OUTREACH
Who is Visiting FAU's Campuses

On Thursday, January 24, 2013, the Boca Raton Campus hosted Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll. The Lt. Governor toured the College of Engineering, the College of Medicine and the Football Stadium. Lt. Governor Carroll also was briefed on FAU's Veterans Initiative by Assistant Dean Reyes-Cairo and met with President Saunders and Members of the Board of Trustees.

COMMITTEE WEEK ROUNDUP

Florida Retirement System

On Thursday, January 24, 2013, the House Subcommittee on Governmental Operations held a workshop on draft legislation to revise the Florida Retirement System Act. The committee considered the following provisions:

- Closes the pension plan (defined benefit) to members initially enrolled in the Florida Retirement System on or after January 1, 2014, and requires those members to participate in the investment plan (defined contribution).

- Closes the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program to new participants effective January 1, 2014.

- Prohibits an elected official who is eligible for
membership in the Elected Officers' Class from joining the Senior Management Service Class on or after January 1, 2014.

- Expands the investment options available to investment plan participants as follows:
  - Requires the State Board of Administration to develop investment products; and
  - Requires an employee-directed investment option (brokerage account) to be provided.

- Eliminates the option to apply for disability benefits under the pension plan for members initially enrolled in the Florida Retirement System on or after January 1, 2014.

The Subcommittee took public testimony from many stakeholder organizations, and Chair Brodeur indicated that the draft legislation was still a work in progress.

**Meeting Packet**

**Translational Research in the SUS**

On Tuesday, January 22, 2013, the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee heard presentations on the Start Up Business Environment in Florida. Information was provided by the Florida Research Consortium, the Florida Institute for Commercialization of Public Research and several other organizations. The focus of the presentations was the increased emphasis on investment in translational research in the state university system, and one of the programs highlighted was GLG Pharma, which is engaged in a research partnership with FAU and UCF. Legislation to provide seed funding for such partnerships is expected to be forthcoming.

**Meeting Packet**

**Campus Safety and Security**

On Wednesday, January 23, 2013, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education heard presentations from the State College and University Systems regarding school safety and security funding. Among the presenters, which included school administrators and law enforcement officers from around the State, was Florida Atlantic University’s Director of Safety and Security and Chief of Police Charles Lowe.

The presentation focused on improvements to campus safety since the Virginia Tech tragedy. In their remarks, the panel highlighted the reduction in crime rates throughout Florida, the increase of training and partnerships between local, state and national law enforcement agencies, and the expansion of emergency notification systems.
The SUS law enforcement offices outlined their current needs, which included:

- Funding for an Emergency Management Planner at all SUS Institutions.
- Law Enforcement Officers and Retention (Each institution should have a ratio of 1 officer per 600 students)
- Budget Support for Law Enforcement Departments
  - Technology and Recurring Costs
  - Supplies and Equipment (Life Saving Tools)
  - Training and Exercises

Since the Sandy Hook tragedy there is a renewed emphasis on student and campus safety. These issues will be popular topics throughout the Legislative Session and at all levels of our education system.

-Meeting Packet

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Florida Cabinet

The Florida Cabinet this week approved the bond issuance of FAU's Parking Facility Revenue Revenue Bonds in the amount of $15.6 million.

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