



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A Briefing for Faculty & Staff of the University System of Georgia No. 7, February 20, 2006

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

Senate Adds Three Major Capital Projects to FY06 Amended Budget

The Georgia Senate recommended funding for the first three projects on the Board of Regents' Major Capital Outlay Priority List when it adopted its version of the state's Fiscal Year 2006 Amended Budget last Wednesday.

The Senate also added \$500,000 in matching state funds to establish an eminent scholar chair to be named for the late Sen. Paul Coverdell at *Georgia College & State University*. In addition, Georgia's senators allotted \$5 million to the Georgia Research Alliance to buy research equipment for *Georgia Tech's* National Center for Cancer Nanotechnology.

“Overall, the University System was treated well,” said **Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.** in a memo to members of the Board of Regents. Of the most significant change in the budget bill – the addition of the three capital projects – he said, “The Senate has followed our priorities by rec-

ommending the first three projects on our major capital list.

“The Governor has said that the General Assembly would have to find funding for Projects 1-4, which he had recommended during the last session but were not adopted by the General Assembly at that time,” Davis added. “The House of Representatives left the issue for the FY07 Budget discussion. We are pleased that the Senate has added three projects to the FY06 Amended Budget. We will work with the Governor's Office as we move forward.”

The three major capital projects picked up in the Senate version of the FY06 Amended Budget include:

- ◆ The renovation of two historic buildings housing *Georgia College & State University's* Parks Nursing/Health Science programs (the Senate added \$9.1 million for this project);

- ◆ A new facility to house the *University of West Georgia's* Health, Wellness and Lifelong Learning Center (the Senate added \$24.2 million for this project); and

- ◆ A new library and technology center for *North Georgia College & State University* (the Senate added \$18.4 million for this project).

Senators agreed with the House's decision to add \$2 million in construction funds for a new Hall County Public Library. However, four of the five public library projects the House transferred from the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget to the FY06 Amended Budget were removed by the Senate, which chose to keep \$2 million for the construction of a new Live Oak Public Library.

Altogether, the Senate's recommendations add nearly \$61 million to the amended capital budget.

The Senate also voted to provide \$2 million for the state's public libraries to purchase books and other materials.

In addition, Georgia senators endorsed the House's plan to set aside \$410,000 to offset the loss of scholarship revenue to *North Georgia College & State University* resulting from the deployment of NGCSU cadets to the Georgia National Guard because of the Gulf War.

“We appreciate the work our funding partners are doing to ensure the overall health of the University System,” said **Thomas E. Daniel**, senior vice chancellor for external activities and facilities.

The FY06 Amended Budget now has moved to the Conference Committee on the FY06 Amended Budget, which began meeting today, Feb. 20. Representatives of the House and Senate will work together on this committee to resolve the differences between their two versions of the legislation. 🏛️