OUTREACH
Owls in Tallahassee
On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, Dr. Kathleen Valentine, the Director of the Louis and Anne Green Memory and Wellness Center, traveled to Tallahassee to meet with Members of FAU’s legislative delegation as well as key health care committee Members. Dr. Valentine discussed the impact of mental disorders on patients and families and the importance of providing state funding for the Memory and Wellness Center.

Dr. Eliah Watlington, Associate Provost for the Jupiter Campus, and Dean Valerie Bristor from the College of Education, were among several others from FAU who participated in the Florida Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (FACTE) “Day on the Hill” event. FACTE promotes ideas and practices, through cooperative endeavors among public and private colleges and universities in the State of Florida, to improve the quality of performance of professional school personnel. After attending meetings and workshops on the first day of the event, Dr. Watlington was able to spend the following day visiting with Members from the northern part of FAU’s service area and share some of the exciting things happening on our Jupiter campus.

COMMITTEE WEEK ROUNDUP
Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee Budget Recommendations
On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chair released budget recommendations to the Committee. Chair Galvano presented an overview of the budget and asked the Committee Members to review the proposal and get back to him with recommendations. The Committee is set to meet again on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Here are some of the State University System highlights from Chair Galvano’s recommendations:

- Restores the $300 M that was removed from the budget last year
- $70 M to cover normal costs in the Florida Retirement System
- $43 M to fund high-wage/high-demand IT occupations (SB 1076)
- $15 M each to UF and FSU for University

GOING FORWARD
Board of Governors Meeting in Tallahassee
On March 27-28, 2013, the Board of Governors will hold their next committee meeting at Florida A&M University. Meeting and agenda materials are available here.

Alternatives to PECO
On Thursday, March 28, 2013, the House Appropriations Committee is expected to introduce a draft bill that offers several recommendations made by the State University System’s Facilities Task Force. These recommendations will address capital and maintenance funding as well as public-private partnerships. If passed, these provisions would provide universities with additional flexibility in addressing projects that have traditionally been funded through Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO).

House Education Appropriations Budget
On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee is set to release its budget proposal. The proposal will be less than the Senate’s budget, since House allocations are lower than those of the Senate. Look for both chambers to have full Appropriations Committee action during the first week of April, followed by floor action the week of April 8th and then bicameral conferencing.
Research Excellence to improve their national rankings (SB 1720)
- $7 M for Small Business Development Centers (SB 224)
- $2 M for the Florida Virtual Campus
- $2 M to UWF for doctorates in Physical Therapy & Nursing Practice
- $48 M reduction for various local funding initiatives previously appropriated (this was a special Senate project that looked at all previous local funding initiatives throughout state government to see if there was an return on investment). Detailed reductions are listed in the Committee Meeting Packet below. FAU does not have any programs targeted for reduction.

In addition to the areas listed above, the recommendations also include $10.7 million to increase the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) award level from $2,150 per student to $2,575. The budget contains $30.2 million to increase the Bright Futures Scholarship award level by 10%.

Lastly, the budget recommendations include funding allocations for the individual SUS medical schools. The budget indicates FAU’s Charles E. Schmidt School of Medicine will receive an additional $2.2 million over fiscal year 2012 – 2013 budget allocations. The majority of this funding comes through “Medical School Implementation” dollars.

-Meeting Packet

Bills in Motion

HB 7057 Higher Education Committee Bill  
(Formerly PCB HEWS 13-01)
On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, the House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee considered HB 7057, a Committee bill that proposes numerous changes to the State College and State University Systems. Among the many issues addressed in the legislation are:

- BOG oversight and enforcement authority over the SUS
- The purpose, membership and guiding principles of the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC)
- General education core course options and the required number of semester hours of general education course work
- The establishment of academic and research excellence standards for universities to be designated as a preeminent state research university
- Creation of a Talent Retention Program to keep middle and high school students in the Florida SUS
- Implementation of the Complete Florida Degree Program Developmental Education and college

BILLS IN BRIEF

HB 863 – Teacher Preparation and Accountability (Spano)
The measure revises provisions relating to state-approved teacher preparation programs; revises standards & criteria for initial & continued approval; authorizes a private provider to create an educator preparation institute and provides criteria for initial & continued approval of institute’s competency-based certification program; provides components for school district competency-based professional development certification program; and revises requirements for professional development systems. Last Action: The amended bill was reported favorably out of House Education Committee.

SB 50 – Public Meetings (Negron)
The measure requires that a member of the public be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard by a board or commission before it takes official action on a proposition. The bill provides that a circuit court has jurisdiction to issue an injunction under certain circumstances. However, an action taken by a board or commission which is found in violation of this section is not void. Last Action: The amended bill was unanimously passed by the Senate.

SB 546 – Targeted Economic Development (Ring)
The measure expands the purpose of the Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research to include the commercialization of products developed by an innovation business; authorizes the institute to create corporate subsidiaries; provides conditions under which the...
placement testing
- The establishment of provisions for performance funding for workforce education.
- Adult education courses
- Residency requirements for tuition purposes
- 4 Year Fixed Tuition Program
- Universities’ contracting authority

The amended legislation was reported favorably out of committee (unanimous vote) and a Committee Substitute was filed on March 21, 2013. Links to the bill text and the staff analysis can be found below.

-HB 7057  -HB 7057 Staff Analysis

**Education Accountability – Data Warehouse**

On Tuesday March 19, 2013, the Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee considered Sen. Galvano’s Education Accountability bill. As stated previously, the measure would streamline the process for researchers and other organizations to gain access and use information from the Department of Education’s (DOE) “data warehouse,” which collects data from public schools, state colleges and universities. The bill would require the DOE to create a web-based point for authorized researchers to gather aggregated data as well as a “research engine,” allowing access to “student level” data.

The legislation has drawn criticism from advocacy groups who have expressed concerns about student privacy. Questions have been raised about the level of personal information available to researchers, who can gain access to the information, whether or not the information can be sold, who will bear liability if the information is misused, as well as many others.

The bill has been placed on the Special Order Calendar.

**FEDERAL ISSUES**

**House Passes FY13 Appropriations Bill**

In an effort to prevent a government shutdown the House of Representatives passed H.R. 933, the hybrid FY13 Continuing Resolution, along with the changes adopted in the Senate. The bill now heads to the White House for the President’s signature. Senate amendments added full bills for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, the National Science Foundation, NASA, OSTP, NIST and NOAA.

The bill had already included complete bills for the Defense Department and VA. For the remainder of the federal agencies, the legislation continues them essentially at Fiscal 2012 levels. All funding levels in the bill are before sequestration cuts are applied. One other change made in the Senate was an adopted amendment that will require the Department of Defense to continue their Service’s Tuition Assistance Institute may develop or accrue certain interests in companies or products; specifies conditions under which the institute may deliver and charge for services; and requires that the institute create the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund.

**Last Action:** Now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability

**CS/SB 878 - Education Accountability (Galvano)**

The measure requires the State Board of Education to notify the Legislature of any major changes in federal law which may affect the state’s K-20 education performance accountability system. The bill requires the Board of Governors to make available to the Department of Education all data within the State University Database System which is to be integrated into the K-20 data warehouse. It revises provisions relating to schools that are assigned school grades, including colocated schools, and students whose assessment data is used in determining school grades.

**Last Action** - Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/27/13

**SB 1076 - Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) (Sen. Legg)**

The measure revises the requirements that must be included in the strategic plan that the Board of Governors must develop, which includes criteria for the designation of certain baccalaureate degree programs and graduate degree programs as high-demand programs. The bill revises requirements for high school graduation and accelerated high school graduation to include financial literacy and a rigorous industry certification program of study. It requires that the Postsecondary Industry
programs, despite sequestration. Each of the Services had recently announced their intention to suspend the programs, but this legislation mandates their continuance.

- HR 933 Full Text

**Certification Funding List** be used in determining annual performance funding distributions to school districts and Florida College System institutions.

**Last Action:** Now in Appropriations