



LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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Governor's Budget Recommendations

Each year, the Governor releases his budget recommendations to the Florida Legislature a month prior to the start of the regular session.

Below is a summary of the Governor's \$71 billion recommendations, including provisions from his supplemental budget recs released last Thursday, where he revised his tuition position. Overall, the Governor recommended a **3.9%** increase over the current year appropriation. However, he included a **\$9 million cut to FSU's base** to eliminate the chiropractic appropriation.

University employees were not included in the recommended 2% pay raises.

Enrollment Growth and Access - \$113.8 M

This will fund 7,619 FTE students, the same number of students requested by the BOG. Of the \$113.8 million, \$33.5 million is from state

funds compared to the \$80.2 million requested by the BOG from state funds. The difference between the \$80.2 million and the \$33.5 million comes from student tuition increases. However, on Thursday, the Governor retreated from the 5% tuition increase, reduced it to 3% and added \$16.8 million in General Revenue funds to his enrollment growth recommendations, bringing the new total to \$50.3 million.

Tuition – Calculates a 5% increase in undergraduate residents and 7.5% for all other students. Again, on Thursday, the Governor recommended a 3% increase for in-state undergraduates rather than the 5% increase, and a 5% increase rather than a 7.5% increase for all other students.

FSU Medical School - \$3.2 M

Major Gifts - \$40 M (nonrecurring)

Fixed Capital Outlay

Funded all FSU requested projects	\$ 24,894,540
Neuroscience and Reading Institute	\$ 11,869,540
Utilities/Infrastructure/Capital Renewal/Roofs	\$ 6,400,000
College of Education Building Expansion	\$ 600,000
Life Sciences Teaching & Research Center	\$ 3,500,000
Administrative Services Center, Panama City	\$ 2,525,000

We will be seeking non-recurring funds to meet the escalating costs for projects currently under construction.

\$36.3 million from PECO for maintenance, repair and renovations, systemwide

\$32 million for Courtelis Facilities matching

The Revenue Estimating Conference added \$3.2 billion dollars to its forecast of General Revenue collections for this year and the next.

Governor's Economic Development Proposal:

In January, Governor Bush launched new economic development initiatives to bolster the state's efforts to diversify and build Florida's Innovation Economy. The Governor is recommending a \$630 million investment in the FY 2006-2007 budget for programs that will "generate the innovation needed to create the industries of the future," create new jobs and foster growth of technology industries that yield high returns.

Included in the Governor's proposal are:

- World Class Scholars and Centers of Excellence - \$200 M (non-recurring)
- \$100 million to create the World Class Scholars Program to attract leading researchers to the State. Funds may be used for incentives, including building labs, providing high-tech equipment or funding support staff. The state will match the investment of private donations exceeding \$1 million. These funds will not be in the E&G budget.
- \$100 million to create and expand Centers of Excellence. The program will allow state universities, including entities other than state universities, and their research partners to leverage public and private dollars to build the infrastructure to support emerging research and development projects. This program will be administered by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development.

While the players and the issues will be familiar, the "look and feel" of the 2006 Legislative Session, will be dramatically different. A new law that passed during a special session last December will not only prohibit lobbyists from delivering their traditional opening-day trinkets, but also stem the 60-day flow of food and beverage to legislators. When the gavel sounds tomorrow, though, and after all the flowery speeches have been made, the dominant issues of this session will sound like those of sessions past. Hurricanes and the damage they've caused, tax cuts, health care and Medicaid, class size and privatization, and joint-and-several liability will once again grab the headlines.

With a \$3.2 billion surplus on hand, crafting the \$62 billion state budget should be easy this year, but don't count on it. The Governor released his budget recommendations last month and included a plan to attract world-class scholars to Florida's state universities, which will greatly benefit Florida State University if passed (see related story). While this type of initiative is commendable and even welcome, the greater hope is that state universities' recurring budgets get fully funded. In other words, our emphasis will be on ensuring that the "old-fashioned" recurring budget dollars won't get trimmed by the glitz of these new - although potentially wonderful - non-recurring "goodies."

Among the higher-ed bills filed this year are ones that pertain to University Governance, residency for tuition purposes, reduction of financial aid for certain foreign students, and university building-naming bills (see Spotlight on Bills). Updates to each of these, along with other bills of interest and their progress will be provided through this weekly newsletter, usually in the "Spotlight on Bills" section.

Please note that this year's FSU Day at the Capitol will be on Wednesday, March 29. If you would like to participate, please contact me.

All of the action at the Capitol is covered live daily from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and can be seen locally on WFSU, cable channel 4.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions throughout the 60-day session. Please feel free to contact me at (850) 644-4453 or by e-mail at kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu.

Kathleen

Spotlight on Bills

CU 06-01 - Governance, The House Colleges and Universities Committee is working on a proposed committee bill to further define the responsibilities of the Legislature, Board of Governors and Boards of Trustees for the State University System. Some of the issues included in the proposed bill are: university bonding, residency, excess hours, fee waivers, presidential and administrative salary caps, and the administrative procedures act as it relates to the universities. The bill is still in draft form and will be amended throughout the process. The Senate does not have a bill at this time but is expected to take up the issue later in the session.

SB 246 - Tuition Rates/Colleges/Universities, by Senator Lee Constantine (R – Altamonte Springs), requires community college and university students to pay 75 percent of the actual cost per credit hour for credit hours in excess of 120 percent of hours required for their degree. The bill has been referred to the education committee. There is no House companion at this time.

SB 428 - Travel Expenses/Reimbursement, by Senator Al Lawson, Jr. (D – Tallahassee, FSU Alum), establishes per diem, subsistence & mileage rates for travel expenses of public employees, and allows for future adjustment to such rates. The bill was amended and passed out of the Governmental Operations Committee and is now in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The House companion, HB 477 by Representative Lorraine Ausley (D – Tallahassee) was combined into HB 6001 and is waiting to be heard.

HB 581 - State Group Insurance Program, by Representative Larry Cretul (R – Ocala), prohibits funding for benefits granted under the State Group Insurance program from being used to provide benefits for any individuals other than enrollees, spouses and dependent children of the enrollee. The bill specifically includes community college and university boards of trustees in this prohibition. The bill has been referred to the

Governmental Operations Committee, Fiscal and State Administration Councils. The Senate companion SB 1796 by Senator Carey Baker (R – Eustis) has been referred to Education; Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Productivity; and, Ways and Means Committees, but has not yet been heard.

HB 205- Student Financial Assistance by Rep. Dick Kravitz (R–Orange Park), expands access to postsecondary education and reduces student indebtedness, the bill requires each state university and community college to report information relating to certain funds used to provide financial assistance to certain students and prohibiting the use of such funds to provide financial assistance to students holding an F-1 or M-1 visa. The bill prohibits the use of state funds to provide financial assistance to these specified foreign students. Additionally, the bill provides for the redirection of funds to provide additional need-based financial assistance to students classified as residents for tuition purposes. The bill is now in the House Education Council. The identical bill in the Senate, SB 458 by Senator Stephen Wise (R-Jacksonville) has been referred to the Education, Judiciary and Education Appropriations committees and is awaiting its first hearing.

HB 129 - Lawful Ownership, Possession, and Use of Firearms and Other Weapons by Rep. Dennis Baxley (R—Ocala, FSU Alum), prohibits specified persons, employers, and business entities from establishing, maintaining, or enforcing any policy or rule that prohibits a person from parking a motor vehicle on property set aside for such purpose when a secured firearm or firearms are being lawfully transported and stored in the motor vehicle. The bill was temporarily passed in the Judiciary Committee. The identical bill in the Senate, SB 206 by Senator Durell Peaden (R—Crestview) has been referred to Criminal Justice, Commerce and Consumer Services and Judiciary committees.

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT

During the December 2005 Special Session, a law that prohibits state legislators from accepting gifts of any type, including food and drink from a “lobbying entity,” passed and was signed into law by the Governor, effective January 1, 2006. Florida State University is a lobbying entity and therefore cannot give legislators anything of value. A number of groups on campus invite legislators to speak at meetings that include lunch or dinner. Because of this new law, it is now necessary to let the University’s Office of Governmental Relations know when you or your department/organization intend to invite a legislator or member of their staff to campus.

In addition, legislative committee members periodically ask faculty or staff to attend committee meetings, or formally respond to questions about various issues. The new ethics law, however, makes it imperative that you notify Governmental Relations Director Kathleen Daly— at 644-4453 or kdaly@govrel.fsu.edu— of such requests.

Both of these notifications, that a faculty or staff member has been asked to appear before a legislative committee, or that a legislator or a member of their staff will be on campus, can also be made by submitting a Legislative Contact Form, which is online at www.fsu.edu/~govrel. Please submit this form prior to appearing before the legislature, or inviting a legislator or legislative staff member to campus. If you have trouble accessing this form please contact Governmental Relations at 644-4453. Thank you for your cooperation.

SESSION SCHEDULE

SENATE SESSION

Tuesday, March 7, 2006
10:00, a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 9, 2006,
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

HOUSE SESSION

Tuesday, March 7, 2006,
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 9, 2006,
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

JOINT SESSION

Tuesday, March 7, 2006,
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

FSU Day at the Capitol

FSU Day at the Capitol has become a popular tradition during the legislative session and a wonderful opportunity to bring Florida State University to our friends in the Legislature. With this event, we emphasize the University’s long and proud heritage and bring attention to the extraordinary accomplishments of faculty and students. This year, FSU Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

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 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.



Office of GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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