

# LegisLetter

## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Even though lawmakers have been meeting in Tallahassee since last fall, the 2004 Legislative Session officially opens on Tuesday, March 2. Early speculation is that they will complete their work in the allotted 60 days, then head home to campaign for re-election.

Once again, the budget will be the focal point of the session. Because it is an election year, both the House and the Senate will work to avoid the quarrels that led to overtime and special sessions in 2003. While there appears to be more money available this year, the bulk of it is one-time, non-recurring revenue. Most of the new, recurring dollars will be used to cover higher Medicaid costs and class-size reduction expenses. This is not good news for higher education. Further, the House Education Appropriations Committee has already voted to cut the SUS general revenue budget by 3.5 percent, or \$62.7 million, which would mean a decrease of \$10 million to FSU's base budget. Protecting this base from these and further reductions will be one of our top priorities this session.

Other priorities for Florida State University include securing \$10 million in non-recurring funds to upgrade the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, and funding for several capitol outlay projects on campus (**see related story**). We will also be tracking many substantive bills, including the Board of Governors glitch bill (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

Governor Bush will deliver his annual State of the State Address to the Legislature at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday. The Florida Channel will provide live coverage of the event, the Democratic response to the Governor's address, and live interviews with legislative leaders. The Florida Channel is available in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla Counties from midnight to 6:00 pm daily on FSU 4 (Comcast cable channel 4).

As always, please feel free to contact me at (850) 644-4453 or via e-mail at [kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu) if you need copies of bills and their analyses, have questions or concerns, or would like us to remove your address from the mailing list for this newsletter, which is distributed each Monday of the nine-week session.



### FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY Quick Summary of Highest Priorities

- I. National High Magnetic Field Laboratory: Florida State is seeking \$10 million in non-recurring dollars for laboratory upgrades. **Governor recommends \$5.4 million in non-recurring funds**
- II. Enrollment Growth: Fund the Board of Governor's request of \$87,113,564 in recurring dollars for enrollment growth, including \$4.315 million for the FSU College of Medicine. **Governor recommends \$68 million including \$4.3 for the College of Medicine**
- III. 2004-05 PECO  
Psychology Center — \$11.750 million, Life Sciences Teaching and Research Center — \$45.5 million (will house the School of Chiropractic Medicine), Classroom Building — \$15 million, Land Acquisition — \$7 million, Johnston Building — \$1.6 million. **The Governor recommends \$8.6 million for the SUS PECO.**
- IV. Tuition Policy: Use tuition to supplement General Revenue funding. **The Governor's recommended tuition policies include: A 7.5 percent increase in tuition for all in-state undergraduates, 12.5 percent increase offered to all others generating \$76 million. No Board of Trustees approved discretionary tuition increases are recommended, however the Governor offers individual Boards of Trustees the opportunity to establish block tuition policies for full-time students.**
- V. Major Gifts Matching: Fund the Board of Governor's Budget request recommendations of \$60 million in non-recurring funds. **Governor recommends \$25 million**
- VI. Florida Center for Reading Research: \$1.6 million in recurring funds. **Governor funds \$1.6 million in non-recurring funds.**
- VII. School of Chiropractic: \$9.5 million in recurring funds. **Governor recommends \$5.4 million in non-recurring funds.**

#### Other Substantive Statewide Issues of Importance to FSU

- I. Technology Fee of \$100 per semester to provide access to the internet and all university electronic information sources.
- II. Glitch Issues including direct deposit of funds, pretax benefits, deferred compensation, consolidated financing of deferred-payment purchases, workers compensation, determination of in-state residency status, UMIFA, and major gifts.

# Spotlight on Bills

**HB 229, Student Social Security Numbers, by Representative Nan Rich (D - Sunrise)**, prohibits state universities and community colleges from using social security numbers as identification or to publicly post or display social security numbers in any manner. The similar bill **SB 1218 by Senator Dave Aronberg (D - Greenacres)** was filed in the Senate.

**HB 327, Herbert F. Morgan Building, by Representative Loranne Ausley (D - Tallahassee)** designates the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Building as the "Herbert F. Morgan Building." The bill also designates student life center at FSU as "Reubin O'D. Askew Student Life Center," and the new university residence hall as the "Sherrill Williams Ragans Hall. **Senator Al Lawson (D - Tallahassee)** has filed the identical bill, **SB 714**, which passed out of the Senate Education Committee and is ready for a floor hearing.

**HB 341, Student Financial Assistance, by Representative Dick Kravitz (R - Orange Park)**, limits the amount of financial aid available to foreign students attending a Florida University. **SB 1724 by Senator Stephen Wise (R - Jacksonville)** is the Senate companion.

## BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S BILL

Proposed legislation codifying the powers and duties of the Board of Governors, created by a 2002 constitutional amendment will be the center of much debate this session. Each university president was asked to comment on the draft legislation last week. "It just basically took all the power and vested it in the Board of Governors," said President TK Wetherell, justifying his counter proposal giving greater autonomy to the individual university boards of trustees. Some suggestions proposed by Florida State University include: making university boards of trustees responsible for annually evaluating presidents without oversight from the Board of Governors as well as allowing the trustees and presidents control of everyday operations such as hiring, contracting, and budgeting. The proposal has not yet been filed, but is expected to become a Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) in both the House and the Senate soon.

## Legislative Contact Form

Periodically the Legislature requests faculty or staff to attend committee meetings or formally respond to questions about certain issues. FSU faculty and staff asked to appear before committee must notify **Kathleen Daly at 644-4453/ kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu** by submitting a legislative contact form **prior to making an appearance.**

The form can be found on the Governmental Relations website at [www.fsu.edu/~govrel](http://www.fsu.edu/~govrel). If you have trouble accessing this form please contact Governmental Relations at 644-4453 for a hard copy. Thank you for your cooperation.

## SESSION SCHEDULE

### SENATE

Tuesday, March 2  
10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.  
Wednesday, March 3  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

### HOUSE

Tuesday, March 2  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, March 3  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday, March 4  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday, March 5  
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
*if needed*

### JOINT

Tuesday, March 2  
11:00 a.m. - until completion of agenda



### OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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