

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Eleven / Number Five • April 4, 2005

Wednesday marks the midway point of the 2005 Legislative Session. Substantive SUS legislation continued to move along, as did the crafting of the 2005-2006 budget.

House Bill 1001, the University Governance legislation, overwhelmingly passed the House last week by a vote of 97-17. In the Senate, meanwhile, a bill that would penalize students who take more than 4 years to graduate passed the Senate Education Committee (**see the update section of Spotlight on Bills**).

Both the House and Senate appropriations committees approved their budgets last week, and these budget bills will be heard in their full chambers later this week. The amendatory process to these bills, where mischief can often occur, is being watched very carefully. An example of the kind of thing that can come up during this process occurred last week when, in the House Appropriations Committee, a Representative filed an amendment that would have zeroed out the allocations for public broadcasting, and diverted those funds instead to a line item that finances the care of blind babies. Ultimately, this amendment was withdrawn. But, an amendment that took \$500,000 out of the SUS budget to fund a project at a single community college, passed (**see related story for details of both budgets**).

Last week was also filled with a profound sense of sadness over the passing of Representative David Coley (R-Marianna), who was memorialized by the Legislature, as well as by his friends and family members, and then laid to rest. These memorial services forced the cancellation of FSU Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, although a truncated event will likely take place during this session. The planning aspects for next year's event, however, are already underway.

We are now heading into the second half of the session, which has traditionally been the more challenging and critical part. You can catch all the action that takes place during these important days live on the Florida Channel, which airs locally on cable channel 4. As always, please feel free to contact me at (850) 644-4453 or kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

Budget Update

Overall

Both the House and the Senate will hear their respective budget plans on the floor at the end of this week. Below is a comparison of both budgets:

The **House** recommends a **\$102.4 million increase** over last year's recurring base for the SUS, which is a 5.1 percent increase. This recommendation, however, is \$110.3 million (or 4.9%) below last year's total appropriation.

The **Senate** recommends a **\$101.4 million increase** over last year's recurring base (a 5.1% increase). This recommendation, however, is still \$111.3 million less than last year's total appropriation.

Tuition

The **House** recommends a **7.5% tuition increase** across all levels. Universities would have the discretion to increase graduate and out-of-state student tuition above this 7.5%. (A 7.5% increase would generate approximately **\$52 million** for the SUS.)

The **Senate** recommends a maximum **5% tuition increase** for all levels, and each university would have the discretion to implement this increase. A 5% increase would generate about **\$34.6 million**.

Enrollment

Enrollment Growth funding in the **House**, for 7,292 FTE is **\$31.6 million**, which would fund 40.4% of the BOG request of \$78 million.

(continues)

(continued)

Enrollment Growth funding in the **Senate**, for 7,292 FTE is **\$37.2 million**, which would fund 47.6% of the BOG request.

Salaries

Both chambers have included funds for Employee Compensation and Benefits, but it is not clear that state universities are included in this, or whether these funds have been allocated to the SUS.

FSU Medical School

Both chambers include the full request of the **\$3.3 million** for con-

tinued funding of the FSU Medical School.

Matching Gifts

The **House recommends \$41.9 million** (the BOG's request is \$32 million), while the **Senate recommends \$44.5 million**.

PECO

The **House recommends \$50.2 million** in projects for FSU, including:

- \$14.2 for the Life Sciences Building
- \$2.5 million for an administrative building on the Panama City campus

- \$17.7 for an academic building on the Panama City campus, and
- \$6 million for the Psychology Center

The **Senate recommends \$37.9 million** in projects for FSU, including:

- \$14.2 million for the Life Sciences Building, and
- \$15.2 for an academic building on the Panama City campus



SPOTLIGHT ON BILLS—UPDATE
HB 1001, Governance of the State University System by Representative Dudley Goodlette (R-Naples) passed the House by a 97-17 margin with one amendment. The amendment, by Representative Goodlette, further defines “state agency” as it relates to the university system. There is no Senate Companion at this time.

SB 1060, Nursing Shortage by Senator Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey), reported out of the Education Committee and is awaiting hearing in the Education Appropriations Committee. The House has filed a similar bill, **HB 1853, Nursing Production by Representative David Meador, (R-Lake Mary)** authorizing the Nursing Board to change faculty-to-student ratios only under certain circumstances. Additionally, the bill establishes a contract grant program for increasing capacity of approved nursing programs. The bill is under consideration.

SPOTLIGHT ON BILLS
HB1155, Procurement Contracting by Representative Tom Anderson (R-Holiday), creates the “2005 Efficiency in Procurement & Contracting Act,” creating the Procurement Division within DMS. The bill specifies requirement for state outsourcing review process, revises requirements for purchases from purchasing agreement and state term contracts; requires division to design, implement and operate an on-line procurement subsystem, etc. The bill deletes the SUS exemption from Chapter 287. The bill has been referred to the Governmental Operations, State Administration Appropriations and, State Administration Council. A comparable bill in the Senate, **SB 1494 Information Technology Management, by Senator Nancy Argenziano (R-Crystal River)**, requires each state agency to use governance process and structure for managing its IT operation and investments in order to ensure alignment with busi-

ness needs and policy requirements of the agency. The bill provides a governance process for IT which includes management of the agency's IT portfolio along with project management. Additionally, each agency is required to submit its approved IT portfolio as part of its final legislative budget request. The bill was withdrawn from the Ways and Means committee and is scheduled for hearing in the General Government Appropriations Committee today.

HB 1325 Governmental Authority/Communication by Representative Frank Attkisson (R-Kissimmee), creates Governmental Authority Provision for Communication Services Act; authorizes governmental authorities to provide communication services in certain circumstances; provides requirements for provision of communication services; provides for use of certain structures & facilities; authorizes governmental authorities to secure funding for certain costs; provides

for payment of taxes on certain acquired entities; provides severability, etc. The bill was temporarily postponed by Finance & Tax Committee and is waiting to be rescheduled for hearing. Comparable bills in the Senate, **SB 2072 by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)** and **SB 1714 by Senator Michael Bennett (R-Bradenton)** are awaiting their first hearings.

SB 702, Health Education Center Network by Senator Bill Posey (R-Rockledge), requires the Health Dept. to cooperate with specified medical schools in maintaining and evaluating the network. The bill requires that the center assist in linking provision of primary care services to medically underserved populations with education of students in health care professions and of health care providers serving medically underserved populations, as well as that of medical students, interns, & residents, etc. The bill reported favorably out of the Health Care Committee and is awaiting hearing in the Education Committee. A similar bill, **HB 901 by Representative Baxter Troutman (R-Winter Haven)** is awaiting hearing in the Health Care Appropriations Committee.

HB 1197, FRS/Normal Retirement Date & Age by Representative Curtis Richardson (D-Tallahassee, FSU Alumnus) redefines the terms “normal retirement date” & “normal retirement age” for specified period to allow normal retirement after 25 years of service & attainment of age 50. The bill limits participation in Deferred Retirement Option Program and authorizes the state to purchase annuities for certain state personnel. The bill has been referred to Governmental Operations, Local Government Council, Fiscal Council and State Administration Council. **SB 1424 by Senator Al Lawson (D-Tallahassee, FSU Alumnus)** is similar and awaiting its first hearing.

HB 1101 Nurse Licensure Compact by Representative Anitere Flores (R-Miami) incorporates said compact into the Nurse Practice Act. The bill provides for the state’s ability to withdraw and amend the compact, it provides for professional nurse with multi-state licensure privilege from compact state to be certified as advanced registered nurse practitioner and creates requirements for submission of employment data, education and other workforce information to the Nursing Board. The bill is awaiting its first hearing. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 2210, by Senator Burt Saunders (R-Naples)** was heard in the Health Care Committee last week.

SB 2236, Tuition Rates/State Universities by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs) requires students to pay out-of-state tuition rate for credit hours in excess of specified number for community-college credits and for overall credits applied to baccalaureate degree. Additionally, the bill provides for tuition rebates for students who take minimal excess hours in earning a baccalaureate degree and provides the maximum allowable amount and conditions for such rebate. The bill will be heard today in the Government Efficiency Appropriations Committee. There is no House companion at this time.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE

Wednesday, April 6

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 7

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 8

10:00 a.m. until completion

HOUSE

Tuesday, April 5

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Thursday, April 7

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 8

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Kathleen M. Daly
Assistant Vice President

Toni Moore
Senior Administrative Assistant

Chris Adcock
Office Manager

(850) 644-4453
www.fsu.edu/~govrel