



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A Briefing for Faculty & Staff of the University System of Georgia No. 2, January 21, 2010

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

## Governor Urges Lawmakers: ‘Do Hard Thing Now’ for State’s Future

**G**ov. Sonny Perdue delivered his final State of the State address on Jan. 13 before a joint session of the General Assembly. Breaking with tradition by leaving his budget recommendations for another day (see story, p. 2), Perdue urged the legislature to make difficult decisions now in order to prepare the state for a better future.

Looking back through history, the Governor noted that these are not the most difficult times the nation has faced.

“What stands out most is each generation’s willingness to pick up the yoke and move our nation forward,” Perdue said. “It has not always been pretty, but what has never happened in this nation is for one generation to drop the yoke and wait for the next to pick it up. And neither have they weighted them down with undue burdens.

“I believe I stand with most Georgians,

when I say I am for doing with a little less if it means a lighter burden and a brighter future for the next generation,” the Governor continued. “There is honor in sacrifice, and we must never pervert it into the disdain of dissatisfaction.”

The Governor also noted the importance of cooperation amongst elected officials, including a specific call to leave partisanship behind in these trying economic times. He compared office holders to a patchwork quilt of beliefs, ideas and personalities that all combine to create a single team, Team Georgia.

“Georgians didn’t elect us to see a rugby match with a scrum on every decision,” Perdue said. “When we don’t work together, our jerseys get so muddy the people can’t even distinguish which team we’re on. And we all come out with mud on our faces.

“The folks back home have entrusted

us to put principles and progress over partisanship and they have asked us to do the hard thing now for the future of this state,” he added. “And that means drilling down into every area of government to redefine our responsibilities and commitments going forward. We have to take this mindset and apply it to every corner of state government.”

The Governor thanked state employees for their service through challenging times. He noted that state employees are the reason Georgians remain satisfied with their government,

despite budget challenges.


“Wherever you serve, I want to recognize and thank all of you for putting in the extra effort and the extra hours to meet this challenge. Responsibility and workloads have increased and you have met the call with excellence,” Perdue said. “That doesn’t go without notice. I notice your good work. Your bosses notice it. Your fellow Georgians notice it. Thank you!”

Turning back to the legislators before him, Perdue concluded, “It would be easy to sit

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### Governor Recommends \$113M in Formula Funds for USG

**G**ov. Sonny Perdue delivered very good news to the University System of Georgia (USG) on Jan. 15 with his recommendation to reserve \$113 million in the state’s Fiscal Year FY 2011 Budget for the USG’s formula funds, which support enrollment growth and the cost of maintaining and operating new space added by the System.

“This is excellent news and demonstrates the Governor’s strong support for higher education, even in these difficult times,” said **Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.** “This funding will help our institutions meet the enrollment demand, as well as to maintain quality.” 

## Governor's Recommendations Include \$900,000 for Physician Ed Expansion

**G**ov. Sonny Perdue released his recommendations for the University System of Georgia's (USG) Fiscal Year 2010 Amended and FY 2011 Original budgets on Jan. 15. The recommendations yield an FY 2011 budget totaling \$2.08 billion (including federal stimulus funds), as opposed to an FY 2010 budget of \$2.17 billion (including stimulus funding) for the System.

In addition to the \$113 million in formula funds he recommended to support the enrollment growth and new space added to the University System (see p. 1), the Governor proposed that legislators earmark \$900,000 in FY 2011 for the USG's ongoing efforts

to expand physician education in Georgia.

"This recommendation is in line with our request and will allow us to continue the momentum in this important strategic initiative," said **Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr.**

In addition, Perdue recommended \$1.9 million in redirected funds to enable the USG's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP) to assist NCR in relocating its worldwide headquarters from Ohio to Georgia via leadership-development training. NCR's move represents a major economic-development opportunity for Georgia.


Looking at the FY 2010 Amended and FY 2011 Original Budget recommendations, the

Governor proposes to create a net reduction of \$147 million in the System's base state appropriation (8.2 percent of formula funds) for FY 2010, even after taking into account an additional \$47 million in federal stimulus funds received. The FY 2010 cuts will continue into FY 2011, along with an incremental 1.7 percent (\$30 million) reduction, for a total decrease of \$177 million (9.9 percent).

The state has honored its five-year commitment to the **Medical College of Georgia's** (MCG) research initiative, a mission-related special-funding initiative that has played a key role in MCG's research growth and development. Perdue accordingly recommended

discontinuing this special funding, effectively reducing MCG's budget by \$5 million.

The news regarding the USG's Capital Outlay Budget is as follows. The Governor's recommendations total \$111 million for System campuses and \$10 million for the Georgia Research Alliance. The former includes:

- \$60 million in Major Repair and Rehabilitation (MRR) bond funds;
- Equipment funding for facilities at **College of Coastal Georgia, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Tech, Gainesville State College, Macon State College, University of Georgia** and **Southern Polytechnic State University**;
- Infrastructure projects at **Columbus State University** and **Georgia Tech**;
- Construction funding for projects at **Armstrong Atlantic State University** and **East Georgia College**; and
- Design funding for projects at **Albany State University** and **University of Georgia**. 

### Governor

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here and dread the tough decisions that lie ahead. But now is not the time to retreat.

Now is the time to dig in even deeper and do the hard things so that our children and grandchildren will know a better Geor-

gia. I know we can achieve great things together. And I believe we will!"

For the full text of the Governor's speech, [click here](#). 

### Session Schedule for Coming Week

Monday, Jan. 25 ..... Legislative Day 5  
 Tuesday, Jan. 26 ..... Legislative Day 6  
 Wednesday, Jan. 27.... Legislative Day 7  
 Thursday, Jan. 28 ..... Legislative Day 8  
 Friday, Jan. 29..... In adjournment