



LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Thirteen / Number One • March 5, 2007

Governor's Budget Recommendations

Each year the Governor releases his budget recommendations to the Florida Legislature prior to the start of the regular session. Following is a summary of the university system's portion of this year's \$71 billion budget recommendations:

Operating Budget Summary: The Educational & General budget would increase 6.7% over the current year base appropriation. This excludes the \$80 million for the World Class Scholars, Centers of Excellence, and Science and Engineering Research & Development Programs.

- **Access to Higher Education - \$101.2 M**
 - This will fund 6,738 new FTE students entering the state university system this

fall. Of the \$101.2 million, \$72.2 million is from state funds and the balance (\$28.9 million) from tuition paid by the students. This would fund new growth at 100% of the Board's funding model. (BOG Request – 10,153 FTE students including over-enrollments plus new growth; \$151 M (\$108 M state funds & \$43 M tuition)

- **Major Gift Matching Program - \$45 M** (nonrecurring) (same as BOG request)
- **Tuition** – no tuition increase for resident undergraduate students. (consistent with BOG current policy)
- **Salary Increases** – universities are included in administered funds for a 2.44% increase effective October 1. There are no increases recommended for Health Insurance.

- **21st Century Act**
 - World Class Scholars - \$20 M (non-recurring)
 - Centers of Excellence - \$40 M (non-recurring)
 - Science & Engineering Research & Economic Development Programs - \$20 M (non-recurring)

Fixed Capital Outlay Summary:

- **\$386 million** from PECO for projects on the BOG approved 3-year list. Proviso states that funds shall be allocated to first year projects as specified in the State University System 3-year PECO project list approved by the BOG. (This is **\$84 million, or 18%**, less than the **\$470 million** approved by the BOG. The \$84 million is redirected towards K-12 Class Size Reduction)
- **\$47 million** from PECO for maintenance, repair and renovations

FSU PECO Projects:

Life Sciences Teaching & Research Center (C,E)	11,500,000
Neuroscience and Reading Institute (C,E)	21,250,000
Utilities/Infrastructure/Capital Renewal/Roofs (P,C,E)(P,C,E)(P,C,E)	8,500,000
College of Education Building Expansion (C)(C,E)	8,900,000
Ruby Diamond Renovation (C)(C,E)(C,E)	12,430,000
Johnston Building Remodeling (P)(P)(P,C)	2,000,000
Land Acquisition (S)	3,000,000
TOTAL	67,580,000

- \$14 million for Courtelis Facilities matching

Other Items of Interest:

- **Stem Cell Research Grant Program - \$20 M**
 - Competitive grants would be available for medical research. Institutions and universities could explore possible treatments and cures for degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and spinal cord injuries.
- **Bright Futures - \$372 M**
 - Includes an increase of \$25.7 M. This program will serve approximately 159,000 students.

Money. The lack of it, in particular, is the prevailing concern for capitol leaders and pundits this Legislative Session, especially compared to the last few years. According to state revenue estimators, revenues have been trending downward steadily since November. This is not good news for the SUS, or for other entities dependant on state funding. Consequently, the lobbyists for each of these will spend the next 60 days begging, pleading and cajoling legislators for recurring or even non-recurring state dollars to fund their priority projects.

Florida State University's top priorities this year include \$11.7 million for the Pathways of Excellence endeavor, full enrollment growth funding, \$67 million in Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds, and the authorization of a technology fee, to name just a few. Competition for these dollars will be stiff, though, particularly since legislators are contemplating a doubling of the homestead exemption, an increase to the \$147 million that was devoted to K-12 teacher bonuses last year, a reconfiguration of the PECO formula so that more dollars could be allocated toward the K-12 class-size amendment, and a boost in funds for the ever-popular Bright Futures Scholarship.

Governor Charlie Crist (R, FSU Alumnus), however, released his \$71 billion budget last month, and includes a near 7 percent increase in education funding compared to last year (see related story).

Tomorrow, **Tuesday, March 6**, legislators begin this 60-day journey to balance the coming year's state spending plan, and pass a few pieces of (hopefully good) legislation. I will attempt to keep you up-to-date and informed on a weekly basis of the major issues throughout the session.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments or are in need of copies of bills and their analysis. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or via e-mail at kdaly@mailers.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

Spotlight on Bills

SB 848, First Generation Matching Grant, by Senator Al Lawson (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum) changes matching fund requirements from a one to one match to a three to one match of private contributions and clarifies funding based on enrollment of full-time resident undergraduates. The bill also allows funds to be carried across fiscal years. The bill has been referred to the Higher Education and Higher Education Appropriations Committees. A similar bill in the House, **HB 287, by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami)** has been referred to the Postsecondary Education Committee.

SB 850, Univ. Student Fees/Technology Fee, by Senator Al Lawson (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum) authorizes state universities to charge up to a \$10 per credit hour technology fee. The bill requires certain procedures for implementing the fee and provides limits for such fee and specifies exceptions to fee limits. Additionally, the bill provides that the students will help determine the expenditure of funds collected pursuant to the fee and provides that any funds unexpended at end of fiscal year remain available for expenditure during next fiscal year. The bill has been referred to the Higher Education and Higher Education Appropriations Committees. A companion in the House has not yet been filed.

HB 905, State University Student Fees, by Representative Charles Dean (R – Inverness, FSU Alum) authorizes the establishment of an academic enhancement fee to support academic enhancement programs approved by the Board of Governors of the State University System. The bill has been referred to the Schools & Learning Council and the Policy and Budget Council. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 1710 by Senator Steve Oelrich (R – Gainesville, FSU Alum)** has been filed.

HB 289, Textbook Affordability by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami) exempts certain textbooks from tax on sales, use, and other transactions and provides requirements and definition. The bill prohibits certain actions of community college or state university employees regarding student purchase of required textbooks and requires student notification of assigned textbooks. Additionally, the bill requires the adoption of specified policies and practices to minimize the cost of textbooks. The bill has been referred to the Postsecondary Education Committee. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 2492 by Senator Mike Haridopolis (R – Melbourne)** has been filed. Also filed are **HB 215 by Representative Dennis Baxley (R – Ocala, FSU Alum)**, **SB 254 by Senator Stephen Wise (R – Jacksonville)**, and **SB 1456 by Senator Daniel Webster (R – Winter Garden)**.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

The ethics law passed in 2005 prohibits state legislators from accepting gifts of any type, including food and drink from a “lobbying entity. Florida State University is a lobbying entity and therefore cannot give legislators anything of value. A number of groups on campus invite legislators to speak at meetings that include lunch or dinner. Because of this new law, it is now necessary to let the University’s Office of Governmental Relations know when you or your department/organization intend to invite a legislator or member of their staff to campus.

In addition, legislative committee members periodically ask faculty or staff to attend committee meetings, or to formally respond to questions about various issues. The new ethics law, however, makes it imperative that you notify Governmental Relations Assistant Vice President **Kathleen Daly – at 644-4453 or kdaly@mailers.fsu.edu** - of such requests.

Both of these notifications – a faculty or staff member has been asked to appear before a legislative committee, or a legislator or a member of their staff will be on campus – can also be made by submitting a Legislative Contact Form, which can be found online at www.fsu.edu/~govrel. **Please submit this form prior to appearing before the Legislature, or inviting a legislator or legislative staff member to campus.** If you have trouble accessing this form please contact Governmental Relations at 644-4453. Thank you for your cooperation.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. until completion

Wednesday, March 7, 2007
12:50 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

HOUSE SESSION

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Friday, March 9, 2007
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

JOINT SESSION

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

FSU Day at the Capitol

FSU Day at the Capitol has become a popular tradition during the legislative session and a wonderful opportunity to bring Florida State University to our friends in the Legislature. With this event, we emphasize the University’s long and proud heritage and bring attention to the extraordinary accomplishments of faculty and students. This year, **FSU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007.**

Please join us for a day filled with informative displays in the plaza level and second floor rotunda from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, as well as appearances by FSU celebrities, performances by the Pep Band, cheerleaders and the Flying High Circus during the lunch hour in the courtyard beginning at **11:30 a.m.** Refreshments will be available for all to enjoy. Please contact Toni Moore at 644-3847 if your department has not yet signed up for a display.

Mark your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you in your Garnet and Gold on **March 22.**



Office of GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Kathleen M. Daly
Assistant Vice President

Toni Moore
Senior Administrative Assistant

Chris Adcock
Office Manager

(850) 644-4453
www.fsu.edu/~govrel