs and renovations are made to guarantee the safety, security and continuing value of the state’s physical assets. The re-

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Membership of Higher Education Committees

The membership of the House and Senate committees responsible for the state’s post-secondary education legislative activities, including the affairs of the University System of Georgia, is as follows:

Senate Higher Education Committee

Chair: Seth Harp, Midland
Vice Chair: Brian Kemp, Athens
Secretary: Cecil Staton, Macon


Members:

Ronnie Chance, Tyrone
Tim Golden, Valdosta
Kasim Reed, Atlanta
Curt Thompson, Norcross
John Wiles, Marietta

See “Higher Education Committees,” Page 3...

Next Up...

- ◆ Highlights of Gov. Sonny Perdue’s budget recommendations, to be delivered to members of the General Assembly in the Governor’s State of the State Address.

The address – scheduled for 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 11, in the House Chamber – will be webcast live on gpb.org. 

Budget


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regents are seeking \$68.2 million in MRR funds with which to address major renovation and infrastructure projects and reduce the ongo-

ing backlog of needed repair and rehabilitation of facilities System-wide.

Other capital requests include funding for the first eight projects on the Major

Capital Outlay Priorities List and design funds for Projectys 9-17. The board also requested funds for 30 minor capital-outlay projects (projects under \$5 million each).

In addition, the regents have requested state funds for the construction of a Nanotechnology Research Center at Georgia Tech as a special economic-initiative project. 

Membership of Appropriations Committees

The membership of the House and Senate committees responsible for writing the budget appropriating funding to the state’s various agencies is as follows:

Senate Appropriations Committee

Chair:

Jack Hill, Reidsville

Vice Chair:

Tommie Williams, Lyons

Secretary:

Eric Johnson, Savannah

Members:

- Don Balfour, Snellville*
- John Bulloch, Ochlocknee
- Casey Cagle, Gainesville
- Vincent Fort, Atlanta*
- Johnny Grant, Milledgeville
- Bill Hamrick, Carrollton
- Seth Harp, Midland*
- George Hooks, Americus
- Brian Kemp, Athens*
- Michael Meyer von Bremen, Albany*
- Dan Moody, Alpharetta
- Jeff Mullis, Chickamauga
- Chip Pearson, Dawsonville*
- Mitch Seabaugh, Sharpsburg
- Valencia Seay, Riverdale
- Preston Smith, Rome
- Terrell Starr, Jonesboro
- Cecil Staton, Macon (ex-officio)*
- Bill Stephens, Canton (ex-officio)
- Horacena Tate, Atlanta
- Don Thomas, Dalton
- Regina Thomas, Savannah
- Steve Thompson, Powder Springs
- Ross Tolleson, Perry
- Renee Unterman, Buford

* *Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, chaired by Brian Kemp, Athens*

House Appropriations Committee

Chair:

Ben Harbin, Evans

Vice Chair-Economic Development:

Carl Rogers, Gainesville

Vice Chair-Education:

Jan Jones, Alpharetta

Vice Chair-General:

Don Parsons, Marietta

Vice Chair-Health:

Jeff Brown, LaGrange

Vice Chair-Higher Education:

Bob Smith, Watkinsville*

Vice Chair-Public Safety:

Mack Crawford, Zebulon

Secretary:

To be announced

Members:

- Amos Amerson, Dahlonega
- Terry Barnard, Glennville
- Ellis Black, Valdosta
- Mark Burkhalter, Alpharetta
- Sue Burmeister, Augusta
- Mark Butler, Carrollton
- Jill Chambers, Atlanta
- Mickey Channell, Greensboro
- Mike Coan, Lawrenceville
- Terry Coleman, Eastman
- Bill Cummings, Rockmart
- Burke Day, Tybee Island
- Douglas Dean, Atlanta*
- Matt Dollar, Marietta
- Earl Ehrhart, Powder Springs*
- Barry Fleming, Harlem*
- Johnny Floyd, Cordele*
- Ron Forster, Ringgold
- Rich Golick, Smyrna
- David Graves, Macon
- Gerald Greene, Cuthbert

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Higher Education Committees

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House Higher Education Committee

Chair: Bill Hembree, Douglasville

Vice Chair: Chuck Sims, Douglas

Secretary: Jim Cole, Forsyth

Members:

Amos Amerson, Dahlonega

Kathy Ashe, Atlanta

Ron Borders, Valdosta

Gail Buckner, Jonesboro

Mike Cheokas, Americus

Sharon Cooper, Marietta

Pat Gardner, Atlanta

Mark Hatfield, Waycross

Jane Kidd, Athens

David Knight, Griffin


Robert Mumford, Conyers

Quincy Murphy, Augusta

Calvin Smyre, Columbus

Len Walker, Loganville 

Looking Ahead:

- ◆ The General Assembly will recess for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, Jan. 16.
- ◆ Budget Hearings for state agencies will be conducted next Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 17 and 18.
- ◆ **Interim Chancellor Corlis Cummings** currently is scheduled to address the Joint Appropriations Committees on the Governor's recommendations for the University System's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, in Room 341 of the State Capitol. 

Appropriations Committees

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Bob Hanner, Parrott

Keith Heard, Athens

John Heard, Lawrenceville

Bill Hembree, Douglasville*

Calvin Hill, Woodstock

Bob Holmes, Atlanta

Penny Houston, Nashville

Carolyn Hugley, Columbus

Jerry Keen, St. Simons Island

Bob Lane, Statesboro*

Jeff Lewis, White

John Lunsford, McDonough

Judy Manning, Marietta

Chuck Martin, Alpharetta*

Howard Maxwell, Dallas

JoAnn McClinton, Atlanta

James Mills, Gainesville

Hinson Mosley, Jesup

Jack Murphy, Cumming

Larry O'Neal, Warner Robins (ex-officio)

Bobby Parham, Milledgeville

Larry "Butch" Parrish, Swainsboro

DuBose Porter, Dublin

Alan Powell, Hartwell

David Ralston, Blue Ridge

Robert Ray, Fort Valley

Stacey Reece, Gainesville

Jay Roberts, Ocilla*

Richard Royal, Camilla*

Ed Rynders, Albany

Chuck Scheid, Woodstock

Jay Shaw, Lakeland

Donna Sheldon, Dacula

Lynn Smith, Newnan

Tommy Smith, Nicholls

Vance Smith, Pine Mountain

Calvin Smyre, Columbus

Ron Stephens, Savannah

Len Walker, Loganville

Wendell Willard, Atlanta

Roger Williams, Dalton (ex-officio)

John Yates, Griffin*

* *Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, chaired by Bob Smith, Watkinsville*