COMMITTEE WEEK ROUNDUP

Appropriations Conference Committee
On Thursday, April 18, 2013, the House announced the appointment of Appropriations Conference Committee members. You can find a full list of House Conference Committee Members here. As stated previously, Senator Joe Negron will chair the full Appropriations Conference Committee and you can find a list of Senate Conference Committee Members here. In addition, Senator Maria Sachs and Representatives Cary Pigman and Shevrin Jones from the FAU service area delegation have been appointed to the Education Appropriations Conference Committee.

On Friday, April 19, 2013, the Joint House and Senate Conference Committees began meeting to align their budget and conforming bill language for passage. On Friday afternoon Chair Fresen presented the House’s first budget offer to the Education Appropriations Conference Committee. The $6.4 billion offer included the restoration and of the $300 million that was removed from the Higher Ed Budget last year as well as a 6% percent tuition increase. In addition to the larger general education items, the offer contained a number of provisions that are of specific importance to FAU. Some of the House’s offer highlights include:

- Increased funding for Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
  - $500,000 in nonrecurring funding for medical school simulation center
  - $946,000 in nonrecurring funding to assist in the development of FAU’s graduate medical education program (this funding was not included in the original House Education Appropriations Budget proposal)
- $2 million increase in funding for the state’s 7 Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)
  - This funding level represents an increase of $650,000 over the original House Education Appropriations Budget proposal
- $10 million increase in Sparsity Funding
  - Senator Abruzzo has proposed an amendment that would allow FAU’s Lab

GOING FORWARD

FAU Owls Spring Game and Alfred Morris Day
On Saturday, April 20, 2013, FAU’s annual Spring Game will take place at 2:00pm in our stadium. During the halftime celebration Boca Raton’s Vice Mayor Susan Haynie will present FAU alum and current Washington Redskin running back Alfred Morris with a Key to the City.

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
School District to qualify for sparsity funding for the first time in school history.

You can review the entire 1st House Education Conference Committee Offer below.

-1st House Education Offer

FAU Board of Trustees Confirmation
On Monday, April 15, 2013, the Senate’s Committee on Ethics and Elections considered the confirmation of two members of FAU’s Board of Trustees. The Committee favorably recommended Thomas Workman and Abdol Moabery for confirmation by the full Senate. Trustee Workman and Moabery’s full Senate confirmation should take place before the conclusion of the 2013 Legislative Session on May 3, 2013.

Issues in Motion

Graduate Medical Education (GME)
As a result of legislation passed last year, the state of Florida is in the process of changing the way it funds GME programs, from the current system of fee-for-service care coupled with an additional per diem rate for GME to a fixed cost payment system that is contingent upon GME hospitals providing care to Medicaid patients.

The Governor as well as both chambers of the legislature have introduced proposals to address these changes and increase funding for GME. All 3 proposals create a new program to provide state funding for GME. The House and Senate bills each contain formulas that calculate GME payments based on the volume of services provided to Medicaid patients. This means that the more Medicaid services provided, the greater the GME payment per resident.

The House and Senate proposals each call for approximately $80 million to fund GME programs throughout the state. Of that $80 million about $33 million is state funds and the remainder is federal Medicaid matching dollars. In addition, both proposals represent an approximately $24 million dollar increase of state and federal funds over last year’s funding level. Though both proposals are similar they are not identical. The House’s proposal puts less emphasis on the amount of Medicaid services provided, while the Senate’s proposal caps GME per resident funding at $50,000.

The proposed changes to the current GME system could provide significant benefits to a number of our hospital partners that are members of FAU’s GME consortium. The differences in the proposals will likely be addressed in conference and the Office of University Relations will continue to monitor the progress of the negotiations.

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. The bill authorizes the institute to create corporate subsidiaries and provides conditions under which the institute may develop or accrue certain interests in companies or products. In addition, the legislation creates the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund.

Last Action: Reported favorably out of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 878 – Data Warehouse (Galvano)
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: Passed by the Senate and House. The bill will be considered in Education Conference
Florida Accredited Courses and Tests (FACTs) Initiative

Senate Bill 904 creates the Florida Accredited Courses and Tests (FACTs) Initiative to expand student choice in relation to courses and corresponding assessments that a student may take to satisfy various secondary and postsecondary education requirements. The measure allows individuals or organizations that provide online courses, including massive open online courses (MOOCs), which are measured by statewide assessments to apply for approval as state-level providers. The bill also provides for the application of certain courses and assessments toward promotion, graduation, and degree attainment. The legislation authorizes a school district, a Florida College System institution, and a state university to contract with qualified contractors to administer and proctor statewide standardized assessments or assessments associated with Florida-accredited courses.

Currently, four Florida state universities offer MOOCs (UF, USF, UCF, and FIU) and another one (UWF) is planning to offer one next Spring. Others institutions are studying the possibility and are interested in learning from those already offering MOOCs.

Institutions offering these types of courses note the challenges in implementing MOOCs, such as technical issues like web-hosting and platform requirements, as well as making sure the MOOCs are high quality. The SUS institutions have expressed concern about whether legislation like SB 904 is necessary.

-SB 904

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Committee.

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: Passed by the Senate and House and Enrolled. Currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.

SB 1720 – Education (Galvano)

The measure establishes the academic and research excellence standards for the Preeminent State Research Universities Program. The bill requires the state university that attains the highest level of excellence on the preeminence standards to create an institute for on-line learning. The legislation transitions the Degree Completion Pilot Program to a permanent degree completion program called Complete Florida Degree Program. In addition, the bill repeals the requirement that Bright Futures Scholarship recipients must file a Free Application for Student Financial Aid (FASFA) form.
Last Action: Passed by the Senate and House. The bill will be considered in Education Conference Committee.