

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Nine / Number Eleven • May 19, 2003

The Governor called the Legislature back into session last week for the sole purpose of passing a state budget. But as the special session progressed last week, House and Senate members expanded their tasks to include Medical Malpractice, Workers' Comp-reform bills, the Higher Education "glitch" bills, and Board of Governors issues, including a non-refundable admissions deposit, and the capping of university president's salaries to \$225,000 of state funds. Legislators also expect to hear charter-school legislation, healthcare and environmental bills, and a host of other issues this week (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

The primary goal of legislators, of course, is to pass an annual state budget, and it appears this will happen early next week. Florida House and Senate conferees were appointed on Friday, and they had their first meeting yesterday (Sunday) afternoon. These members are expected to meet again today, and "bump up" any of their unresolved issues to the Appropriations Chairs by Tuesday.

While there are fewer differences in the university budget than what was proposed a few weeks ago, those differences are significant. The House allows universities the flexibility to raise tuition as much as 12.5%, decoupling tuition from the Bright Futures and Pre-paid Tuition programs. The Senate, meanwhile, sets tuition at 7.5% across the board, but allows each institution the ability to raise an addition of up to 10%, for all levels except in-state undergraduates (**see related story**).

Situations continue to change rapidly, and this circumstance makes it difficult to keep you current. Regardless, please feel free to contact me if you have specific questions about the budget or substantive legislation. This particular Special Session is scheduled to end on **Tuesday, May 27**, and I intend to distribute a newsletter about this Session's final outcomes on Wednesday or Thursday of next week. As always, I can be reached at (850) 644-4453, or by e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

Budget Highlights

The House and Senate budget conferees are negotiating compromises to the many differences in their spending plans today. The House cuts our base budget by about 4%, the Senate by 2.2%. Both off-set their cuts with tuition increases. Neither fund enrollment growth or the facilities match program. Below are the comparisons of the major SUS budget issues as of Monday:

	Senate	House
Cuts to Universities	(\$34 mil.)	(\$57.4 mil)
Cuts to FSU	(\$5 million)	(approx. \$8 million)
Bottom line funding to universities	\$1.522 billion	\$1.522 billion
Tuition	7.5 % across the board raises \$37 million, plus up to 10% discretionary increase except for in-state undergraduate	provides up to 12.5% increase to be determined by university board of trustees. (12.5% would offset cuts)
Enrollment Growth	no funding provided	no funding provided
Challenge Grant Matching gifts	\$43 million	no funding provided
Courtelis Facilities Matching	no funding provided	no funding provided
Flexible nonrecurring lottery	no funding provided	\$40 million
Medical School	\$22,765,514 cuts (\$420,860) for a 2.2% cut	\$23,186,374 full funding
PECO		
Building Envelope Improvements – Phase II (C)	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Utilities/Infrastructure	\$4,300,000	\$4,300,000
Science Building. Support system (P,C)	0	\$4,000,000
Marine Sci. Research & Training Ctr. (C, E)	0	\$3,500,000
Life Sciences Teaching & Research Ctr. (P)	0	\$2,700,000
Psychology Center	\$4,000,000	0
Panama City Campus Expansion	\$300,000	0
Panama City Campus Academic Bldg.	\$500,000	0

Spotlight on Bills

HB 49A - Florida K-20 Education Code by **Representative David Mealor, (R-Lake Mary)**. The school code “glitch” bill corrects or clarifies education issues including: employees of state universities in a definition for purposes of a pretax benefits program; employees of state university boards of trustees in definition for purposes of the deferred compensation program; re-designating a developmental research school as a lab school; deleting reference to Chancellor of the State University System; authorizing state universities to continue to participate in the consolidated equipment financing program; deleting a reference to the Articulation Coordinating Committee; conforming university oversight of student government; and numerous issues relating to K-12 and community colleges. This bill is set for the final passage in the House this week. There is no Senate companion.

HB 51A – State Universities by **Representative David Mealor, (R-Lake Mary)** and **SB 36A** by **Senator Lee Constantine, (R-Altamonte Springs)**. Enacts the constitutional amendment creating a seventeen member Board of Governors; provides membership and terms of office; revises membership of university boards of trustees and terms of office; authorizes nonrefundable admissions deposit; limits the annual remuneration of state

university presidents to \$225,000 from public funds; provides certain limitations on benefits for state university presidents under FRS, etc. This bill is set for the final reading in the House this week. The Senate companion bill, **SB 36A, by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)**, has passed the Senate Education Committee and is ready to be heard by the full Senate.

HB 55A - Charter Schools by **Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala, FSU Alum)** and **SB 38A** by **Senator Daniel Webster (R-Winter Garden)**. Amends statutes governing Charter schools requiring that every charter school in the state of Florida initiate the following guiding principles:

- ▶ Achieve the high standards of student accomplishment while supplying parents with the flexibility to pick among various educational opportunities within Florida’s public school system.
- ▶ Advocate enhanced academic progress and financial effectiveness by associating responsibility with accountability.
- ▶ Provide parents with sufficient information on whether their child is reading at grade level and whether the child gains at least a years worth of learning for every year spent in the charter school.

Every charter school in the state of Florida will fulfill the following purposes:

- ▶ Enhance student learning and academic progress
- ▶ Enhance learning instances for all students, with specific importance placed on low-achieving students.
- ▶ Establish new professional opportunities for teachers, including ownership of the learning program at the school site.
- ▶ Encourage the use of inventive learning techniques.
- ▶ Demand the measurement of learning outcomes.

In addition, the bill grandfathers the FSU Charter Lab School and Pembroke Pines Elementary School in Broward County, exempting it from the one lab school per university limitation. Both the Senate and House bills are moving through the chambers respectively and are set for final passage this week.

Accidentally delete your favorite issue of the Legisletter? Need to reference a past issue? Be sure to visit Florida State University Office of Governmental Relations' website located at www.fsu.edu/~govrel to download your copy in Adobe Acrobat.

HOUSE CONFEREES 2003:

Rep. David Simmons, Chairman (R.—Longwood)

Rep. Ralph Arza (R.—Miami)

Rep. Frank Attkisson (R.—Kissimmee)

Rep. Dennis Baxley (R.—Ocala, FSU Alum)

Rep. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall (D.—Miami)

Rep. Stan Mayfield (R.—Vero Beach)

Rep. Bev Kilmer (R.—Marianna)

Rep. Dwight Stansel (D.—Live Oak)

Rep. David Mealor (R.—Lake Mary)

Rep. Joe Pickens (R.—Palatka)

Alternates:

Rep. Ray Sansom (R.—Ft. Walton Beach, FSU Alum)

Rep. Larry Cretul (R.—Ocala)

Rep. Thad Altman (R.—Melbourne)

SENATE CONFEREES 2003:

Senator Lisa Carlton, Chairman (R.—Osprey)

Senator Michael Bennett (R.—Bradenton)

Senator Anna Cowin (R.—Leesburg)

Senator Les Miller (D.—Tampa)

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Conference Schedule

Senate

Monday, May 19
Conference Subcommittees

Tuesday, May 20
Conference Subcommittees
Banking and Insurance (Rm. 110 EB-SB)
10:30 a.m.-12-30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21
Session
10:00 a.m. - completion of agenda

Thursday, May 22
Conference

House

Monday, May 19
Conference Subcommittees

Tuesday, May 20
Conference Subcommittees

Wednesday, May 21
Conference

Thursday, May 22
Conference

Friday, May 23
Conference



OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

Kathleen M. Daly
Director

Lauren Larson
Coordinator, Information/Publications

Toni Moore
Senior Administrative Assistant

Chris Adcock
Executive Secretary

216 Westcott Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306