



# LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Volume Eleven / Number Eight • April 25, 2005

Weeks eight and nine, the last two of a regular legislative session, are always frenzied and unpredictable. Week eight begins today. Conference budget negotiators have been named and the conference process has begun (**see related story**). The budget must be completed and on each member's desk no later than next Tuesday, which means they have eight days to wrap up the only bill they are required to pass. This task has been made easier this year because of a surplus of available money.

During the early part of this week, appropriations committees will meet one last time. After that, the House and Senate Committee process will shut down, which will restrict what might reach the respective floors for final passage. Several SUS bills are still in play, including University Governance, financial assistance, and the naming bills (**see Spotlight on Bills**). This is also the time during a session when "trains"—amendments that are tacked on to bills that have already moved out of a committee and are headed towards the floor—are attempted.

**Representative Dennis Baxley**, (R-Ocala, FSU Alum) met with the State University Presidents last week to discuss his "academic freedom" legislation. While Rep. Baxley conceded that his bill was probably dead this session, he asked each president to review their student/faculty grievance policies and report back to him next fall with any modifications that might be made.

A very successful, albeit modified FSU Day at the Capitol pleased the Capitol crowd last Wednesday. Head baseball coach Mike Martin began the House session with a prayer, and women's basketball head coach Sue Semrau did the same in the Senate. In addition, FSU baseball player Shane Robinson was honored on the House floor for his recent hitting streak, the FSU pep band provided musical entertainment, and our legislative alumni, including House Speaker Allan Bense were honored. All of these activities made for some wonderful garnet-and-gold moments.

You can catch the floor action live, as well as conference negotiations, and the last of the committee process, on the Florida Channel, 24 hours a day, everyday, on local cable channel 4. And, as always, please feel free to contact me with comments or concerns you may have. 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

Conference, the process by which House and Senate budget negotiators hammer out the differences in their respective budgets, is in full swing. Last Friday, the Senate made an offer to the House, then broke for the Passover weekend.

The Senate offered more money for university enrollment-growth funding, bringing the total of new money to just under \$50 million. They also offered an additional \$8.1 million in non-recurring funds for the Major Gifts program. The House has \$9 million in non-recurring enhancements funds in FSU's base budget. The Senate has instead offered \$2.52 million in non-recurring funds. Tuition policies, salaries, PECO and proviso have not yet been discussed publicly.

The House will have the opportunity to counter-offer this afternoon.

### *Conferees are:*

Sen. Lisa Carlton, Chair, Rep. Joe Negron, Chair, Rep. Mark Mahon (FSU Alum), Vice Chair, Rep. Andy Gardiner, At Large, Rep. Leslie Waters, (FSU Alum) At Large, Rep. Marco Rubio, At Large, Rep. Marty Bowen, At Large, Rep. David Simmons, At Large, Rep. Fred Brummer, At Large, Rep. Dudley Goodlette, At Large, Rep. Ron Greenstein, At Large, Rep. Ed Jennings, At Large, Rep. Tim Ryan, At Large

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### *The Education Appropriations Conferees are:*

**Senate:** Sen. JD Alexander, Chair, Sen. Larcenia Bullard, Sen. Lee Constantine, Sen. Jim King (FSU Alum), Sen.

Ron Klein, Sen. Evelyn Lynn, Sen. Les Miller, Sen. Stephen Wise

**House:** Rep. Joe Pickens, Chair, Rep. David Rivera, Rep. Frank Attkisson, Rep. Dennis Baxley (FSU Alum), Rep. Anitere Flores, Rep. Ray Sansom (FSU

Alum), Rep. Rafael Arza, Rep. David Meador, Rep. Shelly Vana, Rep. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Rep. Curtis Richardson (FSU Alum), Rep. Charlie Justice, Alternate, Rep. Thad Altman, Alternate

# Spotlight on Bills

## **SPOTLIGHT ON BILLS-UPDATE**

**SB 1920, State Universities/Board 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. Additionally, the bill prohibits 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 bill was amended last week to allow universities to set tuition and fees for graduate, graduate professional and nonresident students. The companion bill, **HB 1001 by Representative Dudley Goodlette (R-Naples)** is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee, but does not include the tuition language.

There are several bills moving that either repeal or divert the \$9 million that was allocated to FSU during the 2004 Legislative Session for the Chiropractic School. Among those are: **SB 378 by Senator J.D. Alexander (R-Lake Wales)**, which is on the calendar for its second reading; **SB 1872 by Senator Burt Saunders (R-Naples)** is also on second reading; and, **HB 1803 by the Finance and Tax Committee** passed the House and is in Senate messages.

**HB 517, University Campus Master Plans and Campus Development Agreements by Representative Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park)** requires that university master plans identify tentative location of structures and revises the method used for the submission of draft master plans for review. Additionally, the bill revises the review period for draft master plans, provides for additional hearing requirements, provides requirements for filing of petition by individual and revises provisions regarding mediation of issues in dispute. The bill is now on the House Calendar. The Senate companion, **SB 2614 by Senator Lee Constantine (R-Altamonte Springs)**, is now in the Judiciary Committee.

**HB 21, Student Financial Assistance by Representative Dick Kravitz (R-Orange Park)** withholds financial assistance to those students holding M1 and F1 visas. The bill reported favorably out of the Education Council and was placed on the calendar. The companion bill, **SB 866, by Senator Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne)** reported favorably in the Education Committee and is now in the Education Appropriations Committee.

**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 Governmental Oversight and Productivity Committee tomorrow. A similar bill in the House, **HB 219 by Representative Loranne Ausley (D-Tallahassee)** has not yet been heard.

**SB 2236 General 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 the baccalaureate degree. Additionally, the bill provides for tuition rebates for students who take minimal excess hours in earning a baccalaureate degree, provides a maximum allowable amount for such rebate and provides conditions to such rebate. The bill will be heard in the Education Appropriations Committee tomorrow. There is no companion in the House.

**SB 2254 Community College Baccalaureate Degrees by Senator Jim King (R-Jacksonville, FSU Alumnus)** 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 requirements for a proposal by a community college to deliver a baccalaureate degree program. The bill will be heard in the Education Appropriations Committee tomorrow. The House companion, **HB 167 by Representative Stan Mayfield (R-Vero Beach)** will be heard in the Education Council tomorrow.

**SB 1444 Centers of Excellence by Senator Ron Klein (D-Delray Beach)** provides purposes and objectives of centers of excellence and creates Emerging Technology Commission in EOG and provides membership thereof. The bill also provides duties of Florida Research Consortium, Inc., regarding review and reporting and requires the commission to adopt criteria for evaluating proposals for establishing/expanding centers of excellence. The bill will be heard in the Government Oversight and Productivity Committee tomorrow. The House companion, **HB 131 by Representative David Meador (R-Lake Mary)** is awaiting hearing in the Fiscal Council.

**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 post-secondary matching grant programs. The bill was substituted for **HB 841 by Representative Frank Attkisson (R-Kissimmee)** was read the third time and passed to the Governor for his signature.

**SB 778, Employee Allowances by Senator Al Lawson (D-Tallahassee, Alumnus)** establishes per diem, subsistence, & mileage rates for travel expenses of public employees; and, provides for future adjustments of such rates. The bill will be heard in the Ways and Means Committee tomorrow. A similar bill, **HB 221 by Representative Loranne Ausley (D-Tallahassee)** is in the State Administration Council.

**SB 1772, Law Enforcement by Senator Carey Baker (R-Eustis)** creates Law Enforcement Agency Consolidation Task Force; provides for preliminary & final reports addressing effects of consolidation of all sworn law enforcement functions in state. The bill will be heard tomorrow in the Criminal Justice Committee. A similar bill in the House, **HB 45 by Representative Mitch Needleman (R-Palm Bay)** is now in the Fiscal Council.

## SESSION SCHEDULE

### HOUSE

**Tuesday, April 26**  
11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 27**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, April 28**  
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 29**  
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### SENATE

**Wednesday, April 27**  
9:30 a.m. until completion

**Thursday, April 28**  
9:30 a.m. until completion

**Friday, April 29**  
9:30 a.m. until completion



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