



There were enough activities during the third week of session to fill two full weeks! Both the House and the Senate deliberated over hundreds of amendments to their respective budgets on Friday (**see related story**). These budgets are now on their way to the conference committee process, which has *never* been done this early in the session.

Monday, March 16th was a Garnet and Gold Day at the Capitol as hundreds of legislative staff, lobbyists, legislators and supporters participated in FSU Day. We had beautiful weather and by all accounts it was another successful event. Thank you to those of you on campus who helped make this day special.

FSU alumnus **Steve Geller (D, Hollywood)** was sworn into the Senate after winning his special election last week. He replaced **Senator Ken Jenne**, another FSU alumnus, who resigned to become the Broward County Sheriff.

Several important bills either passed or are continuing to move through the process (**see Spotlight on Bills**). Please feel free to contact me if you would like copies of bills and their analysis, or if you need any other information about the 1998 Legislative Session. I can be reached at 644-4453, or by e-mail, kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen Daly

Budget Differences

The House and Senate gave tentative approval to their versions of the \$44.8 billion state spending plan last Friday. This year's education allocation is "strong and healthy" according to House Education Appropriations Sub-Committee Chairman Bill Sublette. Of all General Revenue funds, 53.4 % are earmarked for education, up from 52.8% last year. The differences between the House and Senate budgets, of course, will be worked out in the conference committee. Highlights include:

	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>
	(in millions of dollars)	
Enrollment		
Growth	11.4	23
Enrollment		
Specials	14.7	-0-
Law Enforcement		
800 MHz	-0-	4
Challenge Grants	34	30.8
Public/Private		
Partnership	14.5	2
Gender Equity	6.9	-0-
P O & M	7.5	3.6
Distance Education	4.2	-0-

Additionally, the House funds several special projects specific to Florida State University, while the Senate as yet does not. A final vote will be taken in both houses next week, thereby sending their budgets to conference.

Session Schedule March 23-27, 1998

Senate:
Wednesday, March 25, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

House:
Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 am - 12 noon
Wednesday, March 25, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Spotlight on Bills

House Honors the Florida State University School of Theater with Resolution

Representative Marjorie Turnbull sponsored House Resolution 9331 which honors the 25th Anniversary of the Florida State University School of Theater. The resolution recognizes and applauds the program for its extraordinary contributions to the cultural and educational excellence of the State of Florida. HR 9331 was read and adopted on the House Floor on March 12th. The Senate has a similar resolution, Senate Resolution 2098, sponsored by Senator Charles Williams (FSU Alumnus) which will be heard on the Senate floor next week.

Mutual Aid Agreement

The House Committee on Law Enforcement and Public Safety is sponsoring House Bill 4219. A state university that employs or appoints university police officers in accordance with Florida Statute 240.268, may enter into mutual aid agreements between one or more law enforcement agencies. The university police officers must comply with the minimum standards established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission and Florida Statute Chapter 943. When the university lends assistance pursuant to a mutual aid agreement, all powers, privileges, and immunities apply to the agency provided the requested services are coordinated by the affected local law enforcement executive in charge of the law enforcement operation. HB 4219 was introduced last week and has not yet been referred to a committee.

Student Fees Update

The House Committee on Colleges and Universities approved legislation on Thursday that would limit student fees, but would provide for a new technology fee that would go into effect this fall. The technology fee would be used by university presidents to increase student access to computers. The proposed fees would look like this, under the new legislation:

Proposed Fees

For all students:

Tuition	\$1,409.70
Financial Aid Fee	\$70.20
Capital Improvement fee	\$73.20
Building Fee	\$69.60
Technology Fee	\$75.00
Total	\$1,697.70

FSU students also will pay:

Activity and service fee	\$202.20
Health Fee	\$159.00
Athletic Fee	\$100.50
FSU Total Bill	\$2,159.40

Totals are for this fall, for a Florida resident undergraduate who is taking 30 hours a year. Tuition amount is based on a 7-percent increase now included in the House education budget.

Chart Source: Tallahassee Democrat
Friday, March 20, 1998

BILLS OF INTEREST UPDATE

CS/CS/SB 742 (Sponsored Research by Senator Charles Clary, Destin) 03/17 Passed out of Senate Education Committee, now in Senate Ways & Means Committee. There is a similar bill in the House: CS/CS/HB 3351 (Representative Mike Fasano, New Port Richey) passed favorably as a Committee Substitute to the Committee Substitute by the House Finance & Taxation Committee last week.

HB 755 (Management Efficiency by Representative Lee Constantine, Altamonte Springs) 03/17 Passed on the House Floor, has been referred to the Senate Education Committee. Similar bills in the Senate: SB 160 (Senator George Kirkpatrick, Gainesville) and SB 1358 (Senator John Grant, Tampa and FSU Alumnus) will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on 03/24.

PCB CU 98-02 (House Colleges & Universities Naming Bill) 03/12 Now House Bill 4159, has been referred to House Governmental Operations Committee.

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