

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Ten / Number Five • March 29, 2004

The state budget was again the primary topic of contention during the fourth week of the 2004 Legislative Session. The House Appropriations Committee approved a \$57.7 billion spending plan on Friday, after defeating a \$10 million amendment sponsored by **Rep. Loranne Ausley (D - Tallahassee)** for upgrading the High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Meanwhile, the Senate passed a \$56.5 billion plan on Thursday. These House and Senate Appropriations budgets are sure to lead to further debates this week. While the House budget contains more funding for the state overall, the Senate plan has more money for the State University System, and for Florida State University (**see related story**).

This morning, the House State Administration Committee heard House Bill 341, which reduces or cuts financial aid to students who attend a Florida University on an M1 or V1 visa. The bill passed the committee and is awaiting a hearing in the full House (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

This week marks the halfway point of the session, yet most of FSU's priority issues are still in play. Glitch issues that include direct-deposit of funds, deferred compensation, and UMIFA, have passed the Senate and are moving in the House. The bill that names buildings for FSU dignitaries continues to advance in the House, and is poised to pass the Senate. In addition, the University's priority budget items are primed for conference.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about bills or issues that may concern you. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or

by e-mail at

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Budget Update

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees each passed their versions of the state spending plan last week, and sent them to their full chambers. Differences between the two chambers' budgets will be worked out when these budgets advance to the House/Senate conference committee. A summary of FSU's budget priorities, and how they fare in the House and Senate spending plans are outlined below:

- I. **National High Magnetic Field Laboratory:** Florida State is seeking \$10 million in non-recurring dollars for laboratory upgrades. **The Senate recommends \$10 million in non-recurring while the House has not provided any funding yet.**
- II. **Enrollment Growth:** Fund the Board of Governor's request of \$87,113,564 in recurring dollars for enrollment growth, including \$4.315 million for the FSU College of Medicine. **The Senate recommends \$61.3 million, which funds the Board of Governor's request of 11,496 FTE at the 2002-03 rate, plus \$4.3 million for the College of Medicine. The House has not provided any enrollment growth or College of Medicine funds.**
- III. **2004-05 PECO**
Psychology Center — \$11.750 million; **Life Sciences Teaching and Research Center** — \$45.5 million (will house the School of Chiropractic Medicine); **Classroom Building** — \$15 million; **Land Acquisition** — \$7 million; **Johnston Building** — \$1.6 million. **The Senate recommends \$5 million for the Psychology Center, \$20 million for Life Sciences and \$10 million for the Classroom Building and \$5 million for the Isabel Collier Reed medical school campus in Immokalee. The House has not funded any of our PECO priorities at this time.**
- IV. **Tuition Policy:** Use tuition to supplement General Revenue funding. **The Senate provides a 7.5 % increase for all in-state undergraduates, 12.5% for all others and authorizes university boards of trustees up to 2.5% except for in-state undergraduates.**
The House provides 7.5% increase at all levels and provides university boards of trustees unlimited flexibility on all except in-state undergraduate over the 7.5%
Both allow the universities to keep the funds locally and do not specifically earmark the funds.
- V. **Major Gifts Matching:** Fund the Board of Governor's Budget request recommendations of \$60 million in non-recurring funds. **The Senate provides \$93,339,151 for the Challenge Grant program and \$18,184,146 for the Courtelis program. The House provides \$118,964,543 for both the Challenge Grant program and the Courtelis match program. This fully funds both programs.**
- VI. **Florida Center for Reading Research:** the Senate funds \$1.6 million in recurring funds and the House provides \$1.55 million in non-recurring.
- VII. **School of Chiropractic:** \$9.5 million in recurring funds. \$9 million in recurring funds provided by the passage of SB 2002.

(continued on page 2)

Spotlight on Bills

- VIII. **Student Financial Aid:** The House cut \$19,729,207 recurring GR that was earmarked for Financial aid in the SUS budget and shifted it to the DOE Office of Student Financial Assistance to cover a non-recurring hole in the Florida Student Assistance Grant program. The Senate did not take this cut, but provided non-recurring funding for the FSAG.
- IX. **Ringling Museum:** The Senate provides \$2,256,000 while the House cuts \$500,000 and funds \$1,756,000.
- X. **New Space:** The Senate provides \$9.1 million in the SUS base for new space, \$1.8 million of that is designated for FSU. The House did not provide funding.

SB236 Sales Tax/Box Seat/Skybox/Luxury Box, by Senator Bill Posey, (R- Rockledge), repeals the exemption from tax on rental or license fees of skybox, luxury box, or other box seats during high school or college football game. The bill passed the Senate last week. The House companion, **HB 1563 by Representative Ralph Poppell (R - Titusville),** has been referred to committee.

SB 1182 Postsecondary Student Fees/Migrants by Senator Michael Bennett (R - Bradenton), provides that dependent children of active duty members of U.S. Armed Services are classified as residents for tuition purposes and exemption from payment of nonresident tuition. Additionally, the bill provides that certain dependent children of migrant farm-workers are exempt from out-of-state tuition and fees. The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee. The House companion, **HB 241 by Representative Bill Galvano (R - Bradenton),** has been referred to several committees.

UPDATE:

HB 341 Student Financial Assistance, by Representative Dick Kravitz (R- Orange Park), provides legislative intent to expand access to postsecondary education and reduce student indebtedness. The bill requires each state university & community college to report information pertaining to certain funds used to provide financial assistance to certain students and prohibits the use of such funds to provide financial assistance to specified foreign students. The bill will be heard today in the House State Administration Committee. **Senator Stephen Wise (R - Jacksonville)** has filed the identical bill, **SB 1724,** which has been referred to several committees.

HB 1781 University Policies, by the House Education K-20 Committee, establishes tuition policies for excess hours and non-degree seeking students, block tuition, major gifts. Additionally it deletes caps on certain fees and authorizes a technology fee. The bill has been referred to the Finance and Tax and Appropriations committees, the Senate companion, **SB 2884 by Senator Lisa Carlton (R - Osprey),** has been referred to the Education and Appropriations committees.

HB 1049 Specialty License Plates by Representative Greg Evers (R - Milton), revises the requirements to establish a specialty license plate and requires a certain number be sold prior to requesting legislative approval. The bill passed the State Administration Committee and is now in Finance and Tax. The identical Senate bill, **SB 2214 by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R - Ormond Beach),** has been referred to several committees.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE

Wednesday, March 31
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 1
10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 2
10:00 a.m. - until completion
of agenda

HOUSE

Tuesday, March 30
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 31
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 1
9:50 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 2
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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