

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Twelve / Number One • January 22, 2002

If you are thinking, "Hey wait a minute, it can't be time for the 2002 Legislative Session to begin yet," you would normally be correct. This year, however, because it is a reapportionment year, the session begins in January - today actually - January 22. Once every ten years, the Florida constitution mandates an early start to the regular 60-day session to get a jump on redistricting. The regular session will end this year on March 22, but don't hold much hope that a budget will be ready by then. Ten years ago, during the last reapportionment session, legislators finally wrapped up their budget and other work in mid-July.

In addition to reapportionment, legislators are faced with tight budget issues, again, or still. The last revenue estimate in November revealed a \$200 million increase in new dollars which is expected to cover all of education, health care, criminal and juvenile justice needs, and to match federal mandates such as the Medicaid program. As a remedy to these budget woes, **Senator John McKay (R.-Bradenton, FSU Alum)** has proposed a constitutional amendment which would lower the sales tax rate to 4.5 percent, from its current 6 percent, and would close many tax exemptions on services such as attorney's fees, lawn care, and advertising. While the Senate has advanced this proposal, the House and the Governor are still studying the concept.

2002 should be an interesting year for education as well, especially higher ed. The Legislature will be rewriting the school code, and, as stated in our priorities (**see related story**), we are hoping they complete the path of governance to our boards of trustees that they began during last year's session.

As always, I'll be sending these updates weekly during the regular session. Also, the Florida Channel is providing gavel-to-gavel coverage of this year's session from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, for the duration of the session. This live, unedited coverage can be found on Comcast Channel 6 in Tallahassee (or on cable access channels across the state) or on the Internet at www.wfsu.org.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or if you need copies of bills and their analyses at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu or (850) 644-4453.

Kathleen

Governor Recommends 2002-03 Budget

In the proposed budget recommendations he released last week, Governor Jeb Bush announced a 6.19% increase to the State University System budget over the revised base of the 2001 special session, which equates to \$139,657,863. Therefore, the net change from the 2001-2002 original base budget is a reduction of \$24,508,934 or a 1.01% decrease.

2002-03 budget recommendations include:

- New space: \$2.4 million
- Enrollment Growth: \$48.2 million, which includes \$17 million from student fees and approximately \$2 million from general revenue, which supports an additional 4,768 FTE. Of this, \$19.4 million is available to be used at the discretion of the University Boards of Trustees.
- A 5% tuition increase for all students and a discretionary increase of up to 5% for graduate and out-of-state students to be raised within the guidelines issued by the Florida Board of Education. The University Boards of Trustees will determine the use of these funds.

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- A continued phase-in of \$5.7 million for the FSU Medical School.
- A transfer of \$7.5 million in general revenue to the Bright Futures Program.
- \$10.4 million in performance bonus funding is recommended instead of employee pay raises.
- No funding for the matching gifts program, although there is \$187,000 available in recurring funds.
- \$735,000 for the FSU (College of Communication) Autism Center.
- \$535,102 for the FSU Multidisciplinary Educational Services Centers.

Fixed Capital Outlay

The governor’s budget recommendations for the Division of Colleges & Universities’ fixed capital outlay projects include a total of \$190,254,240 from the Public Education Capital Outlay Trust Fund. This included \$29,693,595 for the remodeling, renovation, maintenance, and repair of buildings, \$115,560,645 for facilities contained on the Three-Year Project Priority List, and \$45,000,000 for Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Projects.

Recommended PECO projects for FSU include:

Building Envelope Improvements–Phase II	\$ 2,350,000
Montgomery Gym Remodeling	\$ 1,000,000
Psychology Center	\$ 4,330,000
Sarasota–Utilities/Infrastructure	\$ 7,300,000

FSU Legislative Priorities Established

The Florida State University Board of Trustees met last week and adopted a slate of legislative priorities to advance to the 2002 Florida Legislature. These priorities are consistent with what Secretary Jim Horne and the Florida Board of Education have been formulating since last fall. The Florida State University legislative priorities are:

- I. A devolution of authority:
 1. Restructure our budget process to align ourselves with the community college model of budgeting
 2. Request a non-state agency status change

- II. Tuition Flexibility–A 5 percent across-the-board tuition increase, and a discretionary increase of up to 5 percent for graduate students and out-of-state students, as recommended by the Governor.
- III. A support of the adoption of a system-wide admissions deposit policy, which will assist the universities in their enrollment management.
- IV. A continuation of the commitment to the Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Program and the Major Gifts Trust Fund Program.
- V. Opposition to legislation that centralizes the university police departments under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The University Police Chiefs, along with key members of the University administration, believe that a combined university state police department removes the necessary and valuable local control of policing efforts on our campuses.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE

Tuesday, January 22 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 Joint Session 11:00 AM until completion of agenda
Thursday, January 24 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

HOUSE

Tuesday, January 22 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 Joint session 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Spotlight on Bills

HB 353, Universities and Community Colleges by Representative Leslie Waters (R-Largo, FSU Alum) specifies that “the student body president of the main campus” as opposed to “a student body president” is a voting ex-officio member of state university boards of trustees. The bill transfers the authority to approve the internal procedures of student government associations from the university presidents to the university boards of trustees with some exceptions. The authority over disciplinary actions and certain review processes, including budgetary reviews, remains with the university presidents. The bill outlines requirements for the adoption and approval of the internal procedures. The bill has passed the House Colleges and Universities committee and has been referred to Rules, Ethics and Elections and the Council for Life-long Learning. A Senate companion bill is forthcoming.

SB 538, Educational Scholarship Loan Program by Senator Don Sullivan (R-Sarasota) creates the JEB (Jumping on the Educational Bandwagon) Scholarship Loan Program, in an effort to attract high school and college students to the teaching profession. The loan amount would be equal to full time tuition and fees, plus an educational allowance, and would be given to a student enrolled in an approved teacher

prep program at a state or independent postsecondary institution. The bill requires the Dept. of Education to develop summer institutes that would focus on multicultural education, classroom management and teacher leadership, and would introduce them to the inner workings of school districts. It allows for part-time and summer enrollment, and requires school districts to provide paid internships for seniors. Outlines eligibility requirements and repayment provisions. The bill has been referred to the Senate Education Committee, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and the Appropriations Committee. The House companion, **HB 69 by Representative Heather Fiorentino (R-New Port Richey)**, has also been referred to relevant committees.

HB 505, Law Enforcement/Consolidation/FDLE by Representative Mitch Needelman (R-Palm Bay) transfers sworn law enforcement positions within specified state agencies to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The bill caps the transfer of management positions at 10%, providing for the elimination of any management positions in excess of the cap. HB 505 would centralize the university police departments under the FDLE in Tallahassee. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 1404 by Senator Howard Futch (R-Indianalantic)**, creates the Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation Study Commission to study the potential effects of consolidating law enforcement under the Department of Law Enforcement. The commission must submit its study by March 1, 2003.



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