



# LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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This week, the seventh out of a total of nine, legislative committees will present their last agendas of the session. Additionally, budget conferees will likely be named today, and budget negotiations are scheduled to begin this week.

Last week, the state revenue estimating conference met and reported \$2 billion in additional revenues for the next fiscal year (**see related budget story**).

Because this is the last week of committee meetings, a number of bills have been placed on committee agendas for hearings. Among them is a naming bill for buildings on university campuses, which will get its first hearing in the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday. Additionally, a bill that would allow university boards of trustees to name buildings on their campuses after living persons will also be heard. (Under current law, the Legislature must approve campus buildings named after living persons.) The “academic freedom” bill, by **Representative Dennis Baxley** (R-Ocala; FSU Alumnus), will pass the House Education Council on Tuesday, but its companion will not receive a hearing in the Senate (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

**Representative Baxley** will, however, address the State University President’s Association (SUPA) when they meet on the FSU campus on Thursday. He has requested time on the SUPA agenda to discuss the academic-freedom legislation he proposed. Later that same day, he will also address the Board of Governors.

This Wednesday, April 20, is the rescheduled FSU Day at the Capitol. Head baseball coach Mike Martin will give the opening prayer on the House floor, the FSU Pep Band will provide musical entertainment, and President Wetherell will address members of the Florida House. Women’s head basketball coach Sue Semrau will provide the opening prayer on the Senate floor.

The pace of this session has accelerated and is well on its way to wrapping up. You can catch all the frenzied action live on the Florida Channel, which is local cable channel 4.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions about the budget, or other issues still pending before the Legislature. I can be reached at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at [kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu).

Kathleen

## Budget Update

The budget, which is poised and ready for conference negotiators, was fortified this week by an additional \$2 billion in revenue, as calculated by the state’s Revenue Estimating Conference. The State University System hopes to tap into this additional revenue to increase enrollment-growth funds, which currently stand at \$31.5 million in the House and \$37.1 million in the Senate, as well as the major-gifts fund, the academic-enhancements budget, and salaries. The word right now, though, is that the Legislature is not interested in funding the state universities at a higher rate than what has already been indicated.

Other issues of concern in the budget: Tuition has not yet been set, and the budget conferees must settle on a final PECO list for individual universities. (For a more detailed comparison between this year’s House and Senate budgets, please see the April 4 edition of the *Legisletter*.)

# Spotlight on Bills

**SPOTLIGHT ON BILLS—UPDATE**  
**SB 866, Student Financial Assistance by Senator Mike Haridopolos (R–Melbourne)** Withholds financial assistance to those students holding M1 and F1 visas. The bill will have its first hearing tomorrow in the Senate Education Committee. The companion bill, **HB 21, by Representative Dick Kravitz (R–Orange Park)** is now in the Education Council.

**SB 1186, Designations/State Universities by Senator Jeff Atwater (R–North Palm Beach)** authorizes boards of trustees of state universities to name campus buildings and facilities for living persons. The bill will be heard in the Education Committee tomorrow. The identical bill, **HB 393, by Representative Aaron Bean** has not been scheduled for hearing.

**SB 90, Herbert F. Morgan Building by Senator Al Lawson (D–Tallahassee, Alumnus)**, designates the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Building as the “Herbert F. Morgan Building”. The bill has its second reading on the Senate floor on Wednesday.

**SB 1968, Building Designations by Senator Al Lawson (D–Tallahassee, Alumnus)** names buildings on state university campuses. The bill will be heard in the Education Committee tomorrow. A similar bill in the House, **HB 219 by Representative**

**Loranne Ausley (D–Tallahassee)** has not yet been heard.

**SB 1920, State Universities/Bd. of Governors Senator Evelyn Lynn (R–Ormond Beach)** specifies constitutional duties of Board of Governors of the State University System and Legislature, provides legislative intent. The bill was amended in the Education Committee last week to prohibit citizen members of the Board of Governors and of the board of trustees of a local constituent university from having/holding any employment or contractual relationship as a legislative lobbyist requiring annual registration and reporting. The companion bill, **HB 1001 by Representative Dudley Goodlette (R–Naples)** passed out of the House and was heard in the Senate Education Committee last week.

**HB 437, University Growth Funding by Representative Frank Attkisson (R–Kissimmee)** was amended last week in the Education Appropriations Committee. The strike all amendment establishes SUCCEED FL to address the nursing shortage and provides \$5 million in the SUS budget and \$7 million in the Community Colleges budget for that purpose. Distribution would be competitive (public and private) under a process set up by DOE and run by the State Board of Education. There is no longer any mention of enrollment growth funding in this

bill. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 1260 by Senator Stephen Wise (R–Jacksonville)** will not receive a hearing in Committee this session.

**HB 167, Baccalaureate Degrees/Community Colleges by Representative Stan Mayfield (R–Vero Beach)** provides authority and requirements for boards of trustees of community colleges authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees; provides for the establishment of tuition and out-of-state fees for baccalaureate degree programs and, revises the requirements for a proposal by a community college to deliver a baccalaureate degree program. The bill passed the Education Appropriations Committee on Friday. A similar bill, **SB 2254 by Senator Jim King (R–Jacksonville, Alumnus)** requires the community college to notify in writing the accredited public and private colleges and universities in the community colleges district of its intent to seek approval for a baccalaureate program. The universities have 90 days to submit in writing to the Community College an alternative plan for providing the specified degree program. The Senate bill is now in the Education Appropriations Committee.

**HB 221, Employee Allowances by Representative Loranne Ausley (D–Tallahassee)** establishes per diem, subsistence, & mileage rates for travel expenses of public employees; and, provides for fu-

ture adjustments of such rates. The bill reported favorably in the Fiscal Council on Friday. A similar bill, **SB 778 by Senator Al Lawson (D-Tallahassee, Alumnus)** is now in the Ways and Means Committee.

**HB 837, Student & Faculty Academic Freedom by Representative Dennis Baxley (R – Ocala, FSU Alumnus)** provides student rights to academic freedom; provides postsecondary student & faculty academic bill of rights; specifies student, faculty, & instructor rights; and, requires dissemination of copies of act to state universities & community colleges. The bill will be heard in the Education Council tomorrow. The identical bill, **SB 2126 by Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville)** will not receive a hearing this session.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON BILLS**

**SB 482, State Lottery/Public Education by Senator Charlie Clary (R-Destin)** requires that eighty percent of all unclaimed lottery prize money be deposited in the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund consistent with the provisions of s. 24.121(2). These funds may be used to match private contributions received under the postsecondary matching grant programs. The bill reported favorably in the Ways and Means Committee last week and has been placed on the Calendar. A similar bill, **HB 841 by Representative Frank Attkisson (R-Kissimmee)** is in Senate Messages.

**HB 1447 Sales tax/Skybox/Luxury Box/Box Seat by Representative Dan Gelber (D-Miami Beach)** deletes exemption from tax on rental

or license fees for use of real property which applies to charges for rental, lease, sublease, or license for use of skybox, luxury box, or other box seats during high school or college football game. The bill was heard in the Finance & Tax Committee on Friday. The companion bill, **SB 368 by Senator Bill Posey (R-Rockledge)** will not receive a hearing this session.

**HB 1325 Governmental Authority/Communication by Represen-**

**tative Frank Attkisson (R-Kissimmee)** creates Governmental Authority Provision for Communication Services Act; authorizes governmental authorities to provide communication services in certain circumstances, etc. The bill would have an adverse affect on the universities Lambda Rail project. The bill is now in the Commerce Council. A similar bill, **SB 2072 by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)** will be heard in the Community Affairs Committee tomorrow.

## **SESSION SCHEDULE**

### **HOUSE**

**Tuesday, April 19**  
1:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 20**  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 21**  
1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

### **SENATE**

**Wednesday, April 20**  
1:15 to 5:00 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 21**  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Friday, April 22**  
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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