2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FAU Board of Trustees Appointments
On Tuesday, January 14, 2014, the Senate Education Committee considered a series of Board of Trustees appointments. Among the group being considered was newly appointed FAU Trustee Mary Beth McDonald. The Committee took up the appointments as a block and unanimously recommended all individuals, including Trustee McDonald, for approval. The appointments must now be considered by the Ethics and Elections Committee before being voted on by the full Senate. Trustee McDonald’s certification and confirmation materials are included in the Committee's meeting packet, which can be found below.

-Senate Education Committee

Harbor Branch Presents Indian River Lagoon Project to Senate Committee
Earlier this summer, Senate President Don Gaetz created the Senate Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin. The Select Committee was charged with investigating policies, spending, and any other governmental activities that could potentially affect water management in the Lagoon and Basin. Throughout the summer and into the fall, the Select Committee conducted hearings and prepared a Final Report that proposed a series of recommendations aimed at improving the current

GOING FORWARD
On January 28, 2014, the Office of University Relations will be hosting a Legislative Aide Appreciation and Information Luncheon on the John D. MacArthur Campus at Jupiter. These lunches provide us with a wonderful opportunity to thank staff members for their hard work, discuss the University’s priorities, and highlight interesting programs and resources.

BILLS IN BRIEF

SB 84 - Relating to Resident Status for Tuition Purposes (Latvala)
The measure provides criteria for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the National Guard and reserve components, to qualify as residents for tuition purposes. Effective Date: July 1, 2014

Last Action: The bill recently passed unanimously out of the
state of this critically important water body.

On Wednesday, January 15, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government heard presentations on the project funding recommendations contained within the Select Committee’s Final Report. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute’s Indian River Lagoon Observatory (IRLO) program was among the projects included in the Final Report. Cara Perry, Director of External Relations for Harbor Branch, testified before the Subcommittee and provided members with an overview of the IRLO program. IRLO involves three major components: 1) combining Harbor Branch’s 40 years of existing Lagoon research with new, state-of-the-art monitoring equipment; 2) utilizing past and current research to develop predictive geographic information system (GIS) models that can assist policy makers in identifying problem areas and effective restoration strategies; and 3) aggregating information and fostering collaboration among the many public and private organizations involved in Lagoon management and restoration. Harbor Branch’s presentation materials as well as presentations for the other Select Committee recommendations can be found in the Subcommittee packet below.

-Federal Issues

Budget and Appropriations

The Fiscal 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill has been passed by both the House and Senate and is awaiting the President’s signature. The Omnibus bill follows the terms set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (the “Ryan-Murray Agreement”), providing a total of $1.012 trillion for the operation of the federal government, and meeting the $520.5 billion defense and $491.7 billion non-defense budget caps. In the Omnibus package all agencies have been funded by regular appropriations bills and no Continuing Resolutions were included.

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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

HB 115 / SB 318 - Public Meetings/University Direct Support Organization (Pigman / Stargel)
The measure provides an exemption from public meeting requirements for the portion of meeting of a board of directors of a university DSO at which the 1) identity of donor or prospective donor, 2) a proposal seeking research funding from organization, or 3) a plan or program for initiating or supporting research is discussed. Effective Date: October 1, 2014

Last Action: The bills were recently reported favorably out of the House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee (HB 115) and the Senate Education Committee (SB 318).

HB 135 - Public Records & Public Meetings/Postsecondary Education Executive Search (Kerner)
The measure would allow university searches for high level positions to be closed until finalists are selected. Effective Date: October 1, 2014

Last Action: The bill was recently reported favorably out of the House Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee.
The Omnibus funds all the science agencies and includes $75 million for the Administration's "First in the World" initiative under the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education program and $20 million for minority serving institutions of higher education. Among the highlights for research funding agencies important to the SUS:

- $29.9 billion for the National Institutes of Health, which is $714 million less than the 2013 enacted level but $1 billion more than the post-sequester level.
- $5.3 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is $320.4 more than the 2013 enacted level.
- $850 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is $42.9 million more than the 2013 enacted level.
- $17.65 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which is $154.8 million more than the 2013 enacted level.
- $7.2 billion for the National Science Foundation, which is $67.9 million below the 2013 enacted level.

**Monthly Washington Updates are Available on the OUR Website**

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**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

On January 15-16, 2014, the Board of Governors held their first regularly scheduled meeting of the New Year at Florida Gulf Coast University. The meeting was Marshall Criser’s first as SUS Chancellor and Mori Hosseini’s first as Chairman of the Board. Chair Hosseini delivered the State of the System address, which identified three critical areas (quality, funding and system synergy) that the Board will be focusing their energy and attention on over the next two years.

During the meeting, the Board of Governors finalized the developed of the performance funding model that is scheduled for implementation during 2014-2015. The model uses data from the annual SUS Accountability Report to determine funding based on the following system. Each university will adhere to seven common metrics:
Metrics

- Percent of bachelor’s degree graduates employed and/or continuing their education; average wages of employed baccalaureate graduates, cost per undergraduate degree; six-year graduation rate for full-time and part-time first time students; academic progress rate (2nd-year retention with GPA above 2.0); bachelor’s degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis (includes STEM); university access rate (percent of undergraduates with a Pell grant).
- An eighth metric, graduate degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis, applies to 10 of the state’s 12 universities, including FAU.
- The Board of Governors and Board of Trustees decided on the final two metrics for each university. For FAU, the two metrics are Percentage of Bachelor’s Degrees awarded without excess hours and Bachelor’s Degrees awarded to minorities.

Funding

- Each university metric is evaluated based on Excellence or Improvement with five benchmarks ranging from high to low. The maximum score is 50 points, with universities that earn 26 points or higher eligible to receive new funds.
- Each university would contribute a small portion of their recurring base state funds to be allocated through the performance funding model.
- Universities earning 26 points or higher would have their base funding restored.
- Universities earning 25 points or fewer would have a portion of their base funding at risk. Those funds would be reallocated for strategic initiatives at high-performing universities.
- During the first year, a floor would be established so universities would lose no more than 1 percent of their existing base state funds.
- The Board has included $50 million in its Legislative Budget Request, which universities
will match with a prorated amount from their recurring base state funds.

In addition to finalizing the metrics, the Board amended its 2014-2015 legislative budget request. The new ask is for $321 million to renovate and maintain buildings and protect taxpayers' long-term investments in the System's existing facilities. The request is designed to stimulate construction jobs and ensure that students study in modern facilities that reflect the reality of today's workplaces.

-BOG Agenda and Meeting Materials

Please Contact the University Relations staff with any questions and/or comments:
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