



On Friday, state-budget builders in the Florida House released their \$69.2 billion spending plan, which includes \$1 billion more than last year for K-12 education and \$2.5 billion in reserves. It appears these allocations, however, come at the expense of those for higher education.

If the House budget were the one adopted, the SUS would see an overall reduction of \$121 million compared to last year and FSU would realize a loss of \$28 million. House leaders recommended an eight percent tuition hike, though, and an allocation of PECO dollars for specific projects. Their proposal will be heard by the full House Appropriations Committee this week.

The Senate's spending plan is not expected to be released for a few more weeks as budget leaders continue reviewing allocations, particularly in the health and human services arena. Additionally, the Senate is holding out for anticipated revenue increases to fill a projected shortfall, currently as much as two billion dollars. See the related story for more about the coming year's budget.

Bills pertaining to military veterans and a state-employee retirement glitch were heard last week and continue to move through the process this week, the fourth of the regular nine-week session. The House also released its budget-implementing bill and higher education conforming bills last week. For updates on these and other bills, please see Spotlight on Bills.

Significant legislative news this week will come on Friday when the House votes on its final map for the once-a-decade redrawing of Congressional and legislative districts. On Thursday, the House will debate and amend the map until 11:00 pm, do more of the same on Friday and then vote on its agreed-upon version no later than 6:00 pm.

You can watch the activities of the legislature live on The Florida Channel, local cable channel 4, or online at WFSU.org. As always, please feel free to contact me if you need information on bills and their analysis. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or kdaly@fsu.edu.

Kathleen

House Releases Proposed Budget

House budget builders released their \$69.2 billion spending plan late last week. The plan includes \$1 billion in additional funding for K-12 education and \$2.5 billion in reserves. Higher Education did not do as well however, taking a 6.2 percent cut over last year's spending. House leaders did recommend an 8 percent tuition hike across the board, with the expectation that the University Boards of Trustees will add an additional 7 percent in tuition

differential, as allowed by law. In a surprise move, the House also included \$167.4 million for specific Public Education Capitol Outlay (PECO) projects, as well as maintenance, repair and remodeling dollars thought non-existent for next fiscal year. The source for this additional PECO revenue is a tax shift, provided for in House Bill 5703. There is no senate companion at this time. The Senate has not released its budget yet, and may not do so until next week.

Following is a breakdown of issues outlined in the House proposed General Appropriations Act impacting Florida State University:

General Revenue.	\$176,737,672
Student and Other Fees	\$215,265,436
<small>(includes \$3million for the Mag Lab)</small>	
Lottery	\$53,703,481
College of Medicine	\$44,704,073
College of Medicine Lottery	\$605,115
SUS Maintenance Repair & Renovation	\$13,848,000
PECO	
Utilities/Infrastructure/Cap. Renewal/Roofs	\$7,200,000
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering III	\$13,035,336
Applied Science Building	\$6,000,000
Earth Ocean Atmospheric Science Building.	\$3,850,000
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources Ctr.	\$396,525
Autism Program	\$700,693
Public Broadcasting	
Florida Channel Closed Captioning	\$340,862
Florida Channel Year Round Coverage	\$1,806,676
Public Television Stations	\$3,996,811
<small>(\$307,447 is provided for each public television station, public radio was not funded)</small>	
Student Financial Assistance	\$1,467,667
Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center	\$350,000



FSU Day at the Capitol

FSU Day at the Capitol has become a popular tradition during the legislative session and a wonderful opportunity to bring Florida State University to our friends in the Legislature. With this event, we emphasize the University's long and proud heritage and bring attention to the extraordinary accomplishments of students and faculty. This year, FSU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

Please join us for a day filled with informative displays in the plaza level, second and third floor rotundas from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., as well as appearances by FSU celebrities, performances by the Pep Band, cheerleaders and the Flying High Circus during the lunch hour in the courtyard beginning at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments will be available for all to enjoy. Please contact Toni Moore at 644-3847 if your department has not yet signed up for a display.

In addition to our festivities on the 7th, this year we will again this year have the "Seminole Evening" kick-off reception the evening of February 6th on the 22nd floor of the Capitol. The reception is 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We invite you to come by and meet our legislators.

Mark your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you in your Garnet and Gold on February 6th and 7th.

SPOTLIGHT ON **BILLS**

HB 5201 -- Postsecondary Education Funding, by Representative Marlene O'Toole (R – The Villages), conforms statutes to the funding decisions included in the House of Representatives proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for fiscal year 2012-13.

Specifically the bill:

- Establishes the Florida Virtual Campus to provide access to online student and library support services and serve as a statewide resource and clearinghouse for postsecondary education distance learning courses and degree programs and to increase student access and completion of degrees
- Establishes a Degree Completion Pilot Program to recruit, recover, and retain adult learners and assist them in completing degrees aligned to high-wage, high-skill, and workforce needs
- Increases the surcharge for excess credit hours
- Authorizes the Board of Governors to transfer unused Student and Other Fees Trust Fund authority between institutions, and restricts universities' ability to transfer funds in excess of \$1 million to and from satellite campuses
- Maintains the salary limitation on the amount of state funds that may be used for salaries of Florida College System and State University presidents and administrative employees in Fiscal Year 2012-13
- Provides that a full-time student, co-enrolled in a K-12 education program and an adult general education program, may be reported for funding in an adult education program in Fiscal Years 2012-2013 and 2013-14

The bill makes the following changes to student financial aid and tuition assistance programs:

- Shortens the length of time from 3 years to 2 years that a student is eligible to accept the initial Bright Futures Scholarship after high school graduation
- Clarifies that students enrolled in the Spring/Summer University of Florida

pilot program are authorized to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship award for only two semesters each year

- Clarifies that students are required to annually submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Limits allowable uses for the Bright Futures Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship
- Revises student GPA eligibility requirements for renewal of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award

The bill includes provisions for other scholarship programs which:

- Requires the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers (FFMT) and the Florida Education Fund (FEF) to provide financial reports on an annual basis
- Requires the FFMT to use a contingency collection agency to recoup scholarship repayments from students in default
- Requires the FEF to utilize cash reserves to provide scholarships in Fiscal Year 2012-13
- Eliminates a law scholarship program that is no longer funded, nor does the FEF provide scholarships for
- Revises matching requirements for the FEF, the Jose Marti and Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Programs

The House proposed GAA provides:

- \$16.9 million to support the newly established Virtual Campus, of these funds \$5 million is provided for student access and degree completion pilots
- \$11 million in savings to state associated with the decrease in allowable excess credit hours
- \$337,554 in savings due to changes in the Bright Futures Vocational Gold Seal Scholarship program
- \$1.9 million in savings due to the utilization of program reserve funds by FFMT and FEF

The bill is now in the Appropriations Committee. A comparable bill in the Senate, **SB 1218 by Senator J.D. Alexander (R – Lake Wales)** is in the Budget Committee.

APC2 -- Relating to Implementing Bill by Representative Marlene O'Toole (R – The Villages), is the bill that clarifies aspects of the General Appropriations Act. The bill:

- requires all transfers between major institutions and their special units to be reviewed for approval by the Board of Governors if the amount exceeds one million dollars. If approved, the Board of Governors may then submit the request to the Legislative Budget Commission for further review. Once the transfer request has been approved by both entities, the university may then make the transaction.

- The bill also authorizes the Board of Governors to transfer unused tuition appropriations from the Education/General Student and Other Fees Trust Fund between institutions.

- The bill extends the \$200,000 salary cap amount in the aforementioned statutes for an additional year, fiscal year 2012-13.

- The bill requires students entering into a state university or college in the 2012-13 academic year for the first time to pay 100 percent of tuition for excess credit hours above 110 percent of the credit hours required for their degree. Students who entered into a state university or college in the 2011-12 academic year for the first time will pay 100 percent of tuition for excess credit hours above 115 percent of the credit hours required for their degree. Students who entered into a state university or college prior to the 2011-12 academic year for the first time will pay 50 percent of tuition for excess credit hours above 120 percent of the credit hours required for their degree. Students enrolling in these additional courses will be assessed an increased fee in an effort to encourage them to complete the necessary degree requirements in a timely manner.

- The bill shortens the length of time from 3 years after high school graduation to 2 years after high school graduation that a student is eligible to

accept an initial Bright Futures Scholarship award.

- The bill clarifies that students are required to annually submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for initial award eligibility as well as renewal award eligibility.
- The bill revises eligibility requirements for students receiving a Bright Futures Scholarship award renewal.

SB 2024 -- State Retirement, by Senator Jeremy Ring (D – Margate), cleans up and clarifies a number of issues raised by the enactment last session of Senate Bill 2100, which made a number of substantial changes to the Florida Retirement System (FRS). These changes include:

- a retiree of a state-administered retirement system who is elected or appointed for the first time to an elective office in a regularly established position with a covered employer may not be enrolled as a renewed member in any state-administered retirement system.
 - loans and hardship withdrawals are prohibited in the FRS.
 - DROP deferral ages for members enrolled after July 1, 2011, for those entering DROP based on years of service instead of normal retirement age. This change makes the DROP deferral age 5 years before normal retirement age - age 55 for Special Risk Class members and age 60 for all other members, which will line up the DROP deferral age with the normal retirement ages.
 - a retiree of a state-administered retirement system who is initially reemployed in a regularly established position on or after July 1, 2010, may not be enrolled as a renewed member.
 - loans and hardship withdrawals are prohibited in the State University System Optional Retirement Program. The bill also provides a definition of the term “benefit,” to clarify when distributions received by a member prohibit enrollment as a renewed member in a state-administered retirement system.
 - retiree of a state-administered retirement system initially reemployed in a regularly established position on or after July 1, 2010 is not eligible to participate in a state-administered retirement system.
 - loans and hardship withdrawals are prohibited in the FRS Investment Plan.
- The bill was amended last week to clarify that a retiree who is a member of the investment plan and is employed on or af-

ter July 1, 2012, in a regularly established position shall be a renewed member in the regular class of the investment plan. The bill reported favorably in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability committee. There is no House companion at this time.

HB 4089 -- Leadership Board for Applied Research and Public Service, by Representative Clay Ingram (R – Pensacola, FSU Alum), repeals the law creating the Leadership Board for Applied Research and Public Service (Leadership Board). The Leadership Board was created in 1998 to serve as an advisory board to the Florida Board of Regents and other entities and was staffed by the Institute of Science and Public Affairs at Florida State University (FSU). The Leadership Board is no longer active. The bill reported favorably in the Education Committee last week. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 1558 by Senator Greg Evers (R – Crestview)** will be heard in the Higher Education Committee tomorrow.

CS/HB 1261 -- State Employment, by Representative Debbie Mayfield (R – Vero Beach), makes substantive and organizational changes to the statutes governing public employees and officers. The bill makes changes to improve efficiency and to clean up statutory language. Those changes include, but are not limited to:

- Reorganization of statutory provisions;
- Changes in terminology;
- Removal of obsolete provisions and references; and
- Streamlining of the rule development and modification process.

Substantive changes include, but are not limited to:

- Authorization of the Department of Management Services to charge a state governmental entity outside of the state personnel system for use of services from the People First system;
- Revision of language pertaining to state employee furloughs to allow the provision to be used;
- Creation of a monetary cap on bonus payments to an employee in a fiscal year; and
- Removal of the annual hourly cap for other-personal-services employees.

The bill requires the Department of Management Services to provide a proposal to restructure and modernize the leave benefits of state personnel by a date certain. The bill reported favorably in the Governmental Operations Subcom-

mittee last week. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 2084, by Senator Jeremy Ring (D – Margate)** will be heard in the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on Wednesday.

HB 4041 -- Education Law Repeals, by Representative Rachel Burgin (R – Riverview), repeals programs that were never implemented or are no longer funded. These programs are: the Alternative Credit Pilot Project; the High School to Business Career Enhancement Program; the Substance Abuse Training Program; the Incentives for Urban or Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Area Internships; the Dropout Reentry and Mentor Project; the Sunshine Workforce Solutions Grant Program; and the Transition to Teaching Program.

The bill also repeals provisions of law that are obsolete, not utilized, or unnecessary. These provisions include: K-12 Foreign Language Curriculum; Professional Credentials of Prekindergarten Instructors; Standard High School Diploma Designations; Individual Education Plans for Exceptional Students; Provision of Information to Students and Parents Regarding School-to-Work Transition; Guidance Services; Statewide School Safety Hotline; Readiness for Postsecondary Education and the Workplace; Joint Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement Instruction; Site-Determined Baccalaureate Degree Access; and Sponsorship of Athletic Activities Similar to those for which Scholarships are offered.

In addition, the bill repeals rulemaking provisions that require the State Board of Education (SBE), in cooperation with the Department of Health, to adopt rules regarding the use of an epinephrine auto-injector, diabetes management, and the use of prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements by students. The law is self-executing and no rulemaking authority is needed.

The bill reported favorably by the Education Committee last week. The Senate companion, **SB 492 by Senator Oscar Braynon (D – Miami Gardens, FSU Alum)**, is now in the Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

UPDATE ON BILLS

SB 922 -- Current and Former Military Personnel, by Senator Mike Bennett (R – Bradenton), contains a number of provisions relating to current and former military personnel. In general, the bill:

- Creates the National Guard Employment

Tax Credit Program. This program allows an eligible business, which employs a current member of the Florida National Guard who has been unemployed for more than 6 months or is returning from duty abroad, to be eligible to receive a \$10,000 tax credit.

- Creates the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to serve as an advisory body tasked with accepting nominations of persons to be considered for induction into the existing Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.
- Expands the vendor preference in state contracting, which currently applies to qualified service-disabled veterans, to include certain businesses owned and operated by wartime veterans.
- Creates the Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Korean Conflict Veteran, and Vietnam War Veteran special use license plates. Such plates may be issued to recipients of these awards and to Korean Conflict and Vietnam War veterans upon applying with proof of eligibility and payment of the vehicle license tax.
- Authorizes an American Legion specialty license plate.
- Designates August 7 of each year as Purple Heart Day and authorizes the Governor to annually issue a proclamation designating August 7 as Purple Heart Day.
- Authorizes the creation of military veterans and service members court programs.

- Allows counties to establish programs to divert a veteran or service member who is charged with a criminal offense into an appropriate treatment program if they have a service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury (TBI), substance use disorder, or psychological problem.

- Specifically permits a court to order a special condition of probation requiring a veteran or service member who has a service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury (TBI), substance use disorder, or psychological problem to participate in a treatment program for the condition.

- Allows a school-aged dependent of military personnel the option to remain at the school he or she currently attends if a local school board adjusts school zones, which requires attendance at a different school for that student.

- Requires institutions within the Florida College System and State University System of Florida that offer priority course registration for a segment of the student population to provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and dependents of veterans using GI Bill educational benefits.

- Allows veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who physically attend a public college, university or institution of higher learning in Florida, to be automatically classified as a resident of the state for tuition purposes.

The bill has passed out of the Senate and is waiting to be heard in the House. A House companion, **HB 45, by Represent-**

tative Jimmie Smith (R – Lecanto) is now in the Education Committee.

SB 94 -- Postsecondary Education Course Registration for Veterans, by Senator Mike Fasano (R – New Port Richey),

requires institutions within the Florida College System and the State University System of Florida that offer priority course registration for a segment of the student population, or that establish such a policy, to provide priority course registration to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. Those eligible for priority registration under the bill include veterans using GI Bill educational benefits or the spouse or dependent children of a veteran to whom the GI Bill educational benefits have been transferred. The bill provides that qualified GI Bill users will be eligible for priority registration until the expiration of the GI Bill educational benefits. The bill reported favorably out of the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee and is now in the Budget Committee. A House companion, **HB 977, by Representative Bryan Nelson (R – Apopka)** is in the Economic Affairs Committee.

HB 755 -- Relating to Postsecondary Education of Military Veterans by Representative Doug Holder (R – Sarasota),

requires that any veteran who meets specified criteria be admitted to any Florida College System institution or state university of veteran's choice. The bill is in the K - 20 Innovation Committee. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 202, by Senator Mike Bennett (R – Bradenton)** was withdrawn prior to introduction.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

HOUSE SESSION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



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