University Policy Bills

Both the House and the Senate are considering legislation that would implement new policies at the universities pertaining to excess hours, non-degree seeking students and block tuition. **Senate Bill 2884** passed out of the Senate Education Committee last week and is awaiting a hearing in the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The House companion, **HB 1781**, has passed the K-20 Committee and is also awaiting an appropriations hearing. Below is a comparison of those University Finance Policy Bills:

**Senate**

**SB 2884 by Senator Lisa Carlton (R - Osprey)**

Incentive funding: establishes programs/policies that lead to increased degree production in areas of critical need. Critical need areas are defined as: Teaching, Nursing, Engineering, and Information Technology.

By October 1, the BOG shall develop a multi-year forecasting mechanism for identifying future areas of critical need and develop a methodology for allocating incentive awards.

Truth in Billing statement: provides every student a fees and billing statement clearly identifying amount of funding the state and university pay on behalf of the student to reflect the true cost of a university education. Allows the statement to be electronically transmitted.

Block Tuition: Each University BOT shall develop a block tuition and fee policy. Policy shall not increase costs to students or the state for students participating in Bright Futures or Florida Prepaid.

Non-degree Seeking Students: BOT shall establish tuition & fee policy for non-degree seeking students requiring students to pay the full cost of instruction per credit hour. Exemptions include:

1. Courses required for professional licensure, certification, or recertification.

**House**

**HB 1781 by the Education K-20 Committee**

Incentive funding: establishes programs/policies that lead to increased degree production in areas of critical need. Critical need areas are defined as: Teaching, Nursing, Engineering, Science and Technology.

By October 1, the BOG shall develop a multi-year forecasting mechanism for identifying future areas of critical need and develop a methodology for allocating incentive awards.

Truth in Billing statement: provides every student a fees and billing statement clearly identifying amount of funding the state and university pay on behalf of the student to reflect the true cost of a university education. Allows the statement to be electronically transmitted.

Block Tuition: Each University BOT shall develop a proposal to establish a block tuition and fee policy and other incentive policies such as differential fees by program area, location of course offering, or time of offering to decrease the time required to complete a degree. Proposal must describe the impact on costs to student, and the state with respect to Bright Futures and the Florida Prepaid program. Proposals must be submitted by December 15, 2004 to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the BOG and the Governor.

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Senate

2. Active duty military personnel.
3. Retired military personnel within 2 years after retirement.
4. Full-time state employees when tuition and fees are paid by state agency or political subdivision.

Excess Hours: Students in excess credit hours needed to graduate by more than 15 percent shall pay full cost of instruction.
Exemptions include:
Hours earned through an acceleration mechanism, remedial courses, military science courses, hours required for dual major, hours required to achieve teacher certification, hours taken by active duty military, hours in courses which a student withdrew due to medical or personal hardship reasons.

Inclusions are:
Courses repeated and/or failed, courses dropped after drop-add, hours earned at another institution and accepted for transfer.

Matching Gifts: Revises the matching gifts program as follows:
$100,000 to $499,999 — 25% match
$500,000 to $999,999 — 50% match
$1 mil to $3 mil. — 75% match
$3 mil or more — 100% match
Bundled gift: Not more than $1 mil. — 50% match
Maximum single gift to be matched in a given year $3 mil. Maximum total for matching is $15 mil. To be paid in equal amounts of $3 mil per year over 5 years. Effective July 1, 2005

Naming: Names the entrance pavilion at the John & Mabel Ringling Museum of Art the “John M. McKay Visitors’ Pavillion.”

House

Non-degree Seeking Students: BOT shall establish tuition & fee policy for non-degree seeking students requiring students to pay the full cost of instruction per credit hour to be submitted by December 15, 2004 to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the BOC and the Governor.
Exemptions include:
1. Courses required for professional licensure, certification, or recertification.
2. Active duty military personnel.
3. Retired military personnel within 2 years after retirement.
4. Full-time state employees when tuition and fees are paid by state agency or political subdivision.

Excess Hours: The BOT shall develop a policy for students in excess credit hours needed to graduate by more than 15 percent. Policy may include assessment by the institution of a surcharge in addition to regular tuition and fees not to exceed 100 percent of full cost of instruction.
Exemptions include:
Hours earned through an acceleration mechanism, courses taken that do not count toward any degree, military science courses, hours required for dual major, hours required to achieve teacher certification, hours taken by active duty military, hours in courses which a student withdrew due to medical or personal hardship reasons.
Inclusions are:
All courses taken at the state university where student is seeking a degree, courses repeated and/or failed, courses dropped after drop-add, hours earned at another institution and accepted for transfer, Effective 2004-05 academic year.

Articulated Acceleration Mechanisms: Awards credit for dual enrollment courses completed at an independent college or university for inclusion in dual enrollment or early admission program.

Resident Status: Defines resident and non-resident and provides for reclassification of non-resident as resident under certain circumstances.

Out-of-State Tuition: Non-resident student tuition and out-of-state fees must be sufficient to defray the full cost of each program.

Student Fees: Authorizes an increase in the Capital Improvement Fee — by no more than $.50 above established amount.

Matching Gifts: The matching gifts program is revised as follows:
$100,000 to $999,999 — 50% match
$1 mil to $3 mil. — 60% match
$3 mil or more — 85% match
Bundled gift: Not more than $1 mil. — 50% match
Maximum single gift to be matched in a given year $3 mil. Maximum total for matching is $15 mil. To be paid in equal amounts of $3 mil per year over 5 years.

(Senate Bills cont’d from page 1)

Due to the legislative holiday break, Monday, April 5 - Friday, April 9, there are NO SCHEDULED MEETINGS this week.

Therefore, there will not be a Legisletter published on Monday, April 12 due to the lack of activity to report.
HB 85 Sunshine Security Act, by Representative Mitch Needelman (R - Palm Bay), creates the Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation Task Force within the Governor’s office to study and make recommendations on the effects of consolidating law enforcement functions in state agencies and commissions under a unified command. The bill was heard in the Public Safety Appropriation’s Subcommittee on Friday. There is no Senate companion at this time.

SB 124 Domestic Security Initiatives Chief, by Senator Paula Dockery (R - Lake-land), requires security assessments of all buildings, facilities, & structures owned or occupied by state agencies, state universities & community colleges, by employees and within existing resources of same. Additionally, the bill requires the chief to provide local governments with the results of these security assessments. The bill has passed the Senate. The House companion, HB 1771, by the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee is now in the Appropriations Committee.

SB 364 Accelerated High School Graduation Option, by Senator Lee Constantine (R - Altamonte Springs), revises the requirements for selecting an accelerated high school graduation option. The bill further amends the required courses for a 3-year standard college preparatory program and deletes provisions authorizing student to select 3-year standard career preparatory pro- gram. The bill also revises the requirements for grades that must be earned to participate in an accelerated program and provides for default to standard graduation requirements in certain circumstances. The bill has been placed on the Calendar to be heard by the full Senate. There is no House companion at this time.

HB 1019 Centers of Excellence by Representative Adam Hasner (R - Delray Beach, FSU Alumnus), provides for terms of members appointed to the Emerging Technology Commission and delays the expiration of the Florida Technology Development Act. The bill requires the Florida Research Consortium, Inc., to report to the Emerging Technology Commission the criteria for reviewing proposals for a center of excellence and requires the commission to notify state universities and the State Technology Office of approved criteria for submitting a proposal for a center of excellence by a specified date. The bill passed the State Administration Committee last week. The Senate companion, SB 1900, by Senator Ron Klein, (D - Delray Beach), is now in the Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

HB 471 Community Colleges/Teacher Institutes, by Representative Heather Fiorentino (R- New Port Richey), authorizes postsecondary institutions to create “educator preparation institutes” to provide: professional development instruction to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification or recertification requirements; instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties; instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training require-ments; and, instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers. Additionally, educator preparation institutes may offer alternative certification programs specifically designed for non-education major baccalaureate degree holders to enable program participants to meet the educator certification requirements. The bill was amended and passed from the Education K-20 committee last week. A similar bill in the Senate, SB 1804 by Senator Jeff Atwater, (R - North Palm Beach), has been referred to the Education and Appropriations Committees.