



# House Appropriations Committee 2007 Session Budget Amendment Form

Proposed by Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_

(Print Name)

(Signature)

Requests can be made by completing this form and submitting it to the House Appropriations Committee staff office on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the GAB.

Agency Name: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Agency 208)

Increase/Decrease

Use this section to indicate whether your amendment would require an Increase or Decrease in appropriated funds.

General Fund (GF) monies are derived from taxes levied on individual and corporate income, sales, public service corporations, and insurance companies. The General Fund is the major source of support for many State functions.

Nongeneral Fund (NGF) monies consist of special fund revenues, higher education operating monies (tuition, special revenues and federal grants), highway maintenance and construction funds, trust and agency funds, and federal trust funds.

Funding

First Year

Second Year

- Increase
- Decrease

GF \$ 0  
 NGF \$ 0

GF \$ 4,200,000  
 NGF \$ 0

Employment Level

Use this section to indicate if a change in the employment level of the agency is desired or necessary. The employment level is the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions dedicated to a specific program activity or agency. If you are unsure, leave the space blank.

Employment Level

First Year

Second Year

- Increase
- Decrease

GF FTE 0  
 NGF FTE 0

GF FTE 0  
 NGF FTE 0

Explanation of Amendment

Please explain the purpose of your amendment or attach explanatory materials. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF REQUESTING AN AMENDMENT as it ensures the staff has adequate background information to draft your budget amendment request.

EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENT: (Explain or Attach Materials)

This request is for a \$4.2 million General Fund planning authorization for the Geosciences Discovery Center. This project is envisioned as a 93,300 gross square foot scientific laboratory facility to support interdisciplinary science instruction and research focused on geosciences programs that are growing in enrollment and extramural research funding.

**Please return this signed, original form (and the co-patron signature sheet if applicable) to the:  
House Appropriations Committee Staff, 9th Floor, General Assembly Building  
Telephone: (804) 698-1590 FAX: (804) 698-1802**

Abbitt	Hogan	Oder
Albo	Howell, A.T.	Orrock
Alexander	Howell, W. J.	Phillips
Amundson	Hugo	Plum
Armstrong	Hull	Poisson
Athey	Hurt	Purkey
BaCote	Iaquinto	Putney
Barlow	Ingram	Rapp
Bell	Janis	Reid
Bowling	Joannou	Rust
Brink	Johnson	Saxman
Bulova	Jones, D.C.	Scott, E. T.
Byron	Jones, S.C.	Scott, J. M.
Callahan	Kilgore	Shannon
Caputo	Landes	Sherwood
Carrico	Lewis	Shuler
Cline	Lingamfelter	Sickles
Cole	Lohr	Spruill
Cosgrove	Marsden	Suit
Cox	Marshall, D. W.	Tata
Crockett-Stark	Marshall, R. G.	Toscano
Dance	May	Tyler
Dudley	McClellan	Valentine
Ebbin	McDougle	Waddell
Eisenberg	McEachin	Ward
Englin	McQuigg	Wardrup
Fralin	Melvin	Ware, O.
Frederick	Miller, J.	Ware, R. L.
Gear	Miller, P.	Watts
Gilbert	Moran	Welch
Griffith	Morgan	Wittman
Hall	Nixon	Wright
Hamilton	Nutter	
Hargrove	O'Bannon	

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**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY  
(Agency 208)**

**Capital Expenses  
Budget Amendment Proposal**

	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>Biennium</u>
Additional Funds Requested:			
General Fund	--	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000
Nongeneral Fund	--	--	--

Title: Planning: Geosciences Discovery Center

Justification Statement:

This request is for a \$4.2 million General Fund planning authorization for the Geosciences Discovery Center. This project is envisioned as a 93,300 gross square foot scientific laboratory facility to support interdisciplinary science instruction and research focused on geosciences programs that are growing in enrollment and extramural research funding.

A key component of the University's strategic plan is to advance the strengths of the instruction and research programs in the physical, biological, and life sciences. The program for this project, the Department of Geosciences, embodies the cornerstones of the scientific arenas mentioned above, including biology, physics, and chemistry. The department is the highest ranked department in the College of Science at Virginia Tech, according to the prestigious National Research Council rankings, and has been for over 20 years. It has been ranked as high as 17th in the country and in the top ten of all public universities. It now has the potential to be a top 10 department among all universities and is in the process of significantly increasing its numbers of faculty (from 22 to 30) and graduate students (from 55 to 90) to reach that goal.

The geosciences department is currently housed in Derring Hall, a 37 year-old building never specifically designed for geoscience research. The building lacks critical infrastructure needed for state-of-the-art analytic instrumentation and laboratory environments. Further, the laboratories in Derring Hall are very difficult and unreasonably expensive to bring up to modern construction, utility, and safety standards so that instruments may be properly housed.

This envisioned Geosciences Discovery Center is required to make substantive, quality improvements to international class programs within the geosciences and related fields. The facility will also serve members of other physical, biological, and resource science departments that have a natural connection to the geosciences program. The synergy between geosciences and these other groups is a naturally powerful one, and this new facility will support a generation of cooperation among all of these important disciplines.

Timing is critical for this project because the program needs the modern laboratories to accomplish their growth and program enhancement strategies. The University has a \$12 million pledge for the construction component of the project in anticipation of a state funded planning authorization, and the private donors expect to see some forward movement with their pledges. This General Fund planning authorization will allow the University to develop full design documents with strong pricing estimates to support a future request for construction authorization. The construction funding component will include significant private support for the overall project costs.

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