



Senate Education Appropriations Committee Releases Preliminary Budget

The Senate Education Committee Chair, Senator J.D. Alexander (R – Lakeland) released the committee's draft education budget last week. The highlights for the State University System include:

Overall:

Recommends a \$259 million (8.56%) increase over the 2005-2006 recurring base appropriation.

- Recommends a 2% tuition increase for all undergraduate resident students. Universities would have the discretion to increase tuition for all other students enrolled prior to the fall of 2006 no more than 5%. A 2% tuition increase would generate approximately \$7.2 million. These funds were earmarked for the Increased Cost of Operations Issue requested in the BOG budget.
- Targeted Degree Production for Nursing - \$3.6 million. This fully funds the BOG request to expand the number of Master's, post-Master's, and Ph.D. nursing graduates. Proviso language requires a status report to be submitted to the BOG, Senate and House by February 1, 2007. Students enrolled in these programs must commit to practice in Florida for three years and agree to repay any tuition or stipends for failure to comply with this commitment.

University Specific Funding Issues:

- Enrollment growth funding for 7,619 full-time equivalent students - \$40 million (BOG requested \$80.2 million. The recommendation would fund 50% of the BOG request.)
- FSU medical school - \$3.3 million (fully funds BOG request)
- Plant Operations & Maintenance for New Space - \$6.7 million (fully funds this issue)
- Ratio of In-State/Out-of-State Students - \$32.7 million (This issue includes the BOG request of \$18.3 million, plus the BOG request from last year of \$14.4 million)
- Major Gift Matching - \$64.2 million (funds all gift requests received through February 21)
- Utility Increases - \$20.7 million (fully funds BOG request)
- Increased Cost of Operations - \$7.2 million (the BOG had requested \$9.9 million). The funds for this issue would come from student tuition increases.
- SUS Public Broadcasting - \$11,825,469
- FSU CARD Center - 980,000

University Specific Funding Issues not included in the BOG request:

Many of these items were identified as university priorities but were not included in the BOG budget recommendation:

- Campus Compact (FSU) - \$250,000
- Immokalee Clinical Training Site (FSU-Medical School) - \$2.2 million

The fact that the state is flush with money this year is driving the pace of the Legislative Session. Evidence of that came during the first week, as the Senate introduced its initial budget (*see related story*).

Florida State University and the State University System (SUS) appear to have been treated fairly in the Senate's budget draft. Additional monies to cover the escalating cost of utility services on SUS campuses is addressed, as is a proposal to fully fund the Major Gifts program. In addition, Plant, Operation and Maintenance funds for new space are also fully funded.

During the past several years, the Legislature did not make funding adjustments to the ratio between in-state and out-of-state students, which resulted in a deficit in the universities' budgets. This year, the Senate hopes to attend to those deficits through a \$32.7 million allocation, of which \$6.3 million is designated for FSU. However, the Senate budget only funds enrollment growth at 50% of the amount requested by the Board of Governors (BOG), so efforts will be made in the next few weeks to boost that amount. PECO funding and salaries for SUS employees, have not yet been addressed. The House is expected to release its draft budget on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the House Colleges and Universities Committee, which is chaired by Representative David Meador (R, Orlando), will take up the Governance Proposed Committee Bill tomorrow. The committee will consider at least 50 amendments and then pass it on to the House Educational Council for further hearings next week. There is no Senate companion to this bill at this time.

Florida State University will host a meeting of the BOG this Thursday at the Turnbull Conference Center. Ahead of that, the State University Presidents Association (SUPA) will meet on Wednesday at 4:30 in Werkmeister Hall.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or bill copies and their analysis at **(850) 644-4453** or via e-mail at **kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu**.

Kathleen

Spotlight on Bills

SB 122 — Tuition Waivers/Purple Heart by Senator Mike Fasano (R – New Port Richey), requires state universities & community colleges to waive tuition for recipient of Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence who fulfills specified criteria; provides percentage cap on number of required credit hours for which tuition waiver may be received. The bill passed out of all committees last week and will next be heard by the full Senate. The House companion, **HB 373, by Representative Gayle Harrell (R – Port St. Lucie)**, is now in the Education Appropriations Committee.

SB 366, Resident Status for Tuition Purposes by Senator Frederica Wilson — (D – Miami), revises definitions and provides conditions for reclassification as resident for tuition purposes. The bill requires that evidence be provided regarding legal residency & dependent status; provides duties of institutions of higher education; updates obsolete terminology; provides additional categories within which students may be classified as residents for tuition purposes; and, limits eligibility for award of state financial aid. The bill passed out of the Education Committee last week and is now in the Domestic Security Committee. The House companions, **HB 795, by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami)**, and **HB 119 by Representative Juan Zapata (R – Miami)** are now in the Education Appropriations Committee.

SB 1750, Student Financial Assistance by Senator Al Lawson, Jr. — (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum), 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. Additionally, the bill provides for appropriation, allocation, & distribution of funds and provides student eligibility requirements. The bill further provides duties of institutions participating in the program. The bill passed out of the Education Committee last week and is now in the Education Appropriations Committee. The companion bill in the House is **HB 795 by Representative Anitere Flores (R – Miami)**, mentioned above.

HB 1237— Science & Technology Research by Representative David Meador (R – Lake Mary), creates the 21st Century Technology, Research, & Scholarship Enhancement Act. Additionally, the bill creates the Fla. Technology, Research, & Scholarship Board within the Board of Governors of the State University System and requires that the BOG provide recommendations for 21st Century World Class Scholars Program & Centers of Excellence Program. The bill requires minimum investment of private funds and provides for expiration of the act, etc. The bill was amended and passed out of the Colleges & Universities Committee last week. The Senate companion, **SB 2084 by Senator J.D Alexander (R- Lakeland)**, has been referred to the Education; Commerce and Consumer Services; Education Appropriations, and the Ways and Means Committees.

SB 1566 — Building & Facility Designations by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R – Ormond Beach), authorizes boards of trustees of state universities to name campus buildings & facilities for living persons. The bill further requires the Board of Governors to adopt uniform policies and reserves the right of the Legislature to name buildings or facilities. The bill passed out of the Education Committee last week and is now in the Judiciary Committee. There is no House companion at this time.

SB 1658 — Baccalaureate Degree Programs by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R – Ormond Beach), provides that community colleges that grant baccalaureate degrees remain under the authority of the State Board of Education and requires said colleges that offer said degrees to maintain their primary mission & prohibits termination of associate

degree programs. Additionally, the bill removes authorization for St. Petersburg College to request funding from Public Education Capital Outlay & Debt Service TF as a university, etc. The bill passed out of the Education Committee last week and is now in the Education Appropriations Committee. The identical bill in the House, **HB 137 by Representative Stan Mayfield (R – Vero Beach)** has passed out of all committees and is waiting to be heard by the full House.

FSU Day at the Capitol

FSU Day at the Capitol is next **Wednesday, March 29, 2006**. We look forward to once again showcasing all that FSU has to offer to our friends in the Legislature.

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 and special recognitions 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.

Mark your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you in your Garnet and Gold on **March 29th**.



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SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

Wednesday, March 22, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, March 23, 2006,
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

HOUSE SESSION

Tuesday, March 21, 2006,
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 23, 2006,
10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.