



Conferees were named and the conference process began during the fifth week of the legislative session. Senate President Toni Jennings and House Speaker Dan Webster have asked the conferees to complete their work by Thursday, April 9, in time for the Passover/Easter break. Any differences in the budget that remain after the ninth will be "bumped up" to the leadership. A conference completion date has been set for April 16<sup>th</sup> which will give the legislators more than enough time to print and distribute the budget and adhere to the 72-hour "cooling-off" period before taking a final vote on the finished product.

Last week - the midpoint of the session - the House Colleges and Universities Committee met for the last time this session to discuss changes to the Bright Futures statute (see related story). The Senate Education Committee, meanwhile, will continue to meet for a few more weeks. The Florida State Medical School bill passed the House Education Innovation Committee by a vote of 6 to 2 last Thursday. It was amended to expand our one-year PIMS program to two years.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions and appreciate your input during this busy time of year. I can be reached at **644-4453** or by e-mail: **kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu**.

Kathleen Daly

## 1998 Education Conferees Announced

Senate President Toni Jennings and House Speaker Daniel Webster announced the 1998 Education Conferees on Tuesday. The conferees are appointed to work out the differences between the House and Senate budgets.

### Senate

Chair: Senator Jim Horne (R, FSU alumnus)  
 Senator Charles Clary (R)  
 Senator Anna Cowin (R)  
 Senator Mario Diaz-Balart (R)  
 Senator John Grant (R, FSU alumnus)  
 Senator Betty Holzendorf (D)  
 Senator George Kirkpatrick (D)  
 Senator James Scott (R)

### Alternates

Senator Ron Klein (D)  
 Senator William Turner (D)

### House

Chair: Rep. Bill Sublette (R)  
 Rep. Janegale Boyd (D, local delegation member)  
 Rep. Cynthia Chestnut (D, FSU alumna)  
 Rep. Lee Constantine (R)  
 Rep. Tom Warner (R)  
 Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D)  
 Rep. Steve Wise (R)

### Alternates

Rep. Faye Culp (R)  
 Rep. Evelyn Lynn (R)  
 Rep. Marjorie Turnbull (D, local delegation member)

## Quote from the chair...

"I think we, as a state, have to continue to have a top-notch university system, not just for parents and their children, but because it means so much for our economic development."  
 -Rep. Bill Sublette, House Education Conference Committee Chair

Source: Tallahassee Democrat

### Session Schedule April 6-April 10, 1998

<b>Senate:</b>	
Wednesday, April 8	10:00am-1:00pm
Thursday, April 9	9:45am-12:30pm
<b>House:</b>	
Tuesday, April 7	1:00pm-4:15pm
Thursday, April 9	9:45am-1:00pm



# Spotlight on Bills

## Bills of Interest Update

**House Bill 4459: Student Fees by the House Colleges & Universities** passed on March 26. Now, has been placed on the House Education Appropriations calendar and will be heard this week. There are two comparable bills: **HB 1871 (House Colleges & Universities)** which was withdrawn from further consideration from House Education Appropriations on March 4, and **SB 1928 (Senator John Grant, FSU alumnus)** which has been referred to the Senate Education and Ways & Means Committees. This bill would limit student fees, but would provide for a new technology fee that would go into effect this fall.

**CS/SB 1358/160: Management Efficiency by Senator John Grant, FSU alumnus, and Senator George Kirkpatrick** passed favorably with two amendments out of the Senate Governmental Reform and Oversight Committee and is now in Senate Ways & Means. There is a similar bill in the House, **HB 755 (Representative Lee Constantine)** passed out of the House and has been referred to the Senate Education, Governmental Reform & Oversight, and Ways & Means Committees. The management efficiency bill will give universities more flexibility and accountability in certain administrative areas, such as property acquisition and record-keeping and reporting requirements by the BOR and universities.

**HB 4159: Naming Bill by the House Colleges & Universities** passed unanimously favorable by the House Governmental Operations committee on 03/30. The similar bill in the Senate, **CS/SB 752 (Senate Education Committee)** passed out of the Senate Education committee on March 31 and will be heard on the Senate floor next. **HB 4159** contains language that names the recording studio donated to Florida State University by Echelon International Development Corporation, as "Critchfield Hall."

## Bills of Interest Update Continued

**HB 4175: FSU Medical School by Representative Durell Peaden** was heard in the House Education Innovation Committee last Thursday and was amended to expand our Program in Medical Science (PIMS) from a 1 year to a 2 year program. There is a similar bill in the Senate, **SB 2022 (Senator W.D. Childers, FSU alumnus)** which has been referred to the Senate Education, Health Care and Ways and Means Committees.

## Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program was established to reward Florida high school graduates who merit recognition of high academic achievement. The Bright Futures Program consists of three types of awards—the Florida Academic Scholarship, the Florida Merit Scholarship, and the Florida Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship. More than 40,300 students are attending college this year on these scholarships, that pay 75 to 100 percent of their tuition and fees. Last year the legislature appropriated \$70 million in lottery dollars to pay for the awards. With 65,000 students expected to be awarded Bright Futures Scholarships next year, the costs will balloon to approximately \$120 million. Because of these costs, the House Colleges and Universities committee proposes to make changes to the law. Specifically, **PCB CU 98-06** would boost the required SAT scores to 1100. Currently the required SAT score is 970. There is no similar legislation in the Senate. **PCB CU 98-06** passed favorably in the House Colleges and Universities committee last week.

**Florida State University  
Governmental Relations  
Kathleen Daly, Director  
110 Westcott Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306**