

# LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Eleven / Number One • March 7, 2005

The 2005 Legislative Session will officially start tomorrow amid flowers, family and visionary speeches by the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President. Then the business of crafting a \$60 billion+ state budget will begin. Among the pressing budget items will be changes to the Medicaid program, further relief to hurricane victims, tax breaks to Florida's citizens, and the mandatory pre-kindergarten and class size amendments.

These weighty obligations will receive top attention, and grab most of the headlines, while diminishing the attention given to the funding of and substantive issues regarding higher education. Corroborating this speculation is the Governor's \$61.2 billion budget recommendations, which have significantly narrowed state universities' expectations (**see related story**).

Among higher-ed bills filed that await hearings are ones that pertain to university governance, the major gifts program, the naming of university buildings, changes to the master planning process, and several others (**see Spotlight on Bills**). Updates to each of these, along with other bills of interest and their progress, will be provided through this weekly newsletter, usually in the Spotlight on Bills section.

As in the past, Florida State University is again well represented in the legislature. The current Speaker of the Florida House, Representative Alan Bense (R-Panama City) is an FSU alum, and last fall three additional alumni were elected, which brings our total to 24 legislators.

Please note that this year's FSU Day at the Capitol will be on Tuesday, March 29. If you would like to participate, please contact me.

All of the action at the Capitol is covered live from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, and can be seen locally on cable channel 4. As always, I welcome your comments and questions throughout the 60-day session. Please feel free to contact me at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at [kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu).

## Matching Grants

### (Major Gifts & Courtelis):

\$196 million, 68% for universities and community colleges

The Governor's recommendation pays for the backlog through early January. The Governor is proposing legislation that would require that beginning July 1, 2005, new donations may be eligible to be matched by the State if funds are provided in the General Appropriations Act. In any fiscal year, donations not matched by the State may not be matched with State funds in a subsequent fiscal year. In addition, State matching funds will be used to match donations that comport with the institution's strategic plan. Matching plateaus will also be revised.

### PECO:

Funded the Board of Governors' request

### FSU Projects include:

Utilities/Infrastructure ...	\$6,100,000
Building Envelope Improvements .....	\$2,350,000
Panama City Campus Academic Bldg. ....	\$15,250,000
Life Sciences Teaching & Research Center .....	\$14,200,000

### Administered Funds:

Health Insurance Premium increases 2005-06 to be determined 7/1/05

Salary Increases for University employees not included

## Governor's Budget Recommendations

### FSU Education & General:

\$247,687,140

### Enrollment Growth:

\$20.1 million for 7,292 FTE

(The Board of Governors requested \$78.2m for the same number of FTE)

### FSU Medical School:

\$3.3 million General Revenue

### Tuition Policy:

\$ 7.5% increase for instate undergraduate students and allowed complete discretion for all others.

# Spotlight on Bills

**HB 21, Student Financial Assistance by Rep. Dick Kravitz (R-Orange Park)** expands access to postsecondary education and reduces student indebtedness, the bill requires each state university and community college to report information relating to certain funds used to provide financial assistance to certain students and prohibiting the use of such funds to provide financial assistance to students holding an F-1 or M-1 visa. Additionally, the bill provides for the redirection of funds to provide additional need-based financial assistance to students classified as residents for tuition purposes. The Senate identical bill is **SB 866 by Senator Mike Haridopolis (R-Melbourne)**.

**HB 67, University Major Gifts Trust Fund by Representative Carl Domino (R-Palm Beach Gardens, FSU Alumnus)** authorizes the Florida Board of Governors Foundation, Inc. to provide matching grants. Additionally, the bill requires donations to support priorities established by a university's board of trustees and revises the thresholds for donations to be matched. The identical Senate bill is SB 528 by **Senator Jim King, (R-Jacksonville, FSU Alumnus)**.

The Senate Bill will be heard today in the Education Committee, with amendments.

**HB 393, Designations/State Universities by Representative Aaron Bean (R- Fernandina Beach)** Authorizing the boards of trustees of state universities to name campus buildings and facilities for living persons. The identical Senate bill is **SB 1186 by Senator Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach)**.

**HB 437, University Growth Funding by Representative Frank Attkisson (R-Kissimmee)** Requires future enrollment growth funds to be appropriated to the Department of Education or to a trust fund to be distributed to public or nonpublic postsecondary educational institutions providing instruction in fields vital to the citizens of the state. Additionally the bill provides for a request for proposals and requirements of such proposals and requires establishing an annual priority list. The identical bill in the Senate is **SB 1260 by Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville)**.

**HB 1001, State Universities Board of Governors by Representative**

## SESSION SCHEDULE

**SENATE SESSION**  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Thursday, March 10**  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Friday, March 11**  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**HOUSE SESSION**  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Thursday, March 10**  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**JOINT SESSION**  
**Tuesday, March 8**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Dudley Goodlette (R-Naples)** relates to the governance of the State University System, defining and specifying the constitutional duties of the Board of Governors under s. 7, Art. IX of the State Constitution and further specifies the constitutional duties of the Legislature. There is no companion bill at this time, however the Senate has filed **SB 1920 by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R-Ormond Beach)**, to be used as a potential place holder for a senate companion later in the session.

## LEGISLATIVE CONTACT FORM

Periodically the Legislature requests faculty or staff to attend committee meetings or formally respond to questions about certain issues. FSU faculty and staff asked to appear before a committee or a member must notify **Kathleen Daly at 644-4453 / kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu** by submitting a legislative contact form **prior to making an appearance**. The form can be found on the Governmental Relations website at [www.fsu.edu/~govrel](http://www.fsu.edu/~govrel).

If you have trouble accessing this form please contact Governmental Relations at 644-4453 for a hard copy. Thank you for your cooperation.



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