OUTREACH

Oceans Day 2013
This week, Dr. Margaret Leinen, Executive Director of Harbor Branch, and Cara Perry, Director of External Relations for Harbor Branch, will be among others from the Harbor Branch campus in Tallahassee to participate in Oceans Day 2013. 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 Mrs. Perry met with legislators and presented Harbor Branch’s Indian River Lagoon Observatory research initiative to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee.

Dr. Leinen and Senator Joe Abruzzo

GOING FORWARD

Owls in Tallahassee
Next week, Board of Trustees Vice Chair Workman and faculty member and alumni Dr. James Riordan will be in Tallahassee to visit with some of the more than 40 members of the FAU State Delegation.

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: 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
Rally in Tally
Also this week, the Florida Student Government Association held their annual “Rally in Tally.” Outgoing SGA President Robert Huffman lead a team of 19 FAU students as they visited members of FAU’s Legislative Delegation and participated in a rally on the steps of the Old Capitol. During their visit, students discussed the importance of higher education funding, their support of Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) bonding, and their support of in-state tuition for military veterans.

Representative Jared Moskowitz and FAU Students

COMMITTEE WEEK ROUNDUP
Senate and House Appropriations Budget Recommendations
On Wednesday, April 3, 2013, both chambers advanced their budget plans out of their respective committees. Both proposals contain at least a $1 billion increase in education funding over the current year’s budget. The House budget also has State workers receiving an average pay raise of $1500 per employee, while the Senate has a 3 percent across-the-board raise. The House and Senate will consider their appropriations packages on the Floor next week, followed by bicameral conferencing the week of April 15, 2013. The full text of each chamber’s appropriations bill can be found below.

- Senate Appropriations Bill (SB 1500)
- House Appropriations Bill (HB 5001)

Issues in Motion
Data Warehouse (SB 878)
On Thursday, April 4, 2013, the Senate passed and engrossed a series of bills that address education issues, including SB 878. 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 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 Senate passed the bill and it is awaiting action 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 deliver and charge for services; and requires that the institute create the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund.

Last Action: Passed favorably out of Governmental Oversight and Accountability and is now awaiting action in Appropriations.
The bill does not change the current process regarding how the Florida Department of Education (DOE or department) provides data to researchers. The bill formalizes procedures for accessing and reporting data pursuant to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The legislation identifies authorized representatives and outlines specific guidelines regarding the Research Engine and prescribes specific duties of the Articulation Coordinating Committee, the Higher Education Coordinating Council, public and private postsecondary institutions, and the Commissioner of Education to streamline the data accessibility and reporting process. The bill is now awaiting action in the House.

**SB 878**

**K-20 Education (SB 1076)**
On Thursday, April 4, 2013, the Senate also passed SB 1076. The measure revises educational programs and creates certain funding incentives to increase the likelihood that educational programs in Florida’s public schools, colleges, and universities will better prepare students for future occupations and careers. The bill fosters students’ development of technology skills in prekindergarten through grade 12 and increases opportunities for students to earn industry certifications in high school and college. The bill also designates three areas for university performance funding: computer and information technology; high demand programs as identified by the Board of Governors (BOG) using a gap analysis; and cloud virtualization and related large data management. In addition, the bill requires:

- The State Board of Education to designate multiple pathways for demonstrating the skills required for high school graduation, including earning industry certifications for high school credit;
- Financial literacy to be included in high school graduation requirements, as part of required credit in economics, as well as making other changes to high school graduation requirements; and
- Development of a Postsecondary Industry Certification Funding List for industry certifications that may be funded for school district workforce programs, Florida College System institutions, and state universities.

You can read the full bill text and the staff analysis below.

**SB 1076**

**Transition to Common Core (HB 7091)**
This week the House temporarily postponed consideration of HB 7091, a measure that requires the state board to adopt rules establishing an implementation schedule to transition from statewide assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics to common core assessments in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA). The schedule must take into consideration funding, sufficient field and baseline data, access to assessments, instructional alignment, and school district readiness to administer the common core assessments online. You can read more about legislation’s proposed transitional requirements in the full bill text and staff analysis, which can be found below.

**HB 7091**
Please Contact the University Relations staff with any questions and/or comments: universityrelations@fau.edu

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