

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Budget Highlights

The House and Senate introduced their preliminary budget plans last week. The House increases the SUS base budget by about 1.63%, the Senate by 8.14%. Both fully fund the matching gift program backlog. Both raise tuition and do not specifically direct the funds. Below are the comparisons of the major SUS budget issues, including those FSU considers high priorities (in bold) as of Monday:

	Senate	House
Bottom line funding to universities	\$2.1 billion	\$1.5 billion
General Revenue		(\$62.7 million) (\$10 million) to FSU
Tuition	7.5 % in-state undergrad, 12.5% for all others, plus authority for UBOT to increase all levels, except in-state undergrads by up to an additional 2.5%	7.5% increase at all levels, UBOT unlimited flexibility on everyone except in-state undergraduate over the 7.5 %
Bright Futures	\$34 million increase	\$33 million increase
Enrollment Growth	\$61,304,812	no funding provided
National High Field Magnetic Laboratory	\$10 million (non-recurring)	0
Challenge Grant Matching Gifts	\$93,339,151	\$118,964,543 groups
Courtelis Facilities Matching	\$18,184,146	Challenge Grant and Courtelis together
FSU Medical School	\$4,313,564	\$121,619
Florida Center for Reading Research	\$1,593,600 (recurring)	\$1,541,246 (non-recurring)
School of Chiropractic	\$9 million (recurring)	\$9 million (recurring)
Public Broadcasting	\$10,738,361	\$10,738,361
Florida Diagnostic Learning Research Centers	\$3,039,494	\$1,081,538
Autism	\$4,975,000	\$4,477,500
Ringling Museum	\$2,256,000	\$1,756,000

Last week, revenue estimates indicated state legislators would have more money in their budgets to appropriate for the 2004-05 fiscal year. House and Senate appropriations subcommittees agreed to first drafts of their respective budgets, and sent them to their next stop, the full appropriations committees. These drafts will be considered this week, the fourth of the session, and each appears to be a mixed bag for state universities, and for FSU. The House draft cuts the SUS base budget by 3.5 percent, but raises tuition to supplement a portion of the cut. The Senate's draft, meanwhile, does not impose any cuts to state universities' base, but does raise tuition (**see related story**). Both the House and Senate draft budgets will be online today, and each chamber plans to have firmer budgets in place before they take a break for the Easter/Passover holidays the week of April 5.

Bills that create excess-hours policies on SUS campuses, charge students block tuition, and change the major-gift thresholds are still working their way through House committees, but have not yet been considered by the Senate. Moving through both chambers, however, is a bill to name various FSU buildings for living dignitaries. (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

Plans for the annual "FSU Day at the Capitol" celebration on April 20 continue to move forward. If you would like to participate, but have not yet signed up to do so, please contact me at (850) 644-4453. This promises to be another magnificent "garnet and gold" day.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you need copies of bills and their analyses, or have comments and concerns about pending issues. My e-mail address is kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

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PECO	Senate	House
Building Envelope Improvements – Phase II (C)	\$250,000	\$250,000
Utilities/Infrastructure	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
Psychology Center	\$5,000,000	
Life Sciences Teaching and Research Center	\$20,000,000	
Classroom Building	\$15,000,000	
Land Acquisition		
Johnston Building		

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE

Wednesday, March 24
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Thursday, March 25
9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

HOUSE

Tuesday, March 23
9:50 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Thursday, March 25
9:50 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Spotlight on Bills

SB 2388 Community College/Baccalaureate Degrees by Senator Ken Pruitt (R - Port St. Lucie), re-designates Chipola Junior College, Miami-Dade Community College and Okaloosa-Walton Community College as Chipola College, Miami-Dade College and Okaloosa-Walton College, respectfully, to conform to changes made by act. The bill also provides requirements for boards of trustees of community colleges authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, prohibits community college from terminating associate degree programs as result of offering baccalaureate programs and, revises requirements for proposal by community college to deliver said degree program. The bill was amended and passed out of the Education Committee last week and has not yet been heard by the Appropriations Committee. The House companion, **HB 303 by Representative Stan Mayfield (R - Vero Beach)**, has been referred to the Education and Appropriations Committees.

SB 2672 Access to Better Learning Program by the Senate Education Committee, requires the Education Estimating Conference to determine the number of students qualified for the Access to Better Learning & Education Grant Program (ABLE Grant Program). The bill provides for colleges & schools that are eligible to participate in the program, to use the statewide course numbering system. The bill further clarifies the definition of the term “dependent child” & defines term “initial undergraduate enrollment” for purposes of determining student’s resident status. The bill has been referred to the Senate Education and Appropriations committees. The House has filed the companion, **HB 1781 by Representative Bev Kilmer (R - Marianna)**.

SB 2684 Personal Information/Computer Data/Privacy by Senator Dave Aronberg (D - Greenacres), requires certain persons who maintain computerized data that contains personal information to notify any state resident whose unencrypted personal information may have been obtained as result of the security breach. The bill further provides for forms of notice and provides for delays in notification in certain situations. The bill has been referred to Commerce, Economic Opportunities, and Consumer Services and the Judiciary Committees. The House Companion, **HB 1189 by Representative David Rivera (R - Naples)**, has been referred to the House State Administration and Judiciary committees.

SB 2506 State Budget Planning & Spending by Senator Tom Lee (R - Brandon), is a Joint Resolution that creates a constitutional amendment to limit the amount of nonrecurring general revenue which may be appropriated for recurring purposes in any fiscal year to 3 percent of total general revenue funds available, unless otherwise approved by three-fifths vote of the Legislature. The bill further provides for limited adjustments in state budget, as provided by law and establishes the Government Efficiency Task Force & specifies its duties. The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee.

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 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. The bill was amended last week to include naming the Education and Administration Building at the College of Medicine the “John E. Thrasher Building,” and naming the developmental research school as the “Stan Marshall Developmental Research School.” **Senator Al Lawson (D - Tallahassee)** filed the companion bill, **SB 714** which passed out of committee and is on second reading.



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