

2008 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

The Governor, House and Senate have each developed their own plans to support the capital outlay and operating needs of higher education and the Institute. Whereas the House bond package contains \$4.2 million for a new wet lab at the ESL and \$1.2 million for a shoreline erosion project at the Gloucester Point campus (identical to the Governor's proposal), the Senate bond package contains a single \$7.2 million project for a consolidated scientific research building at Gloucester Point. In addition, the House budget freezes \$140 million of recent capital projects, including the \$1.4 million VIMS concrete pier project that was funded in last year's session.

Both budgets provide new general fund support for core operations of the Institute. The Senate budget over the next biennium includes \$175,000 in support and the House budget doubles that increase to \$350,000. In addition, the House provides \$400,000 and four positions over the biennial period to restore state support for the VIMS Wetlands Advisory Program.

How You Can Help

Please contact (e-mail or call) the budget conferees -- listed below -- who are now meeting to reconcile differences in the House and Senate budgets. *Contact with the conferees should be made no later than the morning of Tuesday, March 4.*

The messages should be:

- Retain \$1.4 million previously approved for the concrete pier project. This project is scheduled to be under contract by the end of March with construction well underway before the fall hurricane season.
- Approve funds for all three of VIMS top capital projects in 2008-10: 1) \$4.2 million for the Eastern Shore Seawater Laboratory, 2) \$1.2 million for a shoreline erosion project, and 3) \$7.2 million for a consolidated scientific research building.
- Retain the additional base operating support to address inflationary increases.
- Retain the new support that will restore the Wetlands Advisory Program.

Official list of Conference Committee on the Budget with phone numbers (all 804 area code) and E-mail addresses:

<u>House of Delegates</u>	<u>FAX (804) 786-6310</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Lacey E. Putney	I-Bedford	(804) 698-1019	DelLPutney@house.state.va.us
Phil Hamilton	R-Newport News	(804) 698-1093	DelPHamilton@house.state.va.us
Kirk Cox	R-Colonial Heights	(804) 698-1066	DelKCox@house.state.va.us
Johnny Joannou	D-Portsmouth	(804) 698-1079	no email
Beverly Sherwood	R-Frederick	(804) 698-1029	DelBSherwood@house.state.va.us
Clarke Hogan	R-Halifax	(804) 698-1060	DelCHogan@house.state.va.us

Senate

Chuck Colgan	D-Prince William	(804) 698-7529	district29@sov.state.va.us
Edward Houck	D-Spotsylvania	(804) 698-7517	district17@sov.state.va.us
Janet Howell	D-Fairfax	(804) 698-7532	district32@sov.state.va.us
Richard Saslaw	D-Fairfax/Alexandria	(804) 698-7535	district35@sov.state.va.us
William Wampler	R-Bristol	(804) 698-7540	district40@sov.state.va.us
Walter Stosch	R-Henrico	(804) 698-7512	district12@sov.state.va.us

FAX (804) 698-7651

Finally, if you want to send a copy to the patrons for the VIMS budget amendments, their contact information is listed below:

Harvey Morgan	R-Gloucester	(804) 698-1098	DeHMMorgan@house.state.va.us
Linwood Lewis	D-Accomac	(804) 698-1000	DeLLewis@house.state.va.us
Tommy Norment	R-Wmsburg/Gloucester	(804) 698-7503	district03@sov.state.va.us
Ralph Northam	D-Norfolk/Eastern Shore	(804) 698-7506	district06@sov.state.va.us

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carolyn Cook, Director of Planning and Budget (ccook@vims.edu) at 804-684-7003 or me at 804-684-7103.

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