



LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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The session is now at a point where information changes rapidly. The Education Conferees met Sunday evening, with the House making the first offer toward reconciling each chamber's spending plans, which included an offer of additional enrollment growth money for state universities. The budget conference is expected to continue the rest of the week, and legislators are hoping to have their final agreements in place by Friday or Saturday (**see related story**).

Another central issue is additional PECO monies for state universities, and the odds for that are tipped against the SUS. Currently, legislators feel that the K-12 class-size amendment, which voters added to Florida's constitution a few years ago, takes precedence over funding construction and facility upgrades at state universities.

Meanwhile, committees dealing with substantive legislation will have their final meetings today and tomorrow. Any bills not on their agendas will have an uphill battle for passage by their chambers. Among those still not scheduled to be heard is the bill that would cut financial assistance to foreign students. Another is the bill that would allow for tuition waivers for undocumented aliens, which was intended to benefit children of migrant workers, but also changed the student residency policy; it had already failed in a committee last week. Most significant is the "death" of the University Governance bill, which the Board of Governors and SUS had worked on for months.

The final, frenetic weeks of any session-this one included-are often the most critical. While a number of important issues remain in play, the budget continues to be the primary focus. You can follow all of the action live on The Florida Channel, local cable channel 4.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns or need copies of bills and their analyses. I can be reached at **(850) 644-4453** or via e-mail at **kdaly@mailers.fsu.edu**.

Kathleen

Budget Conference

The Budget Conference process began last week and proceeded through the weekend. Both, Senate President Tom Lee and Speaker of the House Allan Bense (FSU Alum) appointed conferees who are working to compromise on unsettled issues in the 2006-07 General Appropriations Act. Below are this year's conferees:

Budget Conference - At Large Members

<i>Negron, Joe (Chair)</i>	<i>Rubio, Marco</i>
<i>Carlton, Lisa (Chair)</i>	<i>Ryan, Tim</i>
<i>Bowen, Marsha</i>	<i>Sansom, Ray (FSU Alum)</i>
<i>Brummer, Fred</i>	<i>Seiler, John P.</i>
<i>Gardiner, Andy</i>	<i>Simmons, David</i>
<i>Goodlette, J. Dudley</i>	<i>Villalobos, J. Alex (FSU Alum)</i>
<i>Greenstein, Ronald L. 'Ron'</i>	<i>Waters, Leslie (FSU Alum)</i>
<i>Jennings, Jr., Ed</i>	
<i>Miller, Jr., Lesley</i>	

Budget Conference - Education Members

<i>Pickens, Joe (Chair)</i>	<i>Constantine, Lee</i>
<i>Alexander, JD (Chair)</i>	<i>Flores, Anitere</i>
<i>King, Jr., James E. 'Jim' (Vice Chair) (FSU Alum)</i>	<i>Justice, Charlie</i>
<i>Altman, Thad</i>	<i>Klein, Ronald A.</i>
<i>Arza, Ralph</i>	<i>Lynn, Evelyn J.</i>
<i>Attkisson, Frank</i>	<i>Mealor, David J.</i>
<i>Baxley, Dennis K. (FSU Alum)</i>	<i>Miller, Jr., Lesley</i>
<i>Bendross-Mindingall, Dorothy</i>	<i>Patterson, Pat</i>
<i>Bullard (L), Larcenia J.</i>	<i>Richardson, Curtis (FSU Alum)</i>
<i>Coley, Marti (FSU Alum)</i>	<i>Rivera, David</i>
	<i>Stargel, John (FSU Alum)</i>
	<i>Vana, Shelley</i>
	<i>Wise, Stephen R.</i>

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION
Wednesday, April 26, 2006
- Friday, April 28
10:00 a.m. until
completion of agenda

HOUSE SESSION
Monday, April 24,
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 25, 2006
10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 26, 2006
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 27, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, April 28, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spotlight on Bills

SB 1016 — Independent Collegiate Assistance by Senator Stephen Wise (R – Jacksonville), creates the Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Grant Program to provide grants to certain students who attend nonpublic institutions of higher education and who are enrolled in programs leading to specified occupations. The bill requires DOE to administer program and provides requirements for criteria and priorities for funding. Additionally, the bill requires OPPAGA to make certain assessments and submit a report to the Legislature. The bill will be heard in the Education Appropriations Committee today. The companion in the House, **HB 387 by Representative Pat Patterson (R – DeLand)** is in the Education Appropriations Committee.

SB 1554 — Sales Tax Exemption/Textbooks by Senator Mike Haridopolis (R – Melbourne), exempts certain textbooks from tax on sales, use, & other transactions. The bill provides requirements, provides definitions, and provides a sales tax exemption on rental, lease, or granting of license for use of real property by certain bookstore operations at postsecondary educational institutions. The bill is now in the Ways and Means Committee. The companion in the House, **HB 15 by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami)** is now in the Finance and Tax Committee.

SB 918 — Medical Schools by Senator Lee Constantine (R – Altamonte Springs), authorizes the creation of colleges of medicine at the University of Central Florida and at Florida Atlantic University. The bill will be heard today in the Ways and Means Committee. The companion in the House, **HB 1237 by Representative David Meador (R – Lake Mary)** is on the House Calendar.

SB 2380 — School District Funding by Senator Lisa Carlton (R – Osprey), increases the amount that a district school board may spend for new construction of educational plant space and revises requirements for calculating the number of students per classroom for fiscal year 2006-2007. The bill passed out of the Education Appropriations Committee last week. The companion bill in the House, **HB 5005 by Representative Joe Pickens (R – Palatka)** was amended in the Senate and returned to the House for concurrence, the House refused to concur and has requested a conference committee be appointed.

HB 7097 — Postsecondary Education by the Community Colleges and Workforce Committee authorizes an articulation agreement for delivery of associate in applied science degree programs by career centers and provides for charter technical career center to use designation "technical college." The bill revises provisions regarding the establishment of inter-institutional

mechanisms by public postsecondary educational institutions and establishes School District Career Center Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, etc. The bill passed out of the Education Council on Friday. The Companion in the Senate, **SB 2326 by Senator Carey Baker (R – Eustis)** was amended by the Commerce and Consumer Services Committee and is now in Governmental Oversight and Productivity.

Update on Bills

HB 7257 — University Governance by the Colleges & Universities Committee, revises, creates, and clarifies provisions relating to the Board of Governors of the State University System, state university boards of trustees, State Board of Education, Commissioner of Education, DOE, and postsecondary educational institutions. The bill is not moving at this time.

HB 1027 — Biomedical Research by Representative Adam Hasner (R – Delray Beach, FSU Alum), redirects funds established for the FSU Chiropractic School to the Biomedical Research Trust Fund for purposes of William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., & David Coley Cancer Research Program and provides for deposit of certain proceeds of Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund into Biomedical Research Trust Fund for purposes of William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., & David Coley Cancer Research Program; establishes William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., & David Coley Cancer Research Program within DOH. The bill is set to pass the House. The companion bill, **SB 1826 by Senator Burt Saunders (R – Naples)** is on the Senate Calendar.

SB 2084 — Science & Technology Research by Senator J.D. Alexander (R – Lake Wales), creates the 21st Century Technology, Research, and Scholarship Enhancement Act. The bill creates the Florida Technology, Research, & Scholarship Board within Board of Governors of State University System and requires the board to provide recommendations for 21st Century World Class Scholars Program & Centers of Excellence Program. The bill requires minimum investment of private funds and provides for future repeal of the act. The bill will be heard in the Education Appropriations Committee today. A similar bill in the House, **HB 1237 by Representative David Meador (R – Lake Mary)** is on the House Calendar.

SB 428 — Travel Expenses/Reimbursement by Senator Al Lawson (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum), revises per diem, subsistence and mileage rates for purposes of reimbursement of

travel expenses of public officers, employees and authorized persons. The bill passed out of the Senate last week. A similar bill in the House, **HB 6001 by Representative Marti Coley (R – Marianna, FSU Alum)** is on the House Calendar.

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, & distribution of funds and provides student eligibility requirements. Additionally, the bill provides additional category within which students may be classified as residents for tuition purposes. The bill is on third reading on the House calendar. Companion bills in the Senate, **SB 366 by Senator Frederica Wilson (D – Miami)** reported unfavorably out of the Domestic Security committee last week and, **SB 1750 by Senator Al Lawson (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum)** will be heard today in the Education Appropriations Committee. A similar bill in the House, **HB 119 by Representative Juan Zapata (R – Miami)** was heard in the Education Council on Friday.

HB 1171 — Travel To Terrorist States by Representative David Rivera (R – Miami), prohibits use of any state or non-state funds made available to community colleges and state universities to implement, organize, direct, coordinate, or administer activities related to or involving travel to a terrorist state. The bill is on the House calendar. The identical bill in the Senate, **SB 2434 by Mike Haridopolis (R – Melbourne)** was heard in the Domestic Security committee last week.



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GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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