

Government Relations Update
Report to the Florida A&M University Board of Trustees
Friday, December 11, 2015

Trustees and Alumni Engagement

There is an essential role that Trustees and alumni leadership can play in advocating for FAMUs legislative priorities. Enhanced support will reassure our local, state, and federal legislators that we are leveraging their investments in the University. Government Relations is focused on enhancing the role of Trustees and alumni in the legislative process. The office will continue to invite the Trustees and alumni to work with us on outreach to our delegations and, most importantly, to maximize the relationships they have with local, state, and federal legislators.

Our legislators want to know that their efforts for FAMU will be widely noted and appreciated. Opportunities will emerge where we will ask Trustees and alumni to write letters of support, make a phone call, or join us on an office visit.

State Update

Governor's Budget 2016-2017 Budget

Governor Scott's budget calls for holding the line on tuition for Florida's 12 public universities and 28 state colleges but also devoting \$120 million (\$20 million of the \$120 million is set aside as a special incentive) more toward performance-based funding for those institutions. Only \$50 million of the proposed increase would come from new funding while the other \$50 million is proposed to come out of the 12 universities' base operating budgets.

Governor Scott proposes to offer as much as \$180 million in capital outlay funding in his budget recommendation, but half of that figure comes from a mandatory "dollar-for-dollar match" that each college or university would have to meet -- either through a private donor or by putting forth the dollars themselves within their operating budgets. Absent that match, Scott suggests budgeting \$50 million for state university construction projects.

The State University System is asking the Legislature for \$84 million for capital projects. FAMU is seeking \$26.5 million for the Student Affairs Building, \$15.5 million for deferred maintenance, and \$6.5 million for land acquisition.

The Governor's budget also proposes a \$6.3 million increase in operating funding for the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering. This increase is supported by both FAMU and FSU.

FAMU 2016 – 2017 Legislative Budget Request

FAMU's 2016 – 2017 legislative budget request focuses on strategies that are designed to promote the creation of a 21st-century living-learning environment, enhance student success, foster research and innovation, and produce graduates for a highly skilled workforce.

A copy of the list of LBR priorities is attached.

Bills to Watch

The staff is closely monitoring three significant bills currently making their way through the committee process.

SB 146 – Federal Student Loan Default Rates

Bill requires certain institutions to maintain a federal student loan default rate below a specified percentage. The specified percentage is to be determined.

The bill has passed through the Higher Education Subcommittee and will be heard by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education on Dec. 3, 2015.

The bill sponsors are Senator Jeremy Ring (D - 10) and Senator Don Gaetz (R – 1).

SB 524 - State University System Performance-based Incentives

The bill modifies performance-based metrics to include specified wage thresholds, requiring the Board of Governors to establish minimum performance funding eligibility thresholds. The bill also would prohibit a state university that fails to meet the state's threshold from being eligible for a share of the state's investment after one failed attempt.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Education will hear the bill on Dec. 3, 2015.

Senator Don Gaetz (R – 1) is the sponsor.

HB 4001 – Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms

The bill removes the provision prohibiting concealed carry licensees from openly carrying a handgun or concealed weapon or firearm into college or university facility.

The bill has cleared all committees and has been released to House calendar.

-Implications for FAMU

If FAMU fails to meet the minimum threshold as established by SB 524, it will lose performance funding, which could be as much as \$15 million dollars.

Adoption of HB 4011 could impact the University's ability to provide a safe and secure learning and work environment for the FAMU community.

Federal Update

Budget Update

As this update was being drafted, the twelve appropriation subcommittees were in recess and set to reconvene after the holiday to finalize and submit their fiscal year 2016 bills. Allocations to the subcommittees are adequate and, individually, the bills vary from approved versions due to the policy riders, which will be addressed by the Congressional leadership. The biggest issues are in the Defense Subcommittee, which must identify a method for cutting \$5 billion from the House and Senate adopted bills. Also, the Agriculture Appropriations conferees must identify a way to restore \$3 billion to agriculture crop subsidies that were cut in the recent budget agreement.

The federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that is set to expire on Dec. 11, 2015.

-Implications for FAMU

Implications for FAMU will vary depending on the outcomes of the budget conference. Without a final budget agreement, it is premature to determine the impact on FAMU's federal funding efforts. The staff is closely monitoring the process. The budget deal raised sequestration caps equally on both defense and nondefense spending. This is an outcome that bodes well for FAMU researchers should the amounts remain after the final appropriation bills are established.

Students enrolled at Florida A&M University rely heavily on federal student aid, specifically the Pell Grant Program. Sixty-three percent of enrolled students are Pell Grant eligible; therefore, any change to the program criteria or level of funding could have significant ramifications on student enrollment and potentially on our efforts at meeting the performance funding metrics as established by the SUS.

Bills to Watch

There are several bills being considered in advance of the reauthorization of the HEA, including S. 211, the Higher Education Innovation Act, sponsored by Senator Marco Rubio. The bill proposes an alternative accreditation system and would expand the spectrum of provider-eligible programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, including Pell Grants.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Lamar Alexander, is in the process of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEA). Legislative analysts anticipate the reauthorization will be approved in the spring session.

-Implications for FAMU

This is significant because Chairman Alexander has opposed extending the Perkins Loan Program, which expired on September 30, 2015, in order to conduct a comprehensive review of all federal student aid programs in the reauthorization process.

Federal Agency Outreach

Last academic year, the Government Relations staff conducted a comprehensive resource inventory of the University's research capabilities and opportunities. As a result, the Government Relations staff assisted Florida A&M University faculty and staff in strategic federal agency outreach, including immersive meetings with the USDA, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. These three agencies represent the lead funding agencies that have supported FAMU's principal investigators (PIs).

These strategic outreach efforts are designed to advance FAMU's strategic initiatives through identifying competitive and noncompetitive funding opportunities. As a result of these visits, FAMU dean's, PI's, and Division of Research were invited to submit white papers for noncompetitive contracts.

Visits to campus by program administrators from the Department of Defense followed our successful meetings with the agency in Washington, D.C.

-Implications for FAMU

Several positive outcomes were achieved through the agency visits. In particular, program administrators provided significant detail to FAMU staff and PIs on grant management. This information was then passed on to Division of Research and, as a result; Vice President Moore has implemented new processes for ensuring that FAMU PI's are equipped with the ability to manage their grants properly.

Congressional Redistricting Update

A Florida Supreme Court recently ruled that the current Congressional Map is unconstitutional and ordered the State Legislature to redraw the Congressional districts.

Currently, six members of Congress represent FAMU campuses and educational project sites. Congressional representatives that have a FAMU property or program in their district are Rep. Jeff Miller (Crestview), Rep. Gwen Graham (Tallahassee & Quincy), Rep. Dennis Ross (Tampa), Rep. Corrine Brown (Jacksonville & Orlando), Rep. Richard Nugent (Brooksville), and Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (Davie).

Redistricting could alter which member of Congress represents FAMU interests. For example, FAMU's main campus resides in the 2nd Congressional District represented by Rep. Gwen Graham. Under redistricting, the FAMU campus would be split between the 2nd Congressional District and the 5th Congressional District, which is currently represented by Rep. Corrine Brown, a FAMU alumna.

-Implications for FAMU

The implications for redistricting are varied and complex. For example, if redistricting impacts our Davie campus, we would lose Rep. Wasserman-Schultz, an influential member of the Florida delegation. The proposed redistricting for the 2nd Congressional District would potentially split Congressional representation for some of FAMU's academic schools and colleges. FAMU would lose Rep. Brown's representation of the College of Law. The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences would have one representative for its main facility and another one for its Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research.

FLORIDA **A&M** UNIVERSITY

2016-2017 Legislative Budget Request

FOCUS OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Our 2016-2017 legislative budget request focuses on strategic areas that are designed to promote the creation of a 21st century living-learning environment, enhance student success, foster research and innovation, and produce graduates needed for a highly-skilled workforce.

OPERATING

01 STUDENT SUCCESS | \$5.9 MILLION

In fall 2009, 79 percent of FAMU's first-time-in-college (FTIC) cohorts were Access and Opportunity Students (AOS), also known as "profile admits." By 2014, the percent of AOS had been reduced to 29 percent. Many of these students require intrusive "wrap-around" support services to enable them to graduate within six years with the least amount of debt possible. E&G funds are being requested to augment and expand current efforts by developing a comprehensive Center for Academic Achievement and Excellence ("A2E").

02 FACULTY VITALITY AND CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT | \$9.5 MILLION

The University seeks new state E&G investments to attract additional highly qualified faculty to support our ongoing teaching and research mission, especially in the areas of strategic emphasis, such as health and STEM programs, as well as social sciences, arts, and humanities.

03 SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE | \$2.8 MILLION

The Florida A&M University Sustainability Institute (FAMU-SI) is a university-wide initiative that seeks to advance sustainability knowledge creation and promote socio-economic and environmental vitality in Florida. E&G funds are being requested to support staffing enhancement, research fellowships, curriculum development, and the development of a living research laboratory.

04 FAMU BROOKSVILLE | \$3.3 MILLION

The USDA recently transferred 3,800 acres of farmland and facilities in Brooksville, Fla. to FAMU at no cost to the University, with the exception of associated acquisition costs. The land shall be used for agricultural and natural resource research for a period of not less than 25 years, to support and enhance agriculture research and technology transfer to farmers and local communities, including small farmers, minority farmers and Native Americans, beginning ranchers and farmers, and to support the USDA's and FAMU's strategic goals and objectives.

FAMU is requesting E&G funds to support start-up costs, planning, facility maintenance, purchase of equipment, project management, and faculty enhancement. Expenditure of these funds is projected to generate more than 80 jobs, annual economic output of \$6.4 million, value added of almost \$4 million, and annual labor income of \$3.2 million.

(See Reverse)

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05 **CAMPUS SAFETY** | **\$4.3 MILLION**

Florida A&M University takes campus safety very seriously. Even with enhanced efforts by our campus police and their work with local law enforcement agencies, there is a need for the University to take additional security measures. These measures include improving campus lighting, adding additional security personnel, purchasing equipment and security cameras, and improving perimeter safety. Enhancing safety will help improve retention, expand our student base, and promote a 21st century living-learning environment.

Additionally, the University intends to further enhance its anti-hazing and bullying efforts to improve student safety and increase awareness. The University will also provide anti-hazing/bullying outreach to middle and high schools in Florida.

06 **FAMU ONLINE** | **\$5 MILLION**

E&G funds are needed to increase the number of online courses and adding additional degree programs will improve our performance of the Board of Governor's Performance Funding Model by increasing our retention and graduation rates, reducing time to degree, and lowering student debt.

CAPITAL (PECO)

01 **STUDENT AFFAIRS BUILDING** | **\$26.5 MILLION**

Last year, the Legislature provided \$6,155,000 of PECO funds to finance the planning and design of a new Student Affairs Building. PECO funding is being requested for the construction of a new Student Affairs Building that will enable the University to consolidate the delivery of essential student services, thereby helping to improve customer service and our performance under the Board of Governor's Performance Funding Model.

02 **INFRASTRUCTURE, RENOVATION, REMODELING, AND REPAIRS** | **\$15.5 MILLION**

FAMU is the third oldest institution in the State University System and has about \$100 million of deferred infrastructure, renovation, and remodeling needs. To begin to address these needs \$15.5 million of PECO funds are being requested for campus-wide improvements, which include \$10.8 million for essential infrastructure improvements.

The heart of the A2E will be enhanced academic advising, building on successful recent improvements to the FAMU academic advising program by further reducing the student to advisor ratio, and adding advisors with specializations such as STEM, agriculture, and health careers.

03 **LAND ACQUISITION** | **\$6.5 MILLION**

PECO funding for land acquisition is critically needed to enable the University to carry out the projects outlined in its Master Plan for the revitalization of the "main street" of campus.

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