

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Garnet and Gold was the theme during the third week of the 2007 Legislative Session.

Early last week, both the House and Senate education budget committees released the first drafts of their 2007-08 spending plans. At this early stage, the budgets look promising for FSU. The House has suggested funding for our number-one priority, the Pathways of Excellence initiative, at its full amount of \$11.7 million (\$5.8 million of which would be recurring). The Senate, meanwhile, chose to instead fund an incentive pot for the SUS that includes accountability measures, which would determine the dollars each university receives. In addition, the Senate plan follows up on last year's in-state/out-of-state ratio. (Either chamber's plan, at this point, would be favorable to FSU **(see related story)**.)

At mid-week, President Wetherell found himself before a Senate Committee testifying in favor of a bill allowing the University of Florida to charge their in-coming freshman an extra \$500 per semester. Subsequently, this Academic Enhancement fee passed the committee by a vote of 3 to 2, likely due to our president's very supportive and persuasive arguments. **(See Spotlight on Bills.)**

Finally, last Thursday, garnet and gold dominated the Capitol as our FSU Day at the Capitol festivities took front and center. Governor Charlie Crist, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and numerous legislative alumni shared the spotlight with the FSU Pep Band, the Flying High Circus, FSU administrators, athletic coaches and even the voice of the Seminoles, Gene Deckerhoff. It was the perfect complement to an already upbeat week **(see related story)**.

You're welcome to check out the FSU Day photos at TDO.com and as always, contact me with questions or comments you may have. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or via e-mail at **kdaly@mailier.fsu.edu**.

Kathleen

Budget Update

Both the House and the Senate last week released the first draft of their budget plans. Below is a side-by-side comparison of the major issues of concern to Florida State and to the University System. These dollar amounts, and maybe even some of the issues, will change over the next few weeks as the budget amendatory process takes place.

Issue	BOG	House	Senate
Pathways of Excellence	\$ 11,700,000	\$ 5,874,569	\$ 0
Non-recurring		\$ 5,874,569	
2007-08 PO&M – New Space	\$ 9,171,937	\$ 9,171,937	\$ 9,171,937
Ratio of In-State/Out-of-State			
Students	\$ 15,753,165		\$ 16,012,794
Recurring			\$ 3,157,794
Non-recurring			\$ 12,855,000
(\$6,000,000 to FSU)			
Access to Higher Ed. – FTE Students	10,585	6,514	4,957
	\$156,748,327	\$ 74,516,745	\$ 59,492,680
Tuition Increase	0	5%	5%
Nursing Ph.D. – Yr. 2: plus support			
SUCCEED/University Initiatives	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,215,000
Major Gifts Matching Funds - NR	\$ 74,336,964	\$ 22,500,000	\$ 74,336,964
FSU Medical School - Recurring			
(Daytona Beach & Immokalee)	\$ 2,451,269	\$ 2,451,269	\$ 2,451,269
FSU –MS			
Daytona Beach Expansion	\$ 1,483,932	\$ 1,483,932	\$ 500,000
Immokalee Expansion	\$ 967,337	\$ 967,337	\$ 967,337
Ft. Pierce Expansion	\$ 1,483,698	\$ 1,483,698	\$ 1,483,698
Panama City Expansion	\$ 439,698	\$ 439,698	\$ 0
Student Progress Tracking & High			
Level Skills Testing – FSU - NR			\$ 500,000
College of Law – 1st DCA facility		\$ 250,000	\$ 0

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

Wednesday, March 28
2:50 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.
Thursday, March 29
2:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

HOUSE SESSION

Wednesday, March 28
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 29
1:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

FSU DAY



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GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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On Thursday, March 22, the Capitol dazzled with garnet and gold. The festivities began with Coach Mike Martin giving the opening prayer and FSU senior Kyle Doney leading the pledge of Allegiance at the opening of the Senate Session. The Pep Band, cheerleaders and Flying High Circus entertained the crowd in the Capitol courtyard at noon as President Wetherell and

Gene Dekerhoff welcomed our legislative alum, Governor Charlie Crist, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, BOT Chair Jim Smith, BOT member Andy Haggard and the entire football coaching staff. The afternoon ended with the National Champion Track and Cross-country coach Bob Braman leading the prayer and academic All-American Javier Garcia-Tunon leading the pledge in

the Florida House of Representatives. Even Coach Bobby Bowden made an appearance on the House floor as the legislators presented him with a resolution honoring his induction into the Football Hall of Fame. And as the chairman of the Seminole Caucus, Representative Carl Domino said, "It's all down hill from here. FSU Day is the best day of the whole session."

Spotlight on Bills

SB 1924—Teacher Education by the Higher Education Committee, deletes the requirement for the State Board of Education to adopt rules providing opportunities for non-degreed teachers to earn reading credentials and revises criteria for evaluating competency of educators who graduate from teacher preparation programs. The bill requires applicants for Critical Teacher Shortage Student Loan Forgiveness Program to commit to teaching for 3 years in critical subject shortage area and establishes the Florida Quality Education Council. The bill passed out of the Higher Education Committee last week. There is no House companion at this time, although **HB 491 by Representative Bill Proctor (R. St. Augustine, FSU Alum)** is similar.

SB 2012—State Universities by Senator Steve Oelrich (R – Gainesville, FSU Alum), transfers responsibility for securing liability insurance from the State Board of Education to the Board of Governors and authorizes discussion of patient care information for certain purposes. The bill authorizes the university boards of trustees to intervene in civil action for medical negligence under certain circumstances and provides legal status of employees and agents of the university boards of trustees and university faculty practice plan entities. The bill was amended and passed the Higher Education Committee last week. The House companion, **HB 911 by Representative Bill Proctor (R – St. Augustine, FSU Alum)** has been referred to the Committee on Constitution and Civil Law.

SB 2496—Stem Cell Research by Senator Mike Haridopolos (R – Melbourne), establishes the “Fla. Hope Offered through Principled, Ethically Sound Stem Cell Research Act”. The bill creates a Stem Cell Research Advisory Council & Biomedical Ethics Advisory Council within the Department of Health and requires the Secretary of Health to make grants-in-aid from the Biomedical Research TF for said research. The bill provides restrictions and requirements for uses of funds from such grants-in-aid and provides prohibitions re human cloning. The bill will be heard tomorrow in the Health Policy Council. The identical bill in the House **HB 1065 by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami)**, has been referred to the Healthcare and Policy & Budget Councils.

HB 491—Veterans’ Tuition Assistance Act, by Representative Michael Scionti (D – Tampa, FSU Alum), requires state universities and community colleges to waive 50 percent of the in-state tuition rate for veterans who currently serve, or who have served and have been discharged under honorable conditions, in active military service during one of the periods of wartime service as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill passed one committee and will be heard in the Schools and Learning Council tomorrow. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 2006 by Senator Victor Crist (R – Tampa)** has been referred to

the Higher Education, Military Affairs and Domestic Security and, Higher Education Appropriations committees.

HB 289—Textbook Affordability by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami), exempts certain textbooks from tax on sales, use, and other transactions. The bill prohibits certain actions of community college or state university employees relating to the student purchase of required textbooks and requires student notification of assigned textbooks. The bill further requires the adoption of specified policies and practices to minimize the cost of textbooks. It has a \$52 million fiscal impact on the state. The bill reported favorably out of the Committee on Postsecondary Education and will be heard in the Schools and Learning Council tomorrow. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 2492 by Senator Mike Haridopolos (R – Melbourne)** has been referred to the Higher Education, Finance and Tax, and Higher Education Appropriations committees.

Update on Bills

CS SB 1954—Alcoholic Beverages, by the Committee on Regulated Industries, clarifies that the prohibition against allowing person younger than 21 years of age to consume alcoholic beverages at premises licensed to sell alcohol and provides that a penalty of suspending or revoking driver’s license or privilege for the offense of unlawfully serving alcoholic beverages to person younger than 21 years of age applies to persons older than 18 yrs. of age. The bill requires that a report be submitted to the Governor and Legislature, etc. The bill passed out of the Regulated Industries Committee last week and will next be heard in the Higher Education Committee.

HB 1521, HB 1523, HB 1525, HB 1527, HB 1529, and HB 1531—Sure Ventures Programs by Representative Gayle Harrell (R – Port St. Lucie), creates and provides legislative intent for the Sure Ventures Commercialization Program. The bills create the Sure Ventures Commercialization Grant Program and the SURE Venture Capital Act. The proposals require Enterprise Florida, Inc. to facilitate the establishment of the SURE Venture Capital Fund. Additionally, the bills create the Institute for Commercialization of Public Research and include an appropriation of \$13,000,000. The bills passed out of the Committee on Economic Development. Companion bills in the Senate, **SB 2414 and 2418 by Senator Jeremy Ring (D – Margate)** were also heard last week and passed out of the Higher Education Committee.

SB 1710—State University Student Fees, by Senator Steve Oelrich (R – Gainesville, FSU Alum), authorizes the Board of Governors to delegate authority to establish certain fees for academic enhancement to the board of trustees at the University of Florida. The bill reported out of the

Higher Education Committee last week on a 3 to 2 vote. **Senator Jim King, (R – Jacksonville, FSU Alum) and Senator Charlie Justice (D – St. Petersburg)** voted against the bill. The companion in the House, **HB 905, by Representative Charles Dean (R – Inverness, FSU Alum)**, was discussed in the Committee on Postsecondary Education last Wednesday. No vote was taken at that time.

HB 1287—Florida Research Commercialization Program by Representative Dennis Ross (R- Lakeland), creates the Florida Research Commercialization Matching Grant Program and provides for the establishment of a statewide advisory committee for certain purposes. The bill provides applicant eligibility requirements and provides for a selection committee and requirements for selection process and awards of grants. The bill passed the Economic Development Committee last week and is awaiting hearing in the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council.

HB 881—First Generation Matching Grant by Representative Martin Kiar (D – Parkland), expands the First Generation Matching Grant program to include participation by independent colleges and universities and provides student eligibility requirements. The bill reported favorably out of the Committee on Postsecondary Education and is awaiting hearing in the Schools & Learning Council.

HB 721—Sales Tax/Postsecondary Bookstore by Representative Bill Proctor (R – St. Augustine, FSU Alum), exempts payments to postsecondary educational institutions made by certain bookstore operators and provides for retroactive application. The bill passed the Postsecondary Education Committee last week will be heard in the Schools & Learning Council tomorrow.

SB 644—State Universities/Buildings/Naming by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R – Ormond Beach), provides for facilities of a state university to be named for a living person in accordance with rules of the Board of Governors of the State University System and authorizes the university board of trustees to name building in accordance with specified provision. The bill will be heard in the Higher Education Committee tomorrow.

SB 1222—Student Financial Assistance by Senator Jeremy Ring (D – Margate), creates the Sure Futures Postgraduate Scholarship Program to match private sector businesses that need employees who have advanced degrees with students who are seeking advanced degrees and employment. The bill establishes the Sure Futures Foundation and foundation board to administer the program. Additionally, the bill provides criteria for student and corporate partner participation in the program and provides duties of the Department of Education and the state universities. The bill will be heard in the Higher Education Committee tomorrow.