OUTREACH
Owls in Tallahassee
On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, a delegation from FAU that included Board of Trustees Vice Chair Tom Workman and Alumni / Professor Dr. James Riordan headed to Tallahassee to meet with legislators and discuss the exciting things happening on FAU campuses. The gentlemen met with both House and Senate Members from across FAU’s service area. In addition to their conversations with legislators and staff, they attended a committee meeting, and were publicly recognized by a group of Senators led by Maria Sachs as they watched the Senate in session from the gallery.

COMMITTEE WEEK ROUNDUP
Senate and House Appropriations Budget Recommendations
On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, the Senate voted to unanimously pass their $74.3 billion budget and on Friday, April 12, the House is expected to pass their budget proposal. As stated last week, both proposals contain at least a $1 billion increase in education funding over the current year’s budget. The House budget now has State workers receiving a maximum pay raise of $1000 per

BILLS IN BRIEF
HB 863 – Teacher Preparation and Accountability (Spano)
The measure revises the uniform core curricula for each state-approved educator preparation program. The bill requires individuals in postsecondary educator preparation programs who instruct or supervise field experience courses or internships where a student must demonstrate an impact on student learning growth to have specialized training in clinical supervision. The bill revises the reporting requirements of institutions that offer state–approved preparation programs.

Last Action: Placed on House 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.

Last Action: The Senate passed the bill and it is awaiting action in the House.

SB 878 – Data Warehouse (Galvano)
year and a one-time $400 merit bonus this year, while the Senate has a 3 percent across-the-board raise.

These budget packages will now be the subject of bicameral conferences that will take place next week, as the House and Senate try to align their respective proposals. The Senate has already appointed members to the Appropriations Conference Committees and the House is expected to appoint their committee members next week. Senator Joe Negron will chair the full Appropriations Conference Committee and Senator Maria Sachs has been appointed to the Conference Committee on Education. You can find a full list of Senate Conference Committee Members here. 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

Sparsity Funding for FAU’s Lab School District Sparsity funding is provided to small school districts to assist them in meeting state required administrative costs associated with mandates, plans, and reports. A university’s lab schools are considered to be a part of their own school districts, including A.D. Henderson and FAU High School on the Boca campus. Currently, FAU’s lab school district does not qualify for sparsity funding because it failed to have a high school component by the legislatively identified date of September 1, 2002. Presently, we are the only K-12 lab school district that is not receiving the sparsity supplement.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, Senator Abruzzo sponsored an amendment to the Senate Education Conforming bill (SB 1514) that removed the qualifying date language from statute and would allow FAU lab schools to receive sparsity funding. The amendment was adopted and the bill was unanimously passed by the Senate.

This year the Governor and the House have proposed a $10 million sparsity funding increase. This budgetary increase would mean that if FAU’s lab school district is included among the other sparsity districts, the schools that are currently receiving funding would not see a negative impact to their sparsity dollars. The Office of University Relations is working closely with faculty in the College of Education to advocate for this critically important funding and ensure that the newly adopted language in the Senate is carried over to the House.

SB 1514

Changes to State Contracting Requirements

This year, legislators have introduced a series of bills that could potentially impact state contracting procedures (SB 1150 & 1764 / HB 1309). Currently, the Department of Management Services (DMS) is responsible for overseeing and maintaining uniform rules for agency procurement, as well as negotiating statewide contracts to leverage the state’s buying power. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for setting and approving accounts against the state and keeping all state funds and securities. The CFO’s duties also include contract review, procurement training, The bill will require the DOE to reprioritize its use of existing funding to implement the new web-based interface and Research Engine of the K-20 data warehouse. 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. Last Action: The Senate passed the bill and it is awaiting action in the House.

SB 1076 – K-20 Education (Legg)
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 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 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. Last Action: The Senate passed the bill and it is awaiting action in the House.

SB 1720 – Education (Galvano)
and auditing.

Provisions in these bills could affect the laws governing state agency procurement and contracting, including, but not limited to:

- Requiring that agencies upload contracts and related information into the Florida Accountability Contract Tracking System;
- Providing that both DMS and the CFO are jointly responsible for contract management training;
- Requiring that invitations to bid be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder; and
- Removing the requirement that an agency head certify emergency procurement documents.

The reporting requirement language that is found in these bills could have significant workload implications for SUS institutions. As a result, the Office of University Relations will continue to monitor these pieces of legislation as they move through the House and Senate.

-BRIGHT FUTURES-

Changes to Bright Futures Eligibility Requirements

In 2010 and 2011 the Florida Legislature passed pieces of legislation that increased the eligibility requirements for Bright Futures scholarships. Over the past two years these requirements have increased incrementally. However, for high school individuals graduating during the 2013-14 academic year, a student must now achieve a minimum score of 1170 on the SAT or 26 on the ACT and earn a high school GPA of 3.0 to meet the minimum standards for Bright Futures eligibility. These new requirements reflect a significant leap from the current criteria, which asks for a 1020 on the SAT or 22 on the ACT with a 3.0 high school GPA.

The University of South Florida conducted a system wide analysis which demonstrates that the changes scheduled to take effect would have a disparate impact on underrepresented minorities, particularly Hispanic and African American students.

The system wide USF analysis suggest that based on the Bright Futures eligibility criteria scheduled to go into effect for students enrolling as freshman the Fall of 2014:

- The impact of the changes would fall most heavily on Hispanic and African American students:
  - Between 7,000 and 7,500 Hispanic freshmen met minimum criteria for Bright Futures for Fall 2012, only between 2,700 and 3,000 would meet the new criteria set for Fall 2014, a drop of over 60%;
  - Approximately 2,700 black freshmen met minimum criteria for Bright Futures for Fall 2012, only 650 would meet the new criteria set for Fall 2014, a drop of more than 75%; but,
By comparison, around 17,000 white freshmen met minimum criteria for Bright Futures for Fall 2012, 10,000 would meet the new criteria set for Fall 2014, a drop of 41%; and,

- Between 1,600 and 1,700 Asian freshmen met minimum criteria for Bright Futures for Fall 2012, about 950 still would meet the new criteria set for Fall 2014, a drop of 42%.

The impact of the changes for Fall 2014 would fall most heavily on eight of the eleven SUS institutions:

- The percentage of Bright Futures recipients would drop below 25% at FAU, FIU, FAMU, FGCU and UWF.
- The percentage of Bright Futures recipients would drop below 50% at UCF, UNF and USF.

Currently, only one piece of legislation has been introduced to address these issues and that bill has not received much attention. These figures are based on projections and the new eligibility requirements have not yet gone into effect. The Office of University Relations will be working with the other SUS institutions to bring attention to these issues as the Legislative Session comes to a close. A summary of the projected impact of the changes in Bright Futures initial eligibility criteria by SUS institution is located below.

-SUS Bright Futures Analysis

Federal Issues

Obama Administration’s Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Proposal

On Wednesday, April 10, 2013, President Obama released his FY14 budget proposal. The President's fiscal year 2014 request proposes comprehensive reforms to increase affordability and quality in higher education, including the following:

- $1 billion for a new Race to the Top–College Affordability and Completion competition that would drive change in State higher education policies and practices in order to improve college access, affordability, completion, and quality.
- $260 million for a First in the World fund, under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, that would make competitive awards to encourage innovation in higher education to tackle and improve college completion rates, increase the productivity of higher education, build evidence of what works, and scale up proven strategies.
- Linking student loan interest rates to market rates. The scheduled July 1, 2013, increase in Subsidized Stafford Loan interest rates from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent would take place at a time when the economy is still recovering and market rates remain low.
- Expanding and reforming the Campus-Based Aid programs—Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Federal Work-Study, and Perkins Loans—to provide $10 billion in student financial aid for use at those colleges that demonstrate a commitment to
providing their students a high-quality education at a reasonable price and provide good value.

-Department of Education FY 2014 Budget Summary

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