

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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The House and Senate approved separate budgets last week, the fifth of the nine-week legislative session. Each budget would raise tuition at state universities, buy down the major-gifts backlog, not provide raises for state employees, and fund K-12 schools and community colleges ahead of the universities. Legislators are taking a weeklong break in observance of the Passover and Easter holidays this week. When they return, they will meet in conference committees to hammer out the differences in their respective budgets. At issue for FSU will be the \$10 million in non-recurring funds for the High Magnetic Field Laboratory upgrades, continued funding for the College of Medicine, PECO projects, and enrollment-growth funding. The House hasn't earmarked any dollars for these issues yet, but the Senate has.

The University Policies legislation continues to move through the process and will be heard again after the break (see related story).

Committee hearings will also be winding down then, with many meeting for the last time the week after the holiday break. This means those bills left in committee will be dead for the session after the seventh week.

Since next week is an inactive week, we will not send a Legisletter next Monday. Also, remember that FSU Day at the Capitol is on April 20th this year. There will be lots of displays, and the Pep Band will perform in the courtyard, as will members of the FSU circus. The festivities will begin at 10:00 and conclude at 2:00.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about the budget or bills of interest. And a reminder that if you are asked to speak before a committee, please let me know in advance. I appreciate hearing from you, and I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or via e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

University Policy Bills

Both the House and the Senate are considering legislation that would implement new policies at the universities pertaining to excess hours, non-degree seeking students and block tuition. **Senate Bill 2884** passed out of the Senate Education Committee last week and is awaiting a hearing in the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The House companion, **HB 1781**, has passed the K-20 Committee and is also awaiting an appropriations hearing. Below is a comparison of those University Finance Policy Bills:

Senate

SB 2884 by Senator Lisa Carlton (R - Osprey)

Incentive funding: establishes programs/policies that lead to increased degree production in areas of critical need. Critical need areas are defined as: Teaching, Nursing, Engineering, and Information Technology.

By October 1, the BOG shall develop a multi-year forecasting mechanism for identifying future areas of critical need and develop a methodology for allocating incentive awards.

Truth in Billing statement: provides every student a fees and billing statement clearly identifying amount of funding the state and university pay on behalf of the student to reflect the true cost of a university education. Allows the statement to be electronically transmitted.

Block Tuition: Each University BOT shall develop a block tuition and fee policy. Policy shall not increase costs to students or the state for students participating in Bright Futures or Florida Prepaid.

Non-degree Seeking Students: BOT shall establish tuition & fee policy for non-degree seeking students requiring students to pay the full cost of instruction per credit hour. Exemptions include:

1. Courses required for professional licensure, certification, or recertification.

House

HB 1781 by the Education K-20 Committee

Incentive funding: establishes programs/policies that lead to increased degree production in areas of critical need. Critical need areas are defined as: Teaching, Nursing, Engineering, Science and Technology.

By October 1, the BOG shall develop a multi-year forecasting mechanism for identifying future areas of critical need and develop a methodology for allocating incentive awards.

Truth in Billing statement: provides every student a fees and billing statement clearly identifying amount of funding the state and university pay on behalf of the student to reflect the true cost of a university education. Allows the statement to be electronically transmitted.

Block Tuition: Each University BOT shall develop a proposal to establish a block tuition and fee policy and other incentive policies such as differential fees by program area, location of course offering, or time of offering to decrease the time required to complete a degree. Proposal must describe the impact on costs to student, and the state with respect to Bright Futures and the Florida Prepaid program. Proposals must be submitted by December 15, 2004 to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the BOG and the Governor.

(cont'd on page 2)

Senate

2. Active duty military personnel.
3. Retired military personnel within 2 years after retirement.
4. Full-time state employees when tuition and fees are paid by state agency or political subdivision.

Excess Hours: Students in excess credit hours needed to graduate by more than 15 percent shall pay full cost of instruction.

Exemptions include:

Hours earned through an acceleration mechanism, remedial courses, military science courses, hours required for dual major, hours required to achieve teacher certification, hours taken by active duty military, hours in courses which a student withdrew due to medical or personal hardship reasons.

Inclusions are:

Courses repeated and/or failed, courses dropped after drop-add, hours earned at another institution and accepted for transfer.

Matching Gifts: Revises the matching gifts program as follows:

\$100,000 to \$499,999 — 25% match
\$500,000 to \$999,999 — 50% match
\$1 mil to \$3 mil. — 75% match
\$3 mil or more — 100% match
Bundled gift: Not more than \$1 mil. — 50% match

Maximum single gift to be matched in a given year \$3 mil. Maximum total for matching is \$15 mil. To be paid in equal amounts of \$3 mil per year over 5 years. Effective July 1, 2005

Naming: Names the entrance pavilion at the John & Mabel Ringling Museum of Art the "John M. McKay Visitors' Pavillion."

House

Non-degree Seeking Students: BOT shall establish tuition & fee policy for non-degree seeking students requiring students to pay the full cost of instruction per credit hour to be submitted by December 15, 2004 to the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the BOG and the Governor.

Exemptions include:

1. Courses required for professional licensure, certification, or recertification.
2. Active duty military personnel.
3. Retired military personnel within 2 years after retirement.
4. Full-time state employees when tuition and fees are paid by state agency or political subdivision.

Excess Hours: The BOT shall develop a policy for students in excess credit hours needed to graduate by more than 15 percent. Policy may include assessment by the institution of a surcharge in addition to regular tuition and fees not to exceed 100 percent of full cost of instruction.

Exemptions include:

Hours earned through an acceleration mechanism, courses taken that do not count toward any degree, military science courses, hours required for dual major, hours required to achieve teacher certification, hours taken by active duty military, hours in courses which a student withdrew due to medical or personal hardship reasons.

Inclusions are:

All courses taken at the state university where student is seeking a degree, courses repeated and/or failed, courses dropped after drop-add, hours earned at another institution and accepted for transfer, Effective 2004-05 academic year.

OPPAGA is directed to study the excess hours issue to determine the need for this policy change.

Articulated Acceleration Mechanisms: Awards credit for dual enrollment courses completed at an inde-

pendent college or university for inclusion in dual enrollment or early admission program.

Resident Status: Defines resident and non-resident and provides for reclassification of non-resident as resident under certain circumstances.

Out-of-State Tuition: Non-resident student tuition and out-of-state fees must be sufficient to defray the full cost of each program.

Student Fees: Authorizes an increase in the **Capital Improvement Fee**— by no more than \$.50 above established amount.

Authorizes a **Technology Fee** —up to 5% of tuition.

Matching Gifts: The matching gifts program is revised as follows:
\$100,000 to \$999,999 — 50% match
\$1 mil to \$3 mil. — 60% match
\$3 mil or more — 85% match
Bundled gift: Not more than \$1 mil. — 50% match

Maximum single gift to be matched in a given year \$3 mil. Maximum total for matching is \$15 mil. To be paid in equal amounts of \$3 mil per year over 5 years.

SESSION SCHEDULE

Due to the legislative holiday break, Monday, April 5 - Friday, April 9, there are **NO SCHEDULED MEETINGS** this week.

Therefore, there will not be a Legisletter published on Monday, April 12 due to the lack of activity to report.

Spotlight on Bills

HB 85 Sunshine Security Act, by Representative Mitch Needelman (R - Palm Bay), creates the Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation Task Force within the Governor's office to study and make recommendations on the effects of consolidating law enforcement functions in state agencies and commissions under a unified command. The bill was heard in the Public Safety Appropriation's Subcommittee on Friday. There is no Senate companion at this time.

SB 124 Domestic Security Initiatives Chief, by Senator Paula Dockery (R - Lakeland), requires security assessments of all buildings, facilities, & structures owned or occupied by state agencies, state universities & community colleges, by employees and within existing resources of same. Additionally, the bill requires the chief to provide local governments with the results of these security assessments. The bill has passed the Senate. The House companion, **HB 1771, by the Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee** is now in the Appropriations Committee.

SB 364 Accelerated High School Graduation Option, by Senator Lee Constantine (R - Altamonte Springs), revises the requirements for selecting an accelerated high school graduation option. The bill further amends the required courses for a 3-year standard college preparatory program and deletes provisions authorizing student to select 3-year standard career preparatory program. The bill also revises the requirements for grades that must be earned to participate in an accelerated program and

provides for default to standard graduation requirements in certain circumstances. The bill has been placed on the Calendar to be heard by the full Senate. There is no House companion at this time.

HB 1019 Centers of Excellence by Representative Adam Hasner (R - Delray Beach, FSU Alumnus), provides for terms of members appointed to the Emerging Technology Commission and delays the expiration of the Florida Technology Development Act. The bill requires the Florida Research Consortium, Inc., to report to the Emerging Technology Commission the criteria for reviewing proposals for a center of excellence and requires the commission to notify state universities and the State Technology Office of approved criteria for submitting a proposal for a center of excellence by a specified date. The bill passed the State Administration Committee last week. The Senate companion, **SB 1900, by Senator Ron Klein, (D - Delray Beach)**, is now in the Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

HB 471 Community Colleges/Teacher Institutes, by Representative Heather Fiorentino (R- New Port Richey), authorizes postsecondary institutions to create "educator preparation institutes" to provide: professional development instruction to assist teachers in improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification or recertification requirements; instruction to assist potential and existing substitute teachers in performing their duties; instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting education and training require-

ments; and, instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become certified teachers. Additionally, educator preparation institutes may offer alternative certification programs specifically designed for non-education major baccalaureate degree holders to enable program participants to meet the educator certification requirements. The bill was amended and passed from the Education K-20 committee last week. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 1804 by Senator Jeff Atwater, (R - North Palm Beach)**, has been referred to the Education and Appropriations Committees.



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