



LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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With three weeks of this 2006 Session completed, the budget negotiations continue to move at a rapid pace. Both the House and the Senate Education Appropriations Committees have released their preliminary versions of the education budget proposals. **(See related story).** This week, each chamber's Ways and Means Committee will make further adjustments to the spending plans, in preparation for a review by their full chambers next week. The good news is that money is abundant this year - especially non-recurring dollars - and legislators expect to have more money to appropriate after the next Revenue Estimating Conference report is released in a few weeks. The bad news is that the proposed enrollment-growth funding for state universities is still quite low. However, the Chancellor, University Presidents, Board of Governors and SUS lobbyists are all working to increase these important recurring dollars.

Tomorrow, the House Colleges and Universities Committee will debate the 300-page Proposed Committee Bill on University Governance, and decide the fate of more than 100 amendments to this proposal. The bill will then receive a number and move to the House Appropriations Committee for further review, most likely next week. There is still no companion bill in the Senate. Other legislation of interest to state universities moved along last week, for better or worse **(see Spotlight on Bills).**

Florida State University hosted the Board of Governors meeting last week at the Center for Professional Development. As was widely reported, the BOG approved the establishment of two new medical schools, at the University of Central Florida and Florida International University. It is now up to the Legislature to officially create those schools in statute and fund their development.

Our annual FSU Day at the Capitol will take place this **Wednesday, March 29.** You are invited to join President Wetherell and others from the University, including the FSU Pep Band, Cheerleaders, and Circus in honoring FSU legislators, staff and friends at the Capitol. As in the past, this event promises to be a Garnet and Golden day.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments, or if you need bill copies and their analysis at **(850) 644-4453** or via e-mail at **kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.**

Kathleen

Senate Education Appropriations Committee Releases Preliminary Budget

The House Education Appropriations Committee released the committee's education budget last week. Below is a side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate proposals, to date.

	Senate	House
Increase over 2005-06 total approp.	\$ 189,629,953	\$279,627,558
% increase over 2005-06	6.12%	9.03%
Tuition		
(2% increase instate undergraduate	\$ 32,732,267	\$ 32,790,711
5% increase for all others)		
Utility Increases	\$ 20,745,221	\$ 20,745,221
FSU Medical Education	\$ 3,265,423	\$ 3,265,423
Targeted degree production – Nursing	\$ 0	\$ 0
Targeted degree production – Nursing Masters and PhD	\$ 3,574,500	\$ 0
Targeted degree production Teaching	\$ 0	\$ 0
Targeted degree production Engineering	\$ 0	\$ 0
Matching Gifts	\$ 64,167,915	\$ 64,167,915
High Quality Academic Faculty – FSU	\$ 0	\$ 0
Ft. Pierce Clinical Training Site – FSU	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 3,375,000
Immokalee Clinical Training Site - FSU	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,200,000
Panama City Clinical Training Site - FSU	\$ 0	\$ 1,000,000
Daytona Beach Clinical Trng. Site – FSU	\$ 0	\$ 3,375,000
Plant Operations & Maintenance for New Space	\$ 5,726,324	\$ 5,726,324
Ratio of In-State/Out-of-State Students -	\$ 32,720,780	\$ 26,100,000
SUS Public Broadcasting	\$ 11,825,469	\$ 11,178,811
SUS CARD Centers	\$ 6,261,600	\$ 7,518,000
FSU CARD Center	\$ 980,000	\$ unknown
Campus Compact – FSU	\$ 0	\$ 250,000

PECO and pay raise information has not yet been determined in either budget.

FSU TRUSTEES *to be* CONFIRMED

FSU Trustees Derrick Brooks, Harold Knowles and Richard McFarlain are expected to be confirmed tomorrow during the Senate Education Committee meeting.

Spotlight on Bills

SB 2434 — Travel To Terrorist States by Senator Mike Haridopolos (R – Melbourne), prohibits use of state or non-state funds made available to state universities and community colleges to implement, organize, or direct activities related to or involving travel to terrorist states. The bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday. The identical bill in the House, **HB 1171 by Representative David Rivera (R – Miami)**, passed the Community Colleges and Workforce Committee and will next be heard in Education Appropriations soon.

SB 2066, Byrd Alzheimer’s Center by the Education Committee revises public-records exemption for certain records re patients of Johnnie B. Byrd, Sr. Alzheimer’s Center & Research Institute. The bill repeals the funding for the Byrd Alzheimer’s Center and the FSU School of Chiropractic. The bill will be heard in the Education Committee tomorrow. The House companion, **HB 7063 by Representative David Rivera (R – Miami)** passed the Health Care Committee last week and is now in the State Administration Council.

HB 1027, Biomedical Research by Representative Adam Hasner (R – Delray Beach, FSU Alum) authorizes use of funds in the Biomedical Research Trust Fund for purposes of William G. “Bill” Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program. The bill authorizes the Legislature to annually appropriate funds to James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program, Fla. Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease, & Johnnie B. Byrd, Sr., Alzheimer’s Center & Research Institute, etc. Additionally, the bill repeals funding for the School of Chiropractic at FSU. The bill will be heard tomorrow in the Health and Families Council. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 1826 by Senator Burt Saunders (R – Naples)** is now in the Government Efficiency Appropriations Committee.

HB 6001 — Travel Expenses/ Reimbursement by Representative Marti Coley (R- Marianna, FSU Alum), revises the per diem, subsistence, and mileage rates for purposes of reimbursement of travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons. The bill has been referred to the Fiscal and State Administration Councils.

The Senate companion, **SB 428 by Senator Al Lawson, Jr. (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum)** is now in the Ways and Means Committee.

Bill Update

SB 1566 — Building & Facility Designations by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R – Ormond Beach), authorizes boards of trustees of state universities to name campus buildings and facilities for living persons. The bill requires the Board of Governors to adopt uniform policies and reserves the right of the Legislature to name buildings or facilities. The bill passed the judiciary committee last week and is now in the Education Appropriations committee. There is no House companion at this time.

HB 205 — Student Financial Assistance by Representative Dick Kravitz, (R – Orange Park), provides legislative intent to expand access to postsecondary education and reduce student indebtedness. The bill requires each state university and community college to report information on funds used to provide financial assistance to M-1 and F-1 visa students. The bill further defines the term “eligible Florida resident” and provides for redirection of funds to provide additional need-based financial assistance to eligible Florida residents. The bill passed the House last week. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 458 by Senator Stephen Wise (R – Jacksonville)** has been referred to the Education, Judiciary and Education Appropriations committees but has not yet been heard.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

The new ethics law 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 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@govrel.fsu.edu**— of such requests.

Both of these notifications— that a faculty or staff member has been asked to appear before a legislative committee, or that a legislator or a member of their staff will be on campus – can also be made by submitting a Legislative Contact Form 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 the form please contact Governmental Relations at 644-4453. Thank you for your cooperation.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

Wednesday, March 29, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

HOUSE SESSION

Wednesday, March 29, 2006,
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Office of

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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