OUTREACH
Boca Raton Airport Tower Roundtable and Press Conference
On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, Charles Lowe, Chief of Police at FAU, and the Office of University Relations took part in a community roundtable and press conference at the Boca Raton Airport.

The event was organized by the Boca Chamber, Congresswoman Frankel, and Congressman Deutch to discuss the scheduled closure of the Airport’s Control Tower. The Boca Tower is one of over a hundred air traffic control towers slated for closure as a result of the federal budget sequestration. The event also was attended by the Mayor of Boca Raton, Susan Whelchel, the Boca Raton Airport Authority, local businesses (Office Depot and BlueGreen Corporation), air traffic controllers and members of the Pilots’ Association. The Boca Raton Airport is currently exploring options to keep the tower operational despite the Federal Aviation Administration’s budgetary reductions.

FAU has contacted the FAA to express support for keeping the tower open and operating.

COMMITTEE WEEK ROUNDUP
Senate and House Education Appropriations Subcommittee Budget Recommendations

On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, both the Senate and House Education Appropriations Subcommittee offered their initial budget recommendations. It is likely that both chambers will have full Appropriations Committee action next week, followed by floor consideration of the appropriations packages during the week of April 8th. Bicameral conferencing will follow sometime in mid-April.

The SUS has created an Executive Summary that compares the Senate and House budget proposals with the Governor’s Florida Families First Budget proposal. The Executive Summary can be found here (SUS Budget Comparison). In addition, the full Senate and House budget proposals can be viewed in their respective committee packets, which are included below. - Senate Education Budget

GOING FORWARD

Oceans Day
Next week, Dr. Margaret Leinen, Executive Director of Harbor Branch, and Cara Perry, Director of External Relations for Harbor Branch, will be in Tallahassee to participate in Oceans Day. Oceans Day is organized by the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council, which is charged with developing priorities for ocean and coastal research and establishing a statewide ocean research plan. In addition to their scheduled Oceans Day events, Dr. Leinen and Ms. Perry will be presenting Harbor Branch’s Indian River Lagoon Observatory research initiative to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee.

Rally in Tally
Also next week, the Student Government Associations will be holding their annual “Rally in Tally.” Outgoing SGA President Robert Huffman and Vice-President April Turner will lead a team of FAU students in visits to the FAU Delegation members, and they will participate in the statewide event.

BILLS IN BRIEF

CS/CS/HB 359 – Public Meetings (Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee)
The measure provides an exemption from public meeting requirements for any portion of
Proposal - House Education Budget Proposal
Here are some of the State University System highlights from the budget proposals comparison:

- Restores the $300 M that was removed from the budget last year – Both Senate and House
- Performance Funding Initiatives – Senate $45 million | House $65 million
- 6% Undergraduate Base Tuition Increase – House only University Preeminence – Senate $30 Million (15 UF & 15 FSU) | House $27.5 million (15 UF & 12.5 FSU) Online University Preeminence – House only ($15 million for UF)
- $70 million adjustment for the FRS – Both Senate and House $48 M reduction for various local funding initiatives previously appropriated – Senate only.

FAU’s Funding Initiatives
On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, most of the appropriations subcommittees released their draft budgets. In addition to funding system wide priorities, these proposals contained recommendations for funding programs and initiatives that are specific to FAU. Included in one or both of the subcommittees' draft budget proposals are funding increases for the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, Harbor Branch’s Indian River Lagoon Observatory, the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, and the Lois and Anne Green Memory Disorder Clinic. Funding for these programs is in no way guaranteed. However, having these programs included in the subcommittees' base budget puts our funding priorities in the best possible position going into the home stretch of the appropriations process, which includes full committee, floor action, and bicameral conferencing. The Office of University Relations has created a spreadsheet that highlights FAU’s specific funding initiatives and compares their House and Senate recommendations to the Governor’s budget proposal. -FAU Funding Initiatives – House and Senate Comparisons

Bills in Motion

Alternatives to PECO (PCB APC 13-04 )
On Thursday, March 29, 2013, the House Appropriations Committee passed PCB APA 13-04 out of committee by a vote of 23 to 1. The measure could significantly increase the flow of construction dollars by expanding the revenue sources that schools can use to secure bonds, increases the amount of fees students pay that can be used to finance debt, and eliminates some legislative restrictions on how universities spend construction money.

The only objections to the proposal came from advocates for cities and counties. The proposal eliminates the requirement that universities enter into campus development agreements with local

a meeting of the board of directors of a university Direct Support Organization, or of the executive committee or other committees of such board, at which the identity of a donor or prospective donor, any proposal seeking research funding from the organization, or a plan or program for either initiating or supporting research is discussed. The bill provides for review & repeal of exemption and includes a statement of public necessity. Last Action: The amended bill is now in the Judiciary Committee.

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: Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading.

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.
governments. The foundation of those agreements is the campus master plan, which addresses the need for roads, parking, sewers, potable water and recreation for a 20-year period. Though a campus plan would still be needed, under the new legislation a university could potentially begin construction without having to pay impact fees. -Meeting Packet

CS/CS/HB 359 – Public Meetings
On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, the House Government Operations Subcommittee considered CS/CS/HB 359. The measure provides an exemption from public meeting requirements for any portion of a meeting of the board of directors of a university Direct Support Organization (DSO), or of the executive committee or other committees of such board, at which the identity of a donor or prospective donor, any proposal seeking research funding from the organization, or a plan or program for either initiating or supporting research is discussed. The bill provides for review & repeal of exemption and includes a statement of public necessity.

On March 13, 2013, the Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee adopted a strike-all amendment and reported the bill favorably. The strike-all amendment narrows the scope of the public meetings exemption, limiting its applicability to meetings at which the identity of a donor or prospective donor, any proposal seeking research funding from the organization, or a plan or program for either initiating or supporting research is discussed. It also adds greater detail to the bill’s statement of public necessity. This change aligns the exemption more closely with the statement of public necessity and serves to avoid constitutional issues related to overbroad public meetings exemptions.

On March 27, 2013, the Government Operations Subcommittee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment corrected a drafting issue.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
On March 27 – 28, 2013, the Board of Governors met at Florida A & M University. Speaker of the House Will Weatherford addressed the Board about leveraging technology to create a platform to assist students in receiving the best education possible. He also briefed the Board on the House Education budget, which includes the restoration of last year’s $300 million, as well as an additional $68 million, which could be attached to performance metrics. The Speaker commented positively on the ten metrics developed by the BOG and alluded to the inclusion of a cost of degree metric. The metrics include:

STANDARD METRICS: • Retention Rates • Graduation Rates • Post-Graduation Success (Employment, Average Salary, Continued Education) • Excess Hours

Last Action: The Senate passed bill is in Messages in the House.

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 institute may develop or accrue certain interests in companies or products; specifies conditions under which the institute may develop and charge for services; and requires that the institute create the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund. 
Last Action: On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 04/02/13

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, 04/04/13

SB 1076 - Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE) (Sen. Legg)
MISSION-DRIVEN METRICS: • 1 Institution-Specific Metric (Board Choice) • 1 Institution-Specific Metric (University Choice) • Performance on All Other Metrics • Bachelor’s Degrees in Areas of Strategic Emphasis • Access Rate (Financial Aid) • Budget & Finance Committee Discretion

Speaker Weatherford also offered that when the House budget is officially rolled out next week, there would be an allocation of tens, and maybe hundreds of millions of dollars of general revenue for projects traditionally funded under PECO. The Speaker stated that he saw this as a direct investment in education, as well as in the university communities.

FAU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Governor Rick Scott Appoints Elizabeth Fago Smith to the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees
On Wednesday, March 27, 2013, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Elizabeth Fago Smith to the Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees.

Fago Smith, 62, of Palm Beach Gardens, is founder of Palm Health Partners & NuVista Living. She was recognized as the "Top Woman-led Business Leader in Florida" in 2007 and 2008 by Florida International University. Fago Smith’s company was ranked 53rd among Florida’s top 200 private companies by Florida Trend in 2008. She was a member of the Harvard Medical School Systems Biology Board, Florida Council of 100, Director of Scripps Florida Funding Corporation, and the Florida Medical Association. Fago Smith received her master’s degree from Harvard Business School. She succeeds Sheridan Plymale and is appointed for a term beginning March 27, 2013, and ending January 6, 2018.

The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

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

Last Action: Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 19 Yeas, 0 Nays