



Last Thursday, both the House and the Senate passed their respective budget plans, which makes them ready for the budget conference. Conference, which will begin on Wednesday, April 19, is the procedure by which an appointed set of House and Senate members gathers to compromise on the differences in each budget proposal, and craft one plan out of the two. This week, the sixth of the nine-week session, is abbreviated because of the Passover and Easter holidays. The House will conduct committee business today and tomorrow, while the Senate is taking the entire week off.

Meanwhile this week, the Revenue Estimating Conference will meet and is expected to report a substantial amount of additional revenue. Leaders of the House and Senate, and their designated budget conferees, will then have to decide whether to “grow” this year’s \$70 billion budget further, or bank it for a rainy day. (The House’s current budget plan spends \$70 billion, while the Senate’s spends \$68 billion.) This could mean possible additions to Florida State’s budget, and so could the number of FSU alumni on the budget conference **(see related story and table)**. Conferees will be named on Monday, April 17.

When members of the Legislature return from their break, there will be two more weeks of committee hearings and then that process will shut down. The Governance bill in the House has two more committee stops before it is eligible to be heard by the full chamber. There is still, however, no companion bill in the Senate for this legislation. Other bills of interest are moving forward though. University naming bills will be heard in a House committee today, which will make them eligible for a full House hearing next week. For updates on other legislation, please see the Spotlight on Bills section of this newsletter.

The 2006 Session has progressed at an unusually rapid pace. If you have questions about legislation or budget issues of concern, please feel free to contact me at **(850) 644-4453** or via e-mail at kdaly@mailers.fsu.edu. I always appreciate hearing your comments and concerns.

Kathleen

Budget Report

Both the House and the Senate passed their respective budgets last week. During this week, the leadership will name conferees who will concentrate on ironing out the differences between the two budgets. It is expected that

conference will begin on Wednesday, April 19. The table below shows a breakdown of issues that are still unresolved relating to the university system and Florida State University in particular, and our preferred position we would like the conferees to consider.

Item	Senate	House	Recommended Position
Lottery – E & G Activities - FSU	\$ 25,468,515	\$ 18,677,855	Senate
Lottery – FSU Med School	\$ 4,603,132	\$ 3,132	Senate
FSU General Revenue			
Operating Budgets	\$ 270,854,762	\$ 276,068,844	
Student & Other Fees	\$ 134,042,431	\$ 138,612,235	House
FSU Medical School Op. Budget <i>(base includes training sites and 2006 phase-in as shown below)</i>	\$ 36,121,509	\$ 43,872,509	
Student & Other Fees	\$ 6,081,917	\$ 7,336,011	
Ft. Pierce Training Site	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 3,375,000	
Immokalee Training Site	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,200,000	House
Panama City Training Site	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	
Daytona Beach Training Site	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,375,000	
2006 Phase-in, FSU Med School	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,299,000	
Enrollment	\$ 39,270,000 for 7,619 FTE	\$ 40,900,000 for 7,619 FTE	Currently funded at 50% of BOG request. Move toward BOG request of \$82 million
PECO			
PCC Admin. Services Center	\$ 2,525,000	\$ 3,878,728	
Thaggard Health Center	\$ 0	\$ 7,500,000	
College of Med – Daytona Bch	\$ 0	\$ 3,100,000	Fund the revised PECO list approved by the BOG on March 23, 2006
College of Med – Ft. Pierce	\$ 0	\$ 3,100,000	
College of Med— Immokalee	\$ 0	\$ 5,000,000	
PCC— Academic Building	\$ 0	\$ 7,992,000	
Salaries and Benefits			Assure that university employees are included in administered funds for salary increases
Faculty Recruitment and Salaries/Pathways to Excellence			Fund FSU's Pathways to Excellence initiative
Autism Program	\$ 980,000	\$ 1,058,766	House

SESSION SCHEDULE

In observance of the Easter/Passover holidays, neither the House nor the Senate will convene in Session this week. Regular Sessions will resume next week.

Office of GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS



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Spotlight on Bills

HB 717- State University Student Fees by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami),—increases the cap on local fees, removes the annual cap on increases in local fees and, authorizes each university board of trustees to establish technology fee and requires recommendations by technology fee committee. The bill requires final approval of fee by university board of trustees and provides fee limitations and excludes fee from award under Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The bill has been referred to Colleges & Universities, Education Appropriations, and the Education Council, but has yet to be heard.

HB 1065- Education/Spouses/Disabled Veterans by Representative Stan Jordan (R – Jacksonville), provides that it is declared policy of the state to provide educational opportunity at state expense for spouses of deceased or disabled service members. The bill provides criteria for qualification for such benefits for un-remarried spouses of deceased service members and dependent spouses of disabled service members. The bill further specifies uses of funds appropriated for such educational opportunities. The bill will be heard in the Education Appropriations Committee tomorrow. A similar bill in the Senate, **SB 2034 by Senator Carey Baker (R – Eustis)** has been placed on the Senate calendar.

SB 1930- Educational Facilities/ Planning/Use by the Government Efficiency Appropriations Committee, requires that utilization standards for educational space be updated periodically and increases the minimum room utilization rate for postsecondary classrooms. The bill is now in the Education Committee. The language in **SB 1930** has been incorporated into **HB 7257, University Governance by the Colleges and Universities Committee**, which has been referred to the Education Appropriations Committee and Education Council.

SB 266 - Athletic Trainers/Licensure by Senator Mike Fasano (R – New Port Richey), revises the requirements for licensure as athletic trainer and provides that person employed as apprentice trainer or athletic trainer is not exempt from specified provisions. The bill deletes classification of first responder in school district's athletic injuries prevention and treatment program and requires that athletic trainer employed by school district be licensed as athletic trainer, etc. The bill passed the Senate and is in House messages. A similar bill in the House, **HB 569 by Representative Paige Kreegel (R – Punta Gorda)** is now in the Education PreK -12 Committee.

HB 135- Charter Schools by Representative Ron Greenstein (D – Coconut Creek), provides that the sponsor of a charter school shall not be liable for civil damages for certain actions and provides that duty to monitor such school shall not be basis for private cause of action. The bill prescribes limits on immunities of charter school sponsor and expands the school district's immunity from assumption of contractual debts. The bill will be heard in the Education Council today. The Senate companion, **SB 1030 by Senator Gwen Margolis (D – Bay Harbor Island)** has been re-referred to the Education Committee and referred to the Government Oversight and Productivity Committee.

SB 1670- State Financial Matters by Senator Rudy Garcia (R – Hialeah), revises the method for calculating interest on certain moneys transferred between retirement accounts. Additionally, the bill provides for credit for military service of members of Public Employee Optional Retirement Program (PEORP) and revises standards for determining eligibility of specified savings accounts, certificates of deposit, time drafts, bills of exchange, bonds, notes and other instruments for investment by State Board of Administration. The bill has been placed on the Senate calendar. The House companion, **HB 1251 by Representative Don Davis (R – Jacksonville Beach)** is now in the Fiscal Council.

SB 2000-Ethics/Public Officers & Employees by Senator Bill Posey (R – Rockledge),—prohibits employees of state and its political subdivisions from participating in political campaigns. The bill prohibits certain disclosures or use by former public officer, agency employee, or local government attorney and clarifies that existing post-employment restrictions apply to certain agency employees. The bill further specifies how assets & liabilities valued in excess of \$1,000 are to be reported by reporting individual, etc. The bill has been placed on the Senate calendar. The House companion, **HB 493 by Representative Tim Ryan (D – Dania Beach)** will be heard tomorrow in the Fiscal Council.

HB 15- Sales Tax Exemption/Textbooks by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami), exempts certain textbooks from tax on sales, use, and other transactions and provides requirements and definition. The bill is now in the Finance and Tax Committee. The Senate Companion, **SB 1554 by Senator Mike Haridopolis (R – Melbourne)** is now in Ways and Means, and includes a provision

that exempts the sales tax on a lease at bookstores at post-secondary institutions.

Bill Update

HB 795- Student Financial Assistance by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami), creates the First Generation Matching Grant Program to provide financial aid to undergraduate students with financial need whose parents have not earned a baccalaureate degree. The bill provides for appropriation, allocation, and distribution of funds and provides student eligibility requirements. The bill further provides an additional category within which certain students may or may not be classified as residents for tuition purposes. The bill will be heard in the Education Council today. The Senate companion, **SB 366 by Senator Frederica Wilson (D – Miami)** is now in the Domestic Security Committee.

SB 2084- Science & Technology Research by Senator J.D. Alexander (R – Lake Wales), creates the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement Act and creates Fla. Technology, Research, & Scholarship Board within Board of Governors of State University System. The bill requires that the board provide recommendations for 21st Century World Class Scholars Program and Centers of Excellence Program and requires minimum investment of private funds. The bill is now in the Education Appropriations Committee. The House companion, **HB 1237 by Representative David Meador (R – Lake Mary)** will be heard today in the Education Council. A similar House companion which is specific to Florida State University, **HB 1229 by Representative David Meador (R – Lake Mary)** has been referred to the Colleges & Universities Committee and the Fiscal and Education Councils.

CS/CS/CS/SB1826- Biomedical Research by Senator Burt Saunders (R – Naples), authorizes the use of funds in the Biomedical Research Trust Fund for purposes of William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., & David Coley Cancer Research Program. The bill authorizes the Legislature to annually appropriate funds to James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program, Fla. Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease, & Johnnie B. Byrd, Sr., Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute, and deletes funding for the School of Chiropractic at FSU. The bill is now in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee. A similar bill **HB 1027 by Representative Adam Hasner (R – Delray Beach, FSU Alum)** reported favorably out of the Health Care Committee last week.