



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A Briefing for Faculty & Staff of the University System of Georgia No. 7, February 22, 2010

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

Halfway Home, General Assembly Breaks for Budget Talks

The General Assembly reached the halfway point of the 2010 Legislative Session when it adjourned on Thursday, Feb. 18, which was Day 20.

Feeling the need to focus tightly on balancing the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, the lawmakers have opted to recess for the next two weeks – until March 8 – to allow the Appropriations committees and subcommittees time to work out solutions to cover the shortfall. Doing so will also allow the legislature to reassess the state’s financial situation once the February revenue report has been released.

The General Assembly therefore adopted a new schedule for the next three weeks (see box at right).

In the meantime, with the session halfway over, here is an update on selected legislation of significance to the University System of Georgia:

Carry-Forward Bill

House Bill 1128 permits the University System of Georgia (USG) and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to carry forward from one year to the next a percentage of the annual tuition revenues they collect.

Status: The bill was unanimously voted out of the House of Representatives’ Higher Education Committee on Tuesday, February 16, and now rests in the House Rules Committee for consideration. No further action can be taken until the legislature returns from its recess on March 8.

Gun Bill

House Bill 615 would allow guns to be carried into most public buildings, including college campuses, and at public gatherings.

Status: The bill is still before the House Judiciary (Non-Civil) Subcommittee. There has been no notice of a future hearing.

Senate Bill 308 is companion legislation to HB 615.

Status: This bill still rests before the Senate Special Judiciary Committee. The first hearing for this legislation was held on February 15, and **Tom Daniel**, senior vice chancellor for external affairs for the University System, presented testimony to the committee as to why the System opposes this legislation. 🏠



Revised Session Schedule

Monday, Feb. 22 through	
Friday, March 5.....	In adjournment
Monday, March 8.....	Legislative Day 21
Tuesday, March 9.....	Legislative Day 22
Wednesday, March 10.....	Legislative Day 23
Thursday, March 11.....	Legislative Day 24
Friday, March 12.....	In adjournment
Monday, March 15.....	Legislative Day 25
After this, the schedule has yet to be determined.	