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The Florida House and Senate passed their respective budgets last week and are now ready to begin negotiations to reconcile the \$2.2 billion difference in their spending plans.

The Senate's \$69.4 billion budget is fattened with money from the federal government, and gambling dollars. The \$1.3 billion in additional revenue would boost education spending, avoid deep health-care and social-services cuts, and maintain funding for environmental programs in this election year. The catch? This supplemental revenue doesn't fully exist yet.

As a result, state Senators will stay closely attuned to Congress this week to see whether approval of additional Medicaid dollars, which are among those budgeted for, will come through. Likewise, the gambling compact with the Seminole Tribe, from which the Senate has already allocated more than \$400 million, is in their budget, even as this agreement has not drawn any public discussion this session.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Larry Cretul, R-Ocala, stated that the House's \$67.2 billion budget plan which contains none of the above hoped-for money is more realistic.

In contesting the House's approach, the Senate appropriations chair, J.D. Alexander, R-Lake Wales, said his chamber's budget would be an easier sell if the dollars come through.

"Do you provide for these funds in the budget and show where they'll be spent? I think that makes a case for why these revenues are important," Alexander said.

As for substantive bills of interest, several will be heard this week, and thereby wrap up most committee work for this session. The House Education Policy Committee has 8 hours set aside today to hear the teacher-quality/merit-pay bill. Later this week, Senate Bill 2442, which would designate in statute, the University of Florida as the state's "flagship" university, will be heard. Florida State University alumni as well as alumni from the other state universities are opposing this restraining and restrictive legislation (**see Spotlight on Bills**).

In Washington last week, President Obama surprised many with a proposal to open up previously restricted federal waters along the Atlantic seaboard and in the Gulf to oil drilling which echoes an initiative state lawmakers started investigating last year as a source of additional revenue for the state.

However, Senate President Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, said there are no plans to take up near-shore Gulf drilling this session (as put forward by House Speaker-designate Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park), in spite of Obama's proposal for the further reaches of the Gulf. "I'm not sure from what I've read in the headlines, that [President Obama's proposal is] enough to suggest that we get moving," Atwater said.

Tomorrow is FSU Day at the Capitol! In addition to the many exhibits, displays and festivities, I'd like to encourage every FSU alumni, supporter and friend to wear garnet and gold as an extra show of support!

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need information about bills and their analysis, or just want to know how to contact our state legislators. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or **kdaly@fsu.edu**.

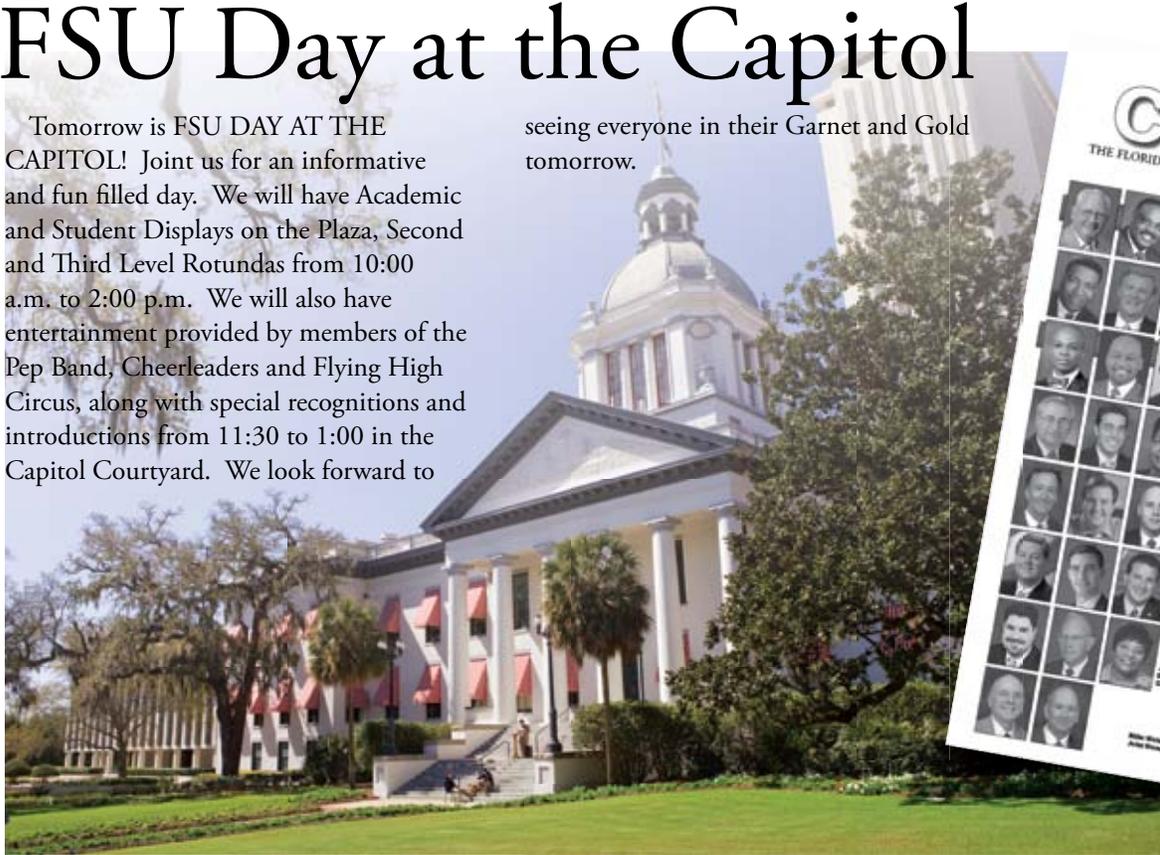
Kathleen

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "It was a mistake. Things happen in this process," said House Majority Leader Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach, FSU alum) after an attempt by the House to keep salaries for legislative staff at their current levels while inadvertently increasing pay for state legislators by 4 percent. Hasner provided assurances that the glitch will be fixed in negotiations with the Senate.

FSU Day at the Capitol

Tomorrow is FSU DAY AT THE CAPITOL! Joint us for an informative and fun filled day. We will have Academic and Student Displays on the Plaza, Second and Third Level Rotundas from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will also have entertainment provided by members of the Pep Band, Cheerleaders and Flying High Circus, along with special recognitions and introductions from 11:30 to 1:00 in the Capitol Courtyard. We look forward to

seeing everyone in their Garnet and Gold tomorrow.



New Tag Sales Plummet

During last year's session the legislature authorized significant increases in vehicle-registration fees, and a hike to the "plate-switching fee," which went into effect on September 1, 2009. Since then, sales of new FSU specialty license plates have dropped by 76 percent.

Other specialty tags have also been negatively impacted by these fee increases, with some now struggling to maintain the sales minimum required by the state. As a result, an informal alliance of specialty-tag coordinators has been collectively advocating for a rollback of some of these fees.

So far, the response from legislators has been mixed, in part because the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles maintains that a decrease in new-car sales, and not the higher fees, is the primary reason specialty-tag sales have declined. Stay tuned for updates on this evolving issue.

SSB 2442 Summary

SB 2442, State University System by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R – Ormond Beach), requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to create a tiered system in the state university system. A research university with international impact would be given freedom to compete with similar institutions in other states through specific projects, missions and exemptions assigned to it by the BOG and the Legislature.

This bill would require the Board of Governors to align the missions of the state universities according to:

- The quality of its students;
- The national reputation of its faculty and its academic research programs;
- The quantity of externally generated research, patents, and licenses; and
- The BOG's strategic and accountability plans.

The bill requires the BOG strategic plan to consider peer institutions among the state universities. The mission alignment and strategic plan must acknowledge that universities with a national and international impact have the greatest capacity to promote Florida's

economic development. The bill requires a nationally-recognized and ranked university that has a global perspective to have the freedom to compete globally. The bill authorizes the BOG and the Legislature to assign specific projects, missions, exemptions and other responsibilities to such institutions.

The bill amends the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Act to provide a legislative finding that a university that has a national and international impact has the greatest capacity to promote Florida's economic development through new discoveries, patents, licenses, and technologies that generate state business of global importance.

On March 24, 2010, the BOG and the Legislature reached an agreement in the settlement of the lawsuit *Graham et al., v. Pruitt, et al*, which delineates the roles the Legislature and the BOG in exercising authority over the state's higher education system. The ramifications of the agreement relative to this bill are not known. **There is no House companion at this time.**

Spotlight on Bills

SB 1472 - Relating to Research

Commercialization Matching Grant Program by Senator Nancy Detert (R – Venice), creates the Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program (grant program) to assist small or startup companies that take advantage of federal and state partnerships to accelerate their growth and market penetration. Program applicants must meet several criteria, such as having attracted funding from non-government sources. The bill directs Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s, Technology, Entrepreneurship and Capital Committee, or a subcommittee, to develop program policy, establish criteria for the grant awards, approve the awards, and review the grant program's progress and results. To be eligible for the grant program, a business must meet a number of requirements, including receipt of a Phase 1 federal research grant. The bill specifies the maximum grant amount at \$250,000. The grant program will be funded through a \$4 million appropriation in recurring general revenue in FY's 2010-2011, 2011-12, and 2012-13. The bill also requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to review and evaluate the program, and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2012. The bill is now in Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations committee. The House companion, **HB 893, by Representative Matt Hudson (R – Naples)** is waiting to be heard by the full House.

HB 1223 - Relating to Public School Mathematics and Science Instructional Materials by Representative Debbie Mayfield (R – Vero Beach)

creates Florida Center for World Excellence in Mathematics & Science at the University of Florida, to provide for review of mathematics and science instructional materials. The bill provides duties of the center to include recommendations to Commissioner of Education of instructional materials for use in K-12 public schools beginning with 2011-2012 school year. The bill requires the commissioner to adopt instructional materials in mathematics and science according to schedule developed by commissioner and requires the center to form advisory panels for mathematics and science to make recommendations to center. The bill specifies requirements for recommended instructional materials and provides for funding. The bill is now in the PreK-12 Policy Committee. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 2304**

by Senator Thad Altman (R – Melbourne) has been referred to the Higher Education, Education Pre-K – 12, Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations committees and the Policy & Steering Committee on Ways and Means.

CS/HB 1287, Public K-12 Education by Representative Tom Grady (R – Naples, FSU Alum), creates the "Incentives for Excellence in Education Act" and requires the Florida Partnership for Minority and Underrepresented Student Achievement (Partnership), in conjunction with DOE, to post an annual report on DOE's website on or before January 15, identifying:

- The total number of teachers who participate in professional development associated with Advanced Placement (AP) courses;
 - The registration fees associated with such professional development; and
 - The number and value of scholarships awarded by the College Board for teacher participation in AP professional development.
- The report must provide information at the state level and identify by subject, race, and gender:
- The number of students per school who enroll in AP courses;
 - The number of AP courses in which such students enroll;
 - The number and percentage of students enrolled in AP courses who take the AP examination that corresponds to each course;
 - The number and percentage of students enrolled in AP courses who take the AP examination that corresponds to each course and receive a score of 3 or higher; and
 - The number and percentage of students who take an AP examination without having enrolled in the corresponding AP course and earn a score of 3 or higher.

The report must also include the amount paid by the state for each examination and the total rebates provided to each school for the administration of AP examinations.

The bill requires each school district to allocate 100 percent of the Florida Education Finance Program funds received for International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and AP Program instruction to the program that generates the funds. The funds allocated must be expended solely for the payment of administrative costs, including the costs associated with the respective program's annual school fees, examination fees, and professional development for IB, AICE, or AP teachers. The bill amends the method by which bonuses for teachers of IB, AICE, and AP Programs are calculated and awarded and removes the bonus cap of \$2,000. The bill is now in PreK-12 Appropriations Committee. The Senate companion, **SB 1970 by Senator Nancy Detert (R – Venice)** is scheduled to be heard by the Education Pre-K – 12 committee tomorrow.

SB 2102 - Relating to Postsecondary Education Fee Waivers by Senator Stephen Wise (R – Jacksonville)

authorizes a state university or community college may waive tuition and fees for full-time public school instructional personnel who meet academic requirements for up to 6 credit hours per term for courses approved by the Department of Education. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the Education Pre-K – 12 committee tomorrow. The House companion, **HB 723 by Representative Maria Sachs (D – Delray Beach)** is now in the Now in Education Policy Council.



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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UPDATE ON BILLS

CS SB 2206, Chief Financial Officer/Chart of Accounts, by Senator J.D. Alexander (R – Lake Wales), was amended to require that by July 1, 2011, each entity of higher education to maintain its financial data in a manner that is consistent with the applicable common financial data management codes established by the Board of Governors for such entity. The bill is scheduled to be heard by the full Senate tomorrow. There is no House companion at this time.

HB 5201, Postsecondary Education Funding by Representative Bill Proctor (R – St. Augustine, FSU Alum), revises provisions relating to the Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans (CSDDV) Program. The bill clarifies the use of funds, the award amounts, and the eligible institutions at which a recipient may use an award. The bill provides a new process for the coordinated licensing of electronic library resources for use by secondary and postsecondary students. The bill requires that students enrolled in workforce education programs must be classified as residents or nonresidents for tuition purposes. The bill creates an exemption from payment of the state university tuition differential fee for students who are recipients of prepaid postsecondary tuition scholarships. The bill continues the flat award policy for Bright Futures Scholarships through the 2010-2011 academic year. The bill revises the Workers' Compensation Administrative Trust Fund within the Department of Education, establishing a reversion schedule for any unencumbered and/or undisbursed funds that were transferred from the Department of Financial Services Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund. The bill eliminates statutory requirements for separate funding of baccalaureate programs within the Florida College System, allowing for such funding to be transferred to the Community College Program Fund. The bill also creates a requirement for separate reporting of upper-division enrollment and upper-division expenditures. The bill revises provisions relating to workforce education fees to authorize, rather than require, rule adoption by the State Board of Education for the calculation of cost borne by students. The bill aligns the submission date for requests relating to the community college and state university facilities enhancement challenge grant programs with the October 15 legislative budget request submission deadline. The bill passed out of the House last week and is in messages in the Senate. The Senate companion,

SB 1344 by Senator Evelyn (R – Ormond Beach) passed out of the Senate last week.

CSCS 1337, Nursing by Representative Denise Grimsley (R – Sebring), builds upon the 2009 legislation's streamlining of the nursing education program regulation process by specifying that a nursing education program that is accredited by one of the two specialized accrediting agencies that are nationally recognized by the US Secretary of Education to accredit nursing education programs is no longer subject to BON regulation for as long as the program maintains its accreditation. The BON approval process for non-accredited programs, as adopted in last year's bill, is retained, but implementation issues identified by the OPPAGA, FCN, and stakeholders are clarified. The bill is now in the Education Policy Council, its last committee of reference. The Senate companion, **SB 2530, by Senator J.D. Alexander (R – Lake Wales)** is scheduled to be heard in the Governmental Oversight and Productivity committee tomorrow.

SB 1516, State-owned Lands by Senator Carey Baker (R – Eustis), provides for the inventory of state-owned lands by requiring all state agencies, the judicial branch, and the water management districts to report certain data annually to the Division of State Lands in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The bill directs the DEP to submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by October 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, a report that lists the state-owned real property recommended for disposition. The bill requires that, prior to disposition, a state-owned building or parcel of land shall first be offered for lease to state agencies, state universities, and community colleges. The bill directs the DEP to create and maintain a comprehensive state-owned real property database that includes an accurate inventory of all real property leased, owned, rented, occupied or managed by the state or the judicial branch. The bill directs the DEP to submit an updated feasibility study for the Lands Inventory Tracking System, to include in its scope the comprehensive state-owned system, by November 1, 2010. The bill is in House messages. The House companion, **HB 7169 by Representative Robert Schenck (R – Springhill)** is on the House calendar.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

Tuesday, April 6, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Thursday, April 8, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

HOUSE SESSION

Tuesday, April 6, 2010
5:15 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
1:00 p.m. to completion

Thursday, April 8, 2010
5:15 p.m. to completion