

# LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Ten / Number Seven • April 19, 2004

The process by which appointed members of the Florida House and Senate meet to hammer out differences in the budget, which is simply referred to as "conference," started on Friday and went into full swing over the weekend. The conferees (see the list below) met on education-related budget issues yesterday, and made some progress.

Several funding items for Florida State University have been settled, including major gifts, \$4.3 million for the FSU College of Medicine, \$1.6 million in recurring funds for the Florida Reading Research Center, and recurring funding, level to last year, for the Public Broadcasting, Autism and Multi-disciplinary Centers.

The conference process will continue throughout this week, and enrollment-growth funding, PECO, and Ringling Museum funds are still being discussed, as is the \$10 million for upgrades to the Mag Lab. Budget negotiators hope to have their funding plans finalized by next weekend.

After months of planning, FSU Day at the Capitol is finally going to happen tomorrow! FSU displays will be in the Capitol building from 10:00 to 2:00, and performances by the FSU Pep Band and Circus will start at noon in the Capitol courtyard. We will be serving coffee in the morning and popcorn and soda in the afternoon to legislators and their staff. It is sure to be a garnet- and gold-filled day!

Only two weeks remain, this week and next, in this legislative session, and they are clearly the most critical weeks. Individual committees have completed their work, and those bills that did not receive a hearing by their assigned committees are most certainly "dead" for this session (see Spotlight on Bills). Any further action on bills can only take place in the full House and Senate chambers, and you can watch all of it live, every day, between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., on The Florida Channel, local cable channel 4.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about legislation or the legislative process. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453, or via e-mail at [kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu).



## Senate Confirms Board of Trustees

Without much fanfare or discussion, the Senate Education Committee last Tuesday confirmed the appointments of members of the University Boards of Trustees. Florida State University UBOT members who were appointed by the Board of Governors last year received confirmation. Those trustees are: David Ford, Manny Garcia, Harold Knowles, Stan Marshall and Ann McGee. Additionally, Derrick Brooks and Jessie Furlow, who were appointed recently by Governor Bush, were also confirmed. All other FSU Trustees were confirmed during the 2003 Legislative Session.

## House and Senate Appoint Budget Conferees

Both the House and Senate passed their respective budgets before the Easter break. Last week, Speaker Johnnie Byrd and Senate President Jim King named their budget conferees. The Conferees met over the weekend to iron out the differences between the two budgets.

### Senate Education conferees:

Sen. Lisa Carlton,  
(R - Osprey)  
Chair

Sen. J. D. Alexander,  
(R-Lakeland)

Sen. Lee Constantine,  
(R- Altamonte Springs)

Sen. Anna Cowin,  
(R-Leesburg)

Sen. Anthony Hill,  
(D-Jacksonville)

Sen. Evelyn Lynn,  
(R-Ormond Beach)

Sen. Les Miller,  
(D-Tampa)

Sen. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz  
(D-Pembroke Pines)

### House Education conferees:

Rep. David Simmons,  
(R-Altamonte Springs)  
Chair

Rep. Larry Cretul,  
(R-Ocala)

Rep. Bev Kilmer,  
(R-Marianna)

Rep. Ray Sansom,  
(R-Ft. Walton Beach, FSU Alumnus)

Rep. Joe Pickens,  
(R-Palatka)

Rep. Dick Kravitz,  
(R-Orange Park)

Rep. Rafael Arza,  
(R-Hialeah)

Rep. Dennis Baxley,  
(R-Ocala, FSU Alumnus)

Rep. Jennifer Carroll,  
(R-Jacksonville)

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

Rep. David Rivera,  
(R-Miami)

# Spotlight on Bills

**HB 303, Postsecondary Education Access, by Representative Stan Mayfield (R - Vero Beach)**, 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 proposals by the community college to deliver said degree programs. The bill passed out of the Education Committee and is now in Appropriations. The similar Senate bill, **SB 2388, by Senator Ken Pruitt, (R-Port St. Lucie)**, is on the Senate calendar

**SB 544, Local Government Prompt Payment Act, by Senator Mike Bennett (R-Bradenton)**, revises provisions for timely payment for purchases of construction services, provides deadlines for payment of subcontractors, sub-subcontractors, material-men, & suppliers on construction contracts for public projects, and provides for timely payment for purchases of construction services by public entity. The bill will be heard today in the Regulated Industries Committee. The House companion, **HB 487, by Representative Ron Reagan (R-Sarasota)** is now in the House Appropriations Committee.

**SB 1218, Student Social Security Numbers, by Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres)**, prohibits certain uses of student's social security number by state universities, community colleges, & public postsecondary technical centers and requires review of policies and procedures to annually document compliance in a report to the Board of Governors. The bill passed the Senate and will be sent to the House. The House companion, **HB 229, by Representative Nan Rich (D-Sunrise)**, has passed the House K-20 Education Committee.

**SB 2948, Sovereign Immunity/Medical Schools, by Senator Gwen Margolis (D-Miami Beach)**, provides sovereign immunity to certain colleges, universities and medical schools that provide patient services to publicly-funded patients in public hospitals and to employees of those entities. The bill will be heard in the Health, Aging and Long-Term Care subcommittee today. The House companion, **HB 1639, by Representative Marcelo Llorente, (R-Miami, FSU Alumnus)**, is on the House Calendar

**HB 1867, Education Funding, by Representative David Simmons (R-Altamonte Springs)**, requires school districts to establish certain policies and procedures relating to lottery fund enhancements. Additionally, the bill authorizes outsourcing of statewide assessment program activities and specifies maximum fee waiver percentage for school districts and community colleges, and provides standards and training for substitute teachers. The bill was amended on the Senate floor last week and is in returning messages to the House.

**HB 51, Insurance/Public Construction, by Representative Don Brown (R-Defuniak Springs)**, authorizes certain public agencies to purchase owner-controlled insurance programs for public construction projects and establishes purchase requirements. Additionally, the bill requires insurers issuing commercial general liability policies to offer coverage for completed operations liability. The bill is on the House calendar. The similar Senate bill, **SB 2696 by Senator Jeff Atwater, (R-North Palm Beach)**, is on second reading.

**SB 2230, FRS/Payroll Contribution Rates, by the Governmental Oversight & Productivity Committee**, revises payroll contribution rates for membership classes of FRS for state fiscal years effective July 1, 2004, & July 1, 2005. Additionally, the bill revises payroll contribution rates for the Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences effective through June 30, 2005 and reduces the fee imposed for cost of administration. The bill was amended in the House and will go to conference.

## SESSION SCHEDULE

### SENATE

Wednesday, April 21

9:30 a.m. - until completion of agenda

Thursday, April 22

9:30 a.m. - until completion of agenda

Friday, April 23

9:30 a.m. - until completion of agenda

### HOUSE

Tuesday, April 20

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21

10:50 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 22

10:50 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday, April 23

10:50 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



### OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

(850) 644-4453  
[www.fsu.edu/~govrel](http://www.fsu.edu/~govrel)

Kathleen M. Daly  
*Assistant Vice President*

Toni Moore  
*Senior Administrative Assistant*

Chris Adcock  
*Office Manager*

Lauren Larson  
*Coordinator, Information/  
Publications*