It is not surprising that Senate President Ken Pruitt wants to marginalize the appointed board in charge of Florida's public universities. He has been agitating for months against tuition increases, and the Board of Governors has been less than obedient. The more jarring punch in the gut to a beleaguered higher education system is from a polite governor who promised to be an ally but has now told university presidents to quit whining or take a hike.

"We have great universities and their recognition of that fact is important," Gov. Charlie Crist told a Times reporter Tuesday when asked about the presidents' financial worries. "If they're unhappy, maybe they ought to turn the reins over to somebody else."

That is quite a change in tone, and it is tone deaf to the financial crisis facing higher education. Just 13 months ago, Crist told an inaugural audience that "it is our highest calling and our most important responsibility ... to continue on the path of making Florida's education the gold standard." Just eight months ago, he met with the university presidents and pledged to rebuild financial stability: "It's incredibly important for the future of Florida that we have the very best universities that we can provide for the people of our state."

Now those same universities are being forced to lay off hundreds of faculty members and slash enrollment by 17,000 students. Yet Crist seems marooned on Fantasy Island. "My point is, things are pretty good in Florida," he said, describing the current condition of universities. "We have it pretty darn good here."

Actually, no. We have it pretty darn mediocre. The student-faculty ratio is the highest in the nation, with some classes at the University of South Florida held in
a nearby movie theater. The rate at which the state produces students with bachelor's degrees is 46th in the nation. Only one of the state's 11 universities ranks among U.S. News & World Report's national top 100.

Not even Pruitt, a persistent critic of the university system Board of Governors, would deny the financial dilemma. Instead, he wants the board to stop raising university tuition lest the increasingly unaffordable Bright Futures Scholarship become even more unaffordable.

In the high-handed manner of previous legislative leaders, Pruitt wants to exact a form of punishment. He would probably abolish the board if he had the power, but a previous House speaker beat him to the punch and led the charge to kill an earlier version. Pruitt can't abolish this new board, because voters in 2002 embedded the Board of Governors in the Constitution.

Pruitt says he wants to ask voters to rein in the board's powers in part because it has meddled in the day-to-day affairs of universities. But the main reason voters approved the board was to try to insulate universities from lawmakers. If he is right that the board should operate at "the 40,000-foot level," then he will need to beam the Legislature to the International Space Station.

The governor and Legislature do face a difficult budget environment this year, which is certain to create some political fissures. But these attempts to intimidate university presidents and appointed board governors are an insulting form of denial. The amount of money the state spends on each university student has dropped by a fourth in the past two decades, and the system is facing the additional loss of hundreds of millions of dollars.

This crisis is no illusion, and many high school seniors are just now opening rejection letters and experiencing the harsh realities. Crist may still want to pretend Florida is the "gold standard," but his remarks fool no one. The university presidents are telling the truth, every dispiriting bit of it. The governor and the Legislature should listen.

We don't need no dadgum higher ed
02/21/2008 © St. Peters burg Times

If they're unhappy, maybe they should turn over the reins to someone else.

Gov. Charlie Crist, on the state's university presidents
Here's my proposal for an amendment to the Florida Constitution:

Let's tie the budget for college sports in Florida to the state's rank in money spent on, you know, actual college education.

"We're Dead Last, And We're Proud!" the Gator cheerleaders could chant then.

"We're happy with our 1-10 record," coach Bowden at FSU could say, "because at least, dadgummit, we cost less than Mississippi."

Well? That's exactly what we're saying about academics.

Florida's state universities are in trouble, folks.

They are in a bind. They need you to know it. They need the governor to know it. They need the Legislature to know it.

They cannot give the sons and daughters of Florida the education they deserve. They cannot even admit enough.

They do not have enough teachers to teach them - we have the worst ratio of students to faculty members in the nation. Yaaaaaaay Florida!

Florida ranks last in tuition support among the states. It ranks near the bottom in tax dollars spent. It ranks 46th in the production of bachelor's degrees. Some of our schools are laying off because of budget cuts. Admissions are frozen or reduced. Talented professors are starting to leave.

Here is the answer of Florida's politicians to all this:

Yeeeeeeeh-hah! Book learnin' is overrated, y'all.

The governor, a product of Florida State University's law school, was asked about the complaints of the university presidents by my colleagues at the Buzz, our political blog.

After suggesting that the presidents should quit, the always cheerful governor added that, after all, "Things are pretty good in Florida. We have it pretty darn good here."

There ya go! Just keep saying, "pretty darn good," close your eyes and click your heels.
Meanwhile, the president of the state Senate, Ken Pruitt, has developed a weird obsession with keeping the universities in a condition that is the educational equivalent of barefoot and pregnant.

Pruitt's concern is not about quality, but about sheer political power, and which body - the Legislature, or the state Board of Governors - will control tuition.

Pruitt now even wants to amend the state Constitution. He wants to re-create the elected position of state education commissioner (which the voters abolished a decade ago), and return unquestioned power over tuition to the Legislature.

In the first place, these are two wildly different issues that should not be crammed into the same amendment.

In the second place, the voters already settled this in 2002, when they approved the Board of Governors to run the university system.

This is the future of Florida at stake, y'all. I do not mean to set K-12 education against higher ed, but while K-12 has gotten an awful lot of attention, we have been complacent about the universities.

But if this state is going to be anything other than a fast-food restaurant, more than tourist attractions and condos and low-paying service jobs, this is the only way out.

If the governor is too busy running for vice president to care, and the Senate president is busy pluckin' his banjo, then is there anyone who will step up? Marco? Are you there? Alex? Anybody?

**To help the universities, change Bright Futures**
02/21/2008 © Palm Beach Post

The problem was on the horizon, given Florida's chronic failure to properly finance its 11 public universities. The pending state budget cuts make it official. Sooner than later, the universities will have to cut enrollment, not just freeze it. The schools will lose academic standing and accreditation, not just faculty. Even if stadium-sized classes become an option, students will get fewer of the classes they need.

"Our fear is we're losing our ability to graduate students," said university system Chancellor Mark Rosenberg. Raising Florida's lowest-in-the-nation tuition by
percent, as the university system Board of Governors has proposed for next year, offers $32 million in help. But the Legislature is countering with $100 million more in cuts for this academic year, for a total reduction of $157 million.

That's why the board's scrutiny of the Bright Futures scholarship program is overdue. By calling today's discussion "Bright Futures: Change It to Save It," the board has set the right tone. The program provides college access by paying 75 percent to 100 percent of tuition and fees for state students with B grades (3.0 grade-point average) or better. Recipients also have to meet guidelines for SAT scores. But Bright Futures, now at $400 million a year, is unsustainable. Within 10 years, the university system projects that the cost will be $1 billion. All Bright Futures money comes from lottery sales, and there won't be enough sales to cover all the new recipients. Because the awards are tied to a percentage of tuition, the state has a financial interest in keeping tuition low.

Two changes are proposed. The state would use $100 million in Bright Futures money for need-based scholarships, which would help more students from the poorer families that tend to play the Lottery. Another would earmark $100 million for scholarships in high-need professions such as nursing. At Florida A&M University, where students currently receive only 1 percent of Bright Futures scholarships, that fairer approach would increase the FAMU students' share to 9 percent. The state-highest 24 percent at the University of Florida would drop to 12 percent.

But only the Legislature, which created the program, can change it. The biggest fan of Bright Futures is Senate President Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, who questions that forecast of $1 billion. Sen. Pruitt also says that the Legislature has "provided significant general revenue increases to our university system over the past five years" and supports "a high-quality, accessible and affordable higher education system in Florida." The numbers from Tallahassee refute both of his claims.

Even if only the Legislature can change it, nothing will happen with Bright Futures until people start talking about it. Since the Board of Governors actually supervises the universities, the board members are the right ones to start the talk. Bright Futures may be good for individual students, but it has become a roadblock to improving the education that those students receive.

**State cuts to higher education could squeeze future workforce**

02/21/2008 © South Florida Business Journal
A wave of funding cuts that could hit Florida's higher-education system this year may keep thousands of students from preparing for skilled jobs.

State universities, private nonprofit universities and community colleges are bracing for funding cuts under budgets proposed by state lawmakers. Florida's state budget could have a shortfall of at least $2 billion.

Educators and some business leaders worry this could derail the state's goal of growing its high-tech economy.

State universities already cut $147 million from their current-year budgets, and next year the Legislature could make them go even deeper. The Florida Board of Governors has frozen freshman enrollment at current levels for three years, even as applications increase. Florida State University will admit fewer freshman and other universities could follow, said Dr. Michael Armstrong, associate provost at Florida Atlantic University.

Office of the Chancellor

No Articles Today

Florida A&M University

FAMU dives into recruiting frenzy
02/21/2008 © Tallahassee Democrat

Extra dollars aren't available for Florida A&M administrators to fill the $18.5 million deficit in university coffers

So, to make up for lost dollars created by repeated state budget cuts and enrollment penalties, FAMU administrators are embarking on several recruiting efforts. One starts today when 11 students and their parents visit the campus courtesy of "The Tom Joyner Morning Show" — a syndicated radio program.

"It would be a great help if we move our enrollment numbers up," chief financial officer Teresa Hardee said. "Enrollment growth will increase the budget and help us absorb some of the cuts to some extent."

FAMU's student population decreased from 13,070 in fall 2004 to last fall's 11,567 students. The decline cost the university $10 million in state money for not meeting past performance in student population.
An increase of 350 new students would bring the university out of the danger zone of being penalized financially because of low enrollment, Hardee said. She said that increase will get FAMU within 5 percent of the recommended full-time students the university has had in past years.

FAMU is the only state university that is not at capacity, said Bill Edmonds, spokesman for the state university system.

"They have more funding than they have students," Edmonds said. "It's very important that they meet their enrollment goals for obvious reasons."

FAMU administrators won't know if plans to increase enrollment have paid off until August when the fall semester starts. However, FAMU spokeswoman Sharon Saunders said overall admission numbers for August show an increase of 83 students over fall 2007.

"Enrollment is the key to revenue growth," FAMU President James Ammons said. "When the university grows . . . a lot of good things happen. Not only is additional revenue being generated — through appropriations, tuition and fees — these students and the outstanding faculty put the university on the radar screen for people who may not have taken a close look at us otherwise."

Changing the culture of giving back to black universities

FAMU administrators have leveraged being chosen for a national fundraising initiative to help boost recruitment efforts. "The Tom Joyner Morning Show" chose FAMU to be featured as the January Historical Black College or University. The nationally-known radio disc jockey placed his audience of 8 million people from 118 markets and his not-for-profit foundation behind raising money for FAMU.

During the campaign, FAMU had a goal of raising $1.5 million which they will take through the year, said Adriene Wright with FAMU's university-relations department. About $850,000 has been raised. Wright said the university will continue to strive toward its goal by holding a direct-mail campaign, a high-profile concert and an eBay auction.

In the past 10 years, Joyner has raised more than $55 million for HBCUs, said Melissa Holmes, college relations manager for the Tom Joyner Foundation Inc. The foundation is critical for HBCUs given that minority institutions have a harder time bringing in large donations from alumni.
"I think that it really has a lot to do with the culture of philanthropy with HBCUs," said Carla Willis, FAMU's vice president for institutional advancement.

Willis, a certified fundraising executive, started her job at FAMU Monday. She said that because alumni loyalty and pride are strong at FAMU, it's a matter of adopting policies of larger institutions to increase fundraising efforts.

Eighteen scholarships worth $36,000 were awarded to FAMU students in January through the Tom Joyner Foundation.

Alumni connections and personal visits are key to recruiting

In the meantime, FAMU administrators are riding the Joyner brand as they continue their recruitment blitz. Saunders said 40,000 potential students have turned in interest cards to FAMU since August. Ammons has been going on alumni visits around the country, including a recent trip to New York where he handed out 25 scholarships. The trip to Harlem gave Ammons the opportunity to meet one of New Jersey's top scholar/athletes, Joe Hall. Hall, a senior at Metuchen High School in Metuchen, N.J., has a 3.5 grade point average and aspires to be a mechanical engineer. Hall said he chose FAMU because it felt like "a home away from home."

"The personal attention students and parents get from the administration makes a big difference in the way they feel," Ammons said.

In June 2007, FAMU's accrediting organization placed the institution on probation for mismanagement of school funds and not having qualified administrators. FAMU's probationary status doesn't seem to sway prospective students. But parents ask about the university's accrediting probation.

"We get questions about it all the time," Ammons said.

Ammons said he and his team assure parents that FAMU is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He tells them the university has put a corrective-action plan in place. Then he lets them know administrators are hopeful that FAMU's probation will be lifted in June.

"There are students who are leaving Florida A&M with as many as five job offers," Ammons said. "Our students who are not going into the world of work are being admitted to some of the nation's top graduate and professional programs."
Florida Atlantic University

**FAU could turn away 2,000 students**
02/21/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Florida Atlantic University could turn away 2,000 students and be forced to slash as much as $16.8 million from its budget next school year if the state's bleak financial picture doesn't improve.

Ken Jessell, vice president for financial affairs, presented what he considers a worst-case scenario to members of the Board of Trustees at a meeting Wednesday.

Florida's 11 universities are dealing with potential cuts of $92.4 million this year, and more next year, after Florida's weak economy and poor housing market resulted in less money for the state.

FAU has formed a task force of employees and students to look at long-term cuts for the university. Everything from cutting summer school classes to closing campuses is being considered, although no decisions have been made. FAU officials say summer school is still on schedule for now, but could be scaled back with a better idea of the budget situation, Jessell said.

The Board of Governors has instructed universities to limit enrollment.

FAU projects a 5.8 percent cut from the state next year, which is about $10 million. That would equal 2,000 students that FAU could not enroll, according to Jessell's estimates. FAU now serves 26,000 students.

If those 2,000 students are turned away, FAU could face an additional $6.8 million in losses from tuition and fees. That figure would be offset with a tuition bump next year.

"It's a large issue, one that must be seriously addressed by the Legislature, the Board of Governors and within the university," Jessell said.

The university hasn't determined which students would be turned away or what criteria would be used, if the scenario comes to pass. FAU officials discussed taking similar action to Florida State University, which is denying admission to all transfer students except those who receive an associate's of arts degree from a Florida community college.
The Board of Governors wants to increase tuition by 8 percent, enough to cover reduced enrollment, but Gov. Charlie Crist wants no increase. The Legislature will consider tuition and state funding when it meets March 4 for the 60-day legislative session. One complicating factor is the Legislature and the Board of Governors are in a lawsuit seeking to clarify who has authority to set tuition.

Trustees discussed the possibility of eliminating programs duplicated by community colleges. Broward Community College, which is next door to FAU's Davie campus, received state approval to offer four-year teaching degrees in some critical needs areas. Indian River Community College, near FAU's Treasure Coast campus, has new, four-year degree programs in nursing, teaching and organizational management. Palm Beach Community College plans to offer a four-year bachelor of applied science degree that FAU doesn't offer.

"Community colleges are deciding to go into areas they never have before," said Norman Tripp, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "We're going to have to start making a determination if we need to be cutting back."

The trustees have already identified one area to cut back: They will pay their own way to the FAU Legislative Days in Tallahassee, scheduled for March 4-5. FAU Days is a time when university officials lobby lawmakers attending the annual legislative session.

"We really feel it's important to try to go to Tallahassee, but we had to figure out how we could pay for it," Tripp said.

Officials say the decision will save between $7,000 and $8,000. They hope to use that savings to hold a retreat in September, possibly at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach. Trustee David Feder is general manager there, which could mean a discount, Tripp said. Trustees canceled a retreat last year because of budget cuts.

**FAU trustees asked to pay travel costs**
02/21/2008 © Palm Beach Post

BOCA RATON — Florida Atlantic University trustees were asked to pay their own way next month to FAU-days in Tallahassee because of statewide school budget cuts.

Each year, officials from Florida's colleges and universities trek to the capitol to meet with lawmakers as they begin the legislative session and debate the next year's spending plan.
The university events, scheduled for March 4-5 for FAU, usually include multiple displays, meals and a couple of nights in a hotel.

FAU Trustee Chairman Norman Tripp said Wednesday during a trustee meeting that it's more important than ever to make FAU's case, but he wants to save money by having trustees pay.

As part of its budget request, FAU is asking for the final year of start-up money - $3.3 million - for its medical school partnership with the University of Miami.

"FAU-days will look a little different by virtue of our budget," said FAU President Frank Brogan. "This year of all years it will be tough. The time it takes away from your schedules, and it's a double hit because we're asking people to take on some of the expenses themselves."

Last year it cost about $7,425 to send 11 trustees to FAU-days.

Savings from FAU-days could be used to pay for a retreat for board members in the fall, Tripp said. Traditionally, trustees plan a two-day meeting off campus each year, but last fall they used a school meeting room.

FAU officials believe they may see a 5.8 percent cut in their budget this year and possibly a forced student enrollment reduction of up to 2,000 students.

The loss of those students would have a $16 million affect on the school, costing it $5.3 million in tuition, $10 million in general revenue, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees for athletics, health and financial aid.

16 Indian teachers at FAU can remain
02/21/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Sixteen teachers from India who are participating in an exchange program between Florida Atlantic University and the St. Lucie County School District will be allowed to stay for the remainder of the school year.

"Now, I can breathe and my mind-set is clearer," said Meenakumair Rangaraj, science teacher at Dan McCarty Middle School.

But the teachers will remain out of the classroom until the program's sponsor, FAU, receives the extended visas from the U.S. State Department. The State
Department has already approved extending the visas to June 15, but federal officials haven't completed processing the paperwork.

"It's called bureaucracy," said U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney, D-Palm Beach Gardens, at a Wednesday afternoon news conference in district offices where the visa extension was announced.

Mahoney, along with U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, D-Miramar, and Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., have been working with FAU and the district to get the visas extended.

The visa problem occurred when the teachers hired in August were given the wrong type of short-term visas — ones that did not allow extension requests. FAU officials learned of the problem in late November and have been working with the State Department since December to resolve the issue.

The teachers have been out of their classrooms and placed on unpaid administrative leave since Feb. 8 — when their visas expired — because they cannot legally work or receive a paycheck without a current visa. On Friday, they received paychecks for work previously earned at normal teacher's salary and not the $5,000 total stipend paid to them for their first semester of work.

"It was a mental agony that we were missing our class and the FCAT was coming up," said Susheela Madaiah, science teacher at Samuel S. Gaines Academy.

FAU created the exchange/internship program to help the district fill vacancies for experienced math, science and special education teachers, while giving teachers experience in an American classroom.

When recruited, the teachers — who all have master's degrees and tested proficient in speaking English — were told that once they were hired full time by the district they would automatically be allowed to stay indefinitely in the United States, Mahoney said at the news conference.

Mahoney said he will work with district and FAU officials to fulfill the promise to the teachers.

"On June 15, as long as you are good teachers and St. Lucie County [School District] wants you to continue, they would step up and sponsor you here and have you here in this country to teach our kids," Mahoney said.

That's good news to the teachers.
"My husband and my daughter are planning to come here and live," said Senthil Vadivu Sundarraj, chemistry teacher at Treasure Coast High School. "I am working on a plan."

When the teachers' visas expired, officials had until March 9 to get new ones or the teachers could be deported. District officials have been using substitute teachers at $70 a day to fill in since the teachers were removed from their classrooms.

Last Wednesday, FAU officials publicly said College of Education officials decided in October to cancel the program for next year because it became too "labor-intensive" and officials were not prepared to handle issues as transportation, housing and immigration.

6,150-square foot building in East Stuart would include a health center operated by FAU : TCPalm.com
02/21/2008 © Jupiter Courier

STUART — The United Way of Martin County board of directors Wednesday approved a letter of intent to buy space for its offices and programs, as well as a health and wellness center, to be run by Florida Atlantic University.

The 6,150-square-foot "office condo" would be in a building planned for construction on Palm Beach Road in East Stuart.

If negotiations with the seller are successful, United Way would begin a campaign to raise $2 million to buy and equip the space plus at least $1 million for an endowment to pay for operating the wellness center.

At Wednesday's meeting, FAU representatives said the school has applied for two $1 million grants, one federal and one state, to help operate the center, said Diane Tomasik, a United Way spokeswoman.

A sticking point when the proposed project was brought before the United Way board in mid-January was that FAU should help supplement the cost of operating the wellness center.

FAU's nursing school already operates similar centers in Palm Beach County that provide primary health care, screenings, referrals, help finding follow-up services and enrollment for insurance and benefits for low-income families, the working poor and the elderly.
United Way programs to be housed at the site are CHARACTER COUNTS! and Martin Volunteers, which includes the White Doves Holiday Project, the School Supplies for Students Drive and the Executive Service Corps of the Treasure Coast.

Florida Gulf Coast University

New FGCU chief tested early, often
02/21/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

One hundred days is when the public asks its governmental leaders, "So, what have you done?"

Florida Gulf Coast University President Wilson Bradshaw hits the milestone today. Here are the answers to that question:

• Budget: Florida is entering the second year of its revenue crisis, forcing all public agencies to trim their budgets. About $4 million is vanishing from FGCU's current budget, and Bradshaw is maintaining a selective hiring freeze while delaying the start of three new academic programs until the financial picture improves.

"I don't worry about the budget," Bradshaw said. "It is a challenge to manage it, but we have a good team working on it."

• Athletics: Bradshaw arrived Nov. 13 with head volleyball coach Jaye Flood on suspension, an ongoing gender-equity investigation and internal grievances filed by Flood and former women's golf coach Holly Vaughn. On all counts, FGCU declared no wrongdoing, and Bradshaw opted last month to fire Flood for sexually harassing a student team manager.

The athletics issue has posed a challenge - one that won't disappear even though investigations are complete. Bradshaw will hear Flood's appeal next week, and her retaliation lawsuit is progressing through the federal court system.

Bradshaw's former college - Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minn. - didn't even have a sports program. Bradshaw recently approved two new hires in the athletics department: Terry-Jo Myers for men's and women's golf, and Jennifer Magley for women's tennis. FGCU's human resources department permitted the athletics department to pursue a new women's tennis head coach - a position that never existed - without a formal search or advertisement. Bradshaw said that helped expedite the hiring.
"They were two exceptional targets of opportunity for us," Bradshaw said. "We're new to Division I. When female coaches are available, we may not be as competitive as others."

- Meet-and-greets: Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce and dozens of other local groups have booked Bradshaw, 58, for speaking events. He believes a university president must be a leader within the community instead of isolated on campus.

Many of Bradshaw's tasks to date have kept him at meetings or off-campus functions. Freshman Jonathan Rubensteine, 18, said he hadn't noticed changes since Bradshaw took the helm, but he hoped an expansion of the Student Union would broaden dining options.

Freshman Jamie Goldman, 19, believes one addition could quickly put FGCU on the map.

"If we had a football team, more people would want to come to FGCU," Goldman said. "It would definitely pay off in the end."

During Bradshaw's interview in August, many students voiced concerns that FGCU lacked the true campus life of a full-fledged university.

"He needs to find a way to get students more involved," said freshman Kastania Toomalatai, 19. "It's not quite like the cliques in high school, but everyone has their own groups.

"We should have more social events that are not necessarily free, but on campus."

Bradshaw said he met with Mike Rollo, vice president for student affairs, on Monday to discuss that issue, and he hopes a second set of recreation fields and the Student Union expansion will allow more student functions and gathering spaces.

Next on Bradshaw's to-do list is to continue long-range planning. FGCU will open new residence halls or academic buildings every year for the next decade, continuing its designation as Florida's fastest-growing public university.

Bradshaw's standard workday is from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., but the long hours haven't dampened Bradshaw's enthusiasm.

"I love my job," he said.
Wreck inspires FGCU safer-road petition
02/21/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

Faculty members at Florida Gulf Coast University are pressing for safer roads following a car accident that injured a colleague.

They are circulating two petitions around the campus, soliciting support to increase the time between traffic signals at the Interstate 75 interchange at Alico Road in San Carlos Park and to create a state law banning pay-by-load trucking contracts, which they say encourages truck drivers to maximize the number of deliveries they make.

Scott Snyder, gallery director at FGCU's Arts Complex started the petition Feb. 15, after a truck driver ran a red light, colliding with Spanish professor Ingrid Martinez-Rico on Feb. 5 at the Alico interchange. Martinez-Rico remains at Lee Memorial Hospital for treatment.

"Every time a truck flies by me going faster than the speed limit, I think of my friend and colleague, Ingrid," Snyder said.

The petitions have only circulated through the arts complex, he said, but Snyder plans to have copies available at the main office of every department on campus before collecting them March 28.

"This is new to me. I just want to do what I can because I see some sort of law should be in place," Snyder said, adding that he's not a political person.

Synder has already contacted the Florida Department of Transportation and Lee County Department of Transportation about the petitions.

FDOT inspected the signal time last week and found the timing met its standards, said JoAnn May, a FDOT spokeswoman.

Florida Highway Patrol Capt. James Wells said he could not comment on the number of crashes at the Alico interchange but said it is not considered particularly dangerous intersection.

Lee drivers are encouraged to contact Lee DOT if there is a problem with signal timing, Harry Campbell, chief traffic engineer, said.

"They don't need to spend time sending a petition if they call the one number," he said.
Officials at FDOT's motor carrier compliance office, which oversees truck regulations, did not return messages Tuesday.

Snyder said he was motivated to act because of his close friendship with Martinez-Rico.

"Ingrid is one of the first faculty members I got to know here and she has such a wonderful spirit," Snyder said.

**Florida International University**

**FIU AIDS researcher gets $3.5M grant**
02/21/2008 © South Florida Business Journal

An AIDS researcher at Florida International University will use a $3.5 million grant to study HIV/AIDS prevention for alcohol users at risk for the disease.

Robert Malow, director of the AIDS Prevention Program at Florida International University's Robert Stempel School of Public Health, received the grant from the National Institutes of Health.

He was one of five recipients of grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the NIH.

Malow is a clinical psychologist who has led eight NIH-funded projects totaling more than $25 million in the area of HIV and substance abuse.

"HIV prevention has been teaching people to practice safe sex, but if their brain is compromised from doing drugs or having HIV, they can't retain the information," Malow said in a news release. "HIV behavioral prevention research has avoided looking at biological tendencies that predispose people to engage in risky behavior. It affects issues of memory, attention span and brain function."

The study will involve 320 HIV-positive Hispanic and black patients with a history of alcohol abuse. The goal is to determine whether specific treatments can be administered to offset the cognitive difficulties, stabilize the person's mental health and decrease HIV risk behavior.

A multidisciplinary team of FIU researchers will be working on the study, including Madhavan Nair, chair of FIU's College of Medicine Department of Immunology; Jessy Devieux, associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion & Disease Prevention of the Stempel School of Public Health; and
Rhonda Rosenberg, research assistant professor in the AIDS Prevention Program. Scientists from the University of Miami, the University of New Mexico and Yale University will also be contributing to this study.

**Florida State University**

**The FSU doctors are rookies, and the 'patients' are high-tech**

02/21/2008 © Tallahassee Democrat

The doctors took their patient's blood pressure and listened to her heart, but they looked confused when the heart rate sped up. Fortunately they were first-year Florida State College of Medicine students, and the patient causing monitors to beep furiously was only a simulator.

On Tuesday, FSU unveiled the Charlotte E. Maguire, M.D. and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Center for Clinical Simulation. The $1.5 million facility prepares students for the unexpected.

It features eight advanced-technology "manikins" that simulate heart murmurs, diseases, cardiac arrest and other conditions. They even talk and answer questions.

"It's amazing," said Natalie Ciomek, 22, a medical student from Palm Beach. "Especially in physiology, we learn about heart problems and symptoms, then we get to see it all put together and try to figure it out. It just helps that much more."

The TMH Foundation and retired physician Maguire jointly donated $750,000 to fund the center. The state of Florida matched that gift.

The center provides hands-on experience for first- and second-year students. Professors can monitor performance from behind a two-way mirror and via video cameras. They can also assume the voice of the manikins and manipulate variables such as pulse, breathing and blood pressure.

"Many of the activities will interface with our doctoring courses where they learn to interview patients, examine them and analyze the information they've gathered," said Dr. Sebastian Alston, associate dean for curriculum. "And you can make a mistake without hurting anyone."

FSU faculty members said the center could unite students from different health-care disciplines.
"It would be nice to bring together nursing students, pharmacy students and doctoral students to train together," said Dr. Stephen Quintero, director of the simulation center, "and learn the patient is really the team leader."

**Mag Lab Open House**
*02/21/2008 © Tallahassee Democrat*

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**New College of Florida**

**No Articles Today**

**University of Central Florida**

**UCF's College of Education continues to celebrate its 40th anniversary**
*02/21/2008 © Orlando Sentinel*

In August 1968, Linda Singer was a 17-year-old high-school graduate from Winter Park when she learned of a new university opening in Central Florida.

She hopped into her blue Rambler, drove to a small run-down office in downtown Orlando and put in her application to Florida Technological University. Ten years later FTU would become the University of Central Florida.

In the elevator ride up to the second floor, a distinguished-looking man asked if she needed any help.

Charles Millican, UCF's first president, handed her an application. A month later, she started as a freshman.
Linda Singer, now Linda Black, pursued teaching and had the rare opportunity to see the College of Education begin from the ground up.

"They gave us such confidence that we could do all things," Black said. "And we were taught we could do all things."

Honoring the appointment of the first charter faculty members in 1967, the College of Education is commemorating its 40th anniversary with year-round events honoring the college, its faculty and alumni. Those students and faculty from the early years remember a college and campus that they helped to create and shape.

Mary Palmer, professor of music education and the former education dean, arrived at FTU in 1970 as a faculty member. She taught at the university until last September, when she officially retired. She is still at UCF, though, helping the elementary education program integrate arts into its curriculum.

In 1970, the campus was small, Palmer said, with four main buildings: the library, the administration building, the science building and the general classroom building, now called Howard Phillips Hall. According to the UCF Office of Institutional Research, in fall 1970 the total university enrollment was 5,711.

Today, as UCF has grown into the nation's sixth largest university, those numbers have changed. For fall 2007, 5,222 undergraduate and graduate students made up the College of Education alone, making it the fourth largest college at UCF.

But it was the early faculty and students who provided the college's infrastructure.

"We were starting everything and building traditions," Palmer said. "We were developing new programs and bringing them to life. Because it was a new university, anything was possible."

An early requirement of the college was for students to complete two full internships before graduating. Education students were placed in classroom settings in their junior and senior years to prepare them for their careers.

The school still requires that students complete two internships before graduating.
Development has allowed for the college to expand, starting with the $4.1 million Education Complex, which opened in 1976. The UCF Academy for Teaching, Learning and Leadership, a state-of-the-art facility with its own virtual classroom, opened in 2003. It has space for classes, technology projects, service and outreach initiatives and professional development, said Jeffrey Kaplan, co-chairman of the college's 40th anniversary planning.

Even with expansion, "it's the same values that have always been there," Kaplan said. "We've always been interested in teaching, research and service. And just as we've grown, those goals have expanded."

Through internship programs, community service and outreach projects, and keeping students up-to-date with academic research, the college maintains the values started 40 years ago.

Nancy Fuleihan, a retired Orange County Public Schools teacher, graduated from FTU in 1970. The student population forged a close bond in those days as they built a new university.

"We all worked so hard as we embraced the newness of this university," Fuleihan said. "There was always that sense of adventure that we were doing something kind of unique. Starting a university, we never had the feeling it was going to be great someday, but it is."

She said that she was a confident graduate because of what she learned in college.

"My start was a good one," she said, "and I attribute that a lot to my training."
Sabrina McLaughlin, of Navarre, recently was elected president of the Southern Public Relations Federation. McLaughlin is the director of decisions with Insight Marketing Communications Inc. and an instructor for the communication arts department at the University of West Florida.

She is a two-time SPRF Professional Achievement award nominee and has won various other local, regional and national awards for creative excellence and public relations programs.

State Higher Education Issues

Stetson holds suicide workshop after memorial for student

DELAND -- The Stetson University community gathered this week for the second time in a month to remember a student who had committed suicide.

About 100 students, faculty and administrators joined the family of Kirill Lagunchik at a memorial service Tuesday. Then on Wednesday, the university sponsored a suicide-prevention training session for students.

The training was part of a continuing effort at Stetson and other area colleges and universities to inform people of ways to reduce the third leading cause of death among people between ages 15 and 24.

Lagunchik died by a self-inflicted gunshot wound Feb. 14, according to a Flagler County sheriff's report. The finance major was found in the bedroom of a friend's house in Palm Coast two days after his 21st birthday.

Another student, Scott Miller, shot himself outside Presser Hall on Jan. 17. Authorities locked down the school for a few hours Feb. 6 when they checked on a female student said to be considering suicide. The student was safely taken to a hospital.

Mitch Pietras, a counselor at Daytona Beach Community College who has headed a local effort to prevent suicide, said he was unaware of any other suicides among current college students in the area this year.
This is the third and final year of a federal grant he's administering to provide training for people who have frequent contact with those likely to commit suicide, such as a security guard. So far, nearly 150 gatekeepers have been trained through his programs.

"Suicide is preventable," he said, adding there are no guarantees.

Dan Hale, a professor who's taught psychology at Stetson since 1979, believes suicide prevention is the duty of more than just gatekeepers.

"I think it's everyone's responsibility," he said in an interview in his campus office Wednesday. "We need to educate people on what are the signs and how to respond to them."

It starts with recognizing depression, a key factor in more than half of all suicides. It's also useful to note that more than three times the number of young men than women commit suicide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Hale, who specializes in depression, suggests these may be signs of the disorder:

· When people no longer enjoy things they used to enjoy.

· When people have difficulty sleeping.

· When people exhibit anxiety and agitation.

· When people are using alcohol and drugs.

· When people, who aren't trying, lose weight.

Any one of these signs on its own might not amount to a problem, but Hale said people should ask questions of their friends and family members. If a sorority sister has lost weight, ask her, "Is that something you were trying to do?"

If a fraternity brother is exhibiting other signs of depression, ask him: "Are you thinking of hurting yourself?"

One symptom of depression stands out when determining what to do, he said. People experiencing hopelessness should be taken to a doctor or emergency room and separated from weapons and other possible methods for harming themselves.
"You don't try to talk someone out of depression," Hale said.

Instead, he urges action.

**MCC president will face tough economy**

02/21/2008 © Bradenton Herald

One of the first challenges the next president of Manatee Community College will have to face is steering the college through tough economic times.

A search committee is set to narrow a field of 10 semifinalists to five Feb. 27.

MCC trustees March 3 are expected to review the final five and consider the search committee's recommendation to invite the candidates on campus for community and campus interviews in late March and early April.

It is a time of "deep economic troubles" for state institutions of higher education, said outgoing president Sarah Pappas. And it's not likely to end soon.

"No one is saying we're going to get out of this before at least two years," she said.

So far, MCC has experienced $1.3 million in budget cuts. A 5 percent tuition increase helped buffer the cuts, she said.

Upcoming sessions in the state Legislature could mean further cuts, not only for this year's budget but next year's as well.

"We want to be prepared for reality," said Pappas.

As universities are feeling the crunch, they are also considering decreasing enrollment by 17,000 students statewide, she said.

In addition, there is also talk of limiting transfer students, gauging acceptance by factors such as grade point average, which may prove problematic for MCC's transfer agreement with the University of South Florida.

State funding for building programs still remain a focus. At the top of the list for MCC is the Lakewood Ranch Medical Technology and Simulation Center, slated for construction, beginning in February 2009 and be completed in about 12
months. The 40,000-square-foot facility will house nursing classes and enhance student services on the campus, said David Wildes, director of facilities planning and maintenance.

Even though officials are hoping to secure state funding for the campus, the local funding has been slow in coming.

Peg Lowery, executive director of MCC Foundation, said the organization so far has fallen short of its goal of raising $500,000 for the new facility, instead raising less than half, or $229,052.

"Lakewood Ranch has been the hardest institution to raise money for. It just means we need to do more to let the community know what the Lakewood Ranch campus means for the community," Lowery said.

Jessica Klipa, Herald reporter, can be reached at 708-7906.

MCC president semifinalists

• Cynthia Bioteau, president and CEO, Salt Lake Community College, Salt Lake City, Utah

• Hank Dunn, chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College, Central Indiana Region, Indianapolis

• Scott Elliot, president, Meridian Community College, Meridian, Miss.

• Lars Hafner, provost, St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg

• Patricia Land, president, Charlotte Campus, Edison College, Punta Gorda

• John Rosen, vice president, academic affairs, Manatee Community College, Bradenton

• Barbara Sloan, vice president, academic affairs, Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee

• Carlos Soto, Brandon Campus president, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa

• Carol Spalding, Open Campus president, Florida Community College at Jacksonville
Public Colleges Lack Funds and Strategies to Help Troubled Students - Chronicle.com
02/21/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

The fatal shootings at Northern Illinois University last week were shocking yet familiar. For the second time in 10 months, a student with a record of mental-health problems went on a killing rampage at a large public university.

Ever since a disturbed student murdered 32 students and professors at Virginia Tech last April, college administrators nationwide have been pumping more money and resources into efforts to prevent a similar tragedy on their campuses. But they cannot keep up with the rising demand for mental-health services. And disagreements over exactly how to handle at-risk students have stymied college's efforts to allocate their limited resources.

Administrators have updated their emergency-alert systems and refined their crisis-management plans. And they are working more collaboratively with their mental-health staffs and other groups on their campuses to identify at-risk students.

For years, directors of college health centers have bemoaned their understaffed offices and lack of money. They have warned their colleagues in higher education that more students are coming to college with pre-existing psychological problems. Depression, social anxiety, eating disorders, substance abuse, anger-management issues, and self-injury are common plagues.

Some colleges have great mental-health centers, and, over all, support for students with a range of disabilities and emotional issues has grown precipitously over the last 15 years.

"We're a lot better positioned to respond to students' needs and crises than most people understand," says Vivian S. Boyd, director of the student-counseling center at the University of Maryland at College Park.

But it took the massacre in Blacksburg for many administrators to realize the potential influence improved mental-health services can have on campus safety,
according to Mary M. Gartner, director of the student-counseling service at Texas A&M University at College Station.

Since last year, one-third of college counseling centers have added a new staff member, and 15 percent of all centers have received a larger budget, according to the annual survey of the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors. Also, 63 percent of those centers now have psychiatrists on staff in addition to counselors, a 5 percent increase over the previous year.

Those statistics show improvement, but inadequate mental-health resources at colleges are still the norm, particularly at large public universities, many experts say.

"In discussions with my counseling-center-director colleagues, there's a consistent theme of being stretched thin," says Mary C. Bolin-Reece, counseling director at the University of Kentucky. "At least on larger public campuses where resources may lag behind demand."

The International Association of Counseling Services, a nonprofit accrediting organization, recommends that colleges have a ratio of one counselor per every 1,500 full-time-equivalent students. The average ratio, according to 2007 data, was one counselor per 1,969 students, and 85 percent of counseling centers reported that more students were arriving at their centers with significant histories of mental-health issues.

Fred B. Newton, director of counseling services at Kansas State University, says that like many of his colleagues, he worries that as services lag behind students' needs, more of them will fall through the cracks.

**Counseling Smarter, Not Harder**

To stretch thin budgets, counseling-center directors have allocated their resources strategically. Following the shootings at Virginia Tech, over two-thirds of college counseling centers reported an uptick in calls from concerned faculty and staff members and students looking for advice on how to help troubled students.

This heightened awareness created an opportunity for the centers to teach everyone on their campuses how to recognize and help students who might be a danger to themselves or others. Workshops called "The Distressed and Distressing Student" are now held regularly at institutions including the University of California at Davis and George Mason University, in Virginia.
Students' increased demand for treatment cuts into the time counselors can spend on educational efforts at many colleges, including Lehigh University, says Ian Birky, director of counseling and psychological services at the institution, in Pennsylvania. Often, the only workshops that justify taking time away from treating students are those intended to raise awareness of the warning signs students might exhibit.

"It takes the community of faculty, secretaries, fellow students, and staff to reach out and engage these students," says Mr. Birky. "In doing so, they help minimize the risk of students harming themselves and others."

Large institutions, including Texas A&M and the University of Kentucky, have been using a suicide-prevention training program called QPR—which stands for "Question, Persuade, Refer"—to educate students on the warning signs troubled students often exhibit. Texas A&M grants extra academic credit to students who complete the program, and 3,000 have done so.

Counseling-center directors also report that other groups on their campuses are now keeping in closer communication with their offices and working to identify problematic students. Threat-assessment teams, which usually include mental-health professionals, academic deans, student-life officials, and faculty members, meet regularly to discuss students who might be at risk.

Even with the extra help, many counseling centers are not structured to treat the growing number of students who come to their institutions with complicated mental-health needs.

A recent study conducted by Mr. Newton, at Kansas State, analyzed mental-health statistics for 5,000 students in counseling at nine college campuses. It found that 28 percent of them had already undergone significant mental-health treatment prior to entering college. At Texas A&M University at College Station, about one quarter of students who seek mental help have been on medication previously.

Those students, who often need regular long-term care from a psychiatrist, cannot get the type of specialized treatment they need from a college counseling center. Consequently, most college counseling directors follow a protocol of referring the students to local doctors off the campus.

"We are trying to strike a balance between being a counseling center and being a clinic," says Emil Rodolfa, director of counseling and psychological services at the University of California at Davis. "It's trying to manage the resources to help the greatest number of students and the students most in need."
Even with that approach, the wait time at his center for a student requesting counseling for the first time is three weeks.

"It's terrible," he says. That delay comes in spite of a jump in counseling resources at his institution over the last few years. Since 2005 the ratio of counselors to students has improved from one per 2,700 to one per 1,800.

Because students may be referred to outside doctors, the national average number of visits a student makes to a college counseling center is only from five to six, according to various studies.

Another challenge centers face is dwindling health-insurance coverage among their student patients. Many types of counseling and medication that were covered even a few years ago are no longer affordable for students.

Assuming students in need can afford outside care, their options may also be limited by the resources available in their college town. Mr. Newton, at Kansas State, says he routinely has difficulty finding available doctors in the rural Manhattan area who can offer the type of specific treatment some of his students need.

**Misguided Efforts**

Some mental-health professionals worry that the efforts of administrators and policy makers to minimize the risk posed by mentally ill students may be misguided.

In January, Virginia lawmakers proposed legislation that would require colleges to have all new students sign a form authorizing the release of their mental-health records before they enroll. So far, the bill has not made it out of committee.

On Wednesday a campus-security committee at Arizona State University recommended that university officials require all students to disclose their mental-health histories to the institution. Other colleges and universities are considering similar measures.

College mental-health experts fear that such record keeping could have a chilling effect on students' willingness to seek help. They also question the efficacy of such policies.
"We know for a fact that the vast majority of successful suicide attempts have been people that never had treatment or were no longer in treatment," says Mr. Newton. "So the difficulty is not usually with the people you have records for."

Despite months of debate, mental-health professionals and other college administrators are still largely at odds over what the appropriate protocol is for referring students for counseling, and when their parents should be informed of their struggles.

In the same national survey of counseling directors, respondents were split almost evenly on the issue of whether their centers should have policies in place to actively pursue students who were referred to counseling but did not follow through.

Part of the reason some mental-health experts resist taking on a greater monitoring role is that they do not have the staffs to meet their current demands. Before they can expand their efforts, many say they need to have more financial support.

"We are telling our Board of Trustees, with greater urgency," says Mr. Birky at Lehigh. "That current staff cannot stretch forever without hitting a point where they cannot adequately treat students entering our school."

Celebrations and Tough Questions Follow Harvard's Move to Open Access - Chronicle.com
02/21/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

In light of the decision last week by members of Harvard University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences to make access to their scholarly papers free, advocates of open access celebrated, but some publishers expressed concern.

"It's very, very good news," says Peter Suber, a research professor of philosophy at Earlham College and a longtime promoter of open-access to scholarly publishing. Other universities (as well as other schools within Harvard), he said, will want to adopt similar policies in order "either to keep up with Harvard or get the synergistic benefit, because the more [institutions] do it, the more publishers will have to accommodate."

Because the license that the faculty members gave to Harvard has taken effect before any agreements with publishers, under the license any copyright assignment to a journal must include an addendum that reserves the university's
right to post a copy in its repository. The rule is similar to the new policy of the National Institutes of Health, signed into law in January with the federal budget package.

"It changes the default position in the negotiation" between authors and publishers, says Michael W. Carroll, a professor at the Villanova University School of Law, who is an open-access advocate. "It does mean that the authors are choosing to stand closer together instead of having to deal with the publishers one on one."

Authors who wish to publish in journals that will not accept Harvard's archiving process can apply to the dean for a waiver. Under the new policy, a faculty member who applies should automatically receive a waiver, says Stuart M. Shieber, a professor of computer science who proposed the open-access policy to the faculty.

**Default Status**

Still, Harvard becomes the first American university, according to Mr. Suber, to make open access to its articles a default position, requiring authors to opt out rather than opt in.

About a dozen institutions worldwide, including in Asia, Australia, and Europe, have required free access to faculty members' articles. In the United States, several universities have adopted policies that recommend, but do not require, that faculty members place papers in free online databases.

The University of California has been working for several years on a policy that resembles Harvard's. Comments on its draft last year reflected "almost universal support for the concept," says Gary S. Lawrence, director of systemwide library planning, "but a great deal of concern about the implementation details." Harvard’s success in creating an arrangement that faculty members agreed on, he says, "provides us a lot of encouragement."

Harvard’s new policy makes no mention of any delay between the time of publication in a journal and the paper's being made free online, a provision that some publishers require, and which the NIH allows in its policy. Faculty members who choose to publish in journals with that requirement can apply to waive or modify Harvard's license to post their papers online, says Mr. Shieber.
Move Applauded

Blogs and Web sites that support free access to scholarly publications rang with celebration of Harvard's decision. Editorials in student newspapers at Boston College, New York University, and Swarthmore College called on their faculty members to follow Harvard's lead.

By comparison, complaints about the policy were muted. (Some have appeared on The Chronicle's Brainstorm blog.) Patricia S. Schroeder, president of the Association of American Publishers, has in the past criticized the push toward open access, arguing that it overlooks the potentially detrimental effects on scholarly societies' publications. This time she praised Harvard's decision to allow faculty members to opt out but wondered if hidden pressure would keep them from doing so. Have scholarly publishers sounded alarms? "No one's called here in hysterics," she says.

Publishers of journals in the humanities and social sciences expressed greater reservations. Until now such publications have been little affected by the open-access movement, largely because its advocates have focused on science and medical journals.

Sanford G. Thatcher, director of Penn State University Press and president of the Association of American University Presses, calls Harvard's policy "shortsighted" because it might result in the loss of subscription and reprint income to humanities and social-science journals. His own press receives two-thirds of its journal income through royalties from Project Muse, an online collection of journals. "If that were to collapse," he says, "so too would our journals disappear from the face of the earth."

Mr. Carroll finds that prospect unlikely. "I fear that people are unwilling to do anything innovative like Harvard's done," he says, "because of these highly speculative fears."

Besides, Harvard has an interest in maintaining the livelihood of scholarly journals, he argues. If its repository begins to hurt them, the university could take steps to reduce the impact on publishers, such as allowing a delay before posting articles online.

A lack of specificity about which articles would be put into Harvard's repository also has come under criticism from Mr. Thatcher and others. Does the policy include preprints and book chapters? For now, Mr. Shieber says, the policy requires only articles accepted for publication.
Mr. Thatcher and others also wonder whether Harvard faculty members will actually make the effort to comply with the policy. But open-access supporters observe that faculty members themselves were the ones who voted for it.

"My guess is that if opt-outs and forgetfulness together make compliance fall off from 100 percent to 95 percent, it's not going to bother anybody," says Mr. Suber. "It's not even going to bother me."

U. of California Plans to Sue Animal-Rights Activists - Chronicle.com
02/21/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

In the wake of a firebomb attack earlier this month against a researcher from the University of California at Los Angeles, the university regents are planning to file a lawsuit this morning to block animal-rights activists from harassing UCLA employees.

The University of California will seek a temporary restraining order against five people and three animal-rights organizations that university officials say have either claimed responsibility for attacks against UCLA researchers or have promoted unlawful acts. The university is also requesting a permanent injunction barring the same individuals and organizations from threatening researchers or disseminating personal information about UCLA personnel who conduct research using animals.

The legal action "sends a message that the university is serious about assaults on its investigators," said Gene Block, chancellor of UCLA, "We have to do everything that's reasonable to stop this. This really is outrageous."

The move comes after a firebomb was set off on February 5 at the front door of a house owned by Edythe D. London, a professor of psychiatry and of molecular and medical pharmacology who uses primates in her research on nicotine addiction (The Chronicle, February 6). According to reports, nobody was at home at the time, and Ms. London is not granting interviews to the news media. She was also the subject of an attack in October, when vandals flooded her home, causing more than $20,000 in damage. The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for that attack.

The university's suit will name that radical organization, along with the UCLA Primate Freedom Project and the Animal Liberation Brigade, and five people who are believed to be associated with those organizations, according to a university news release.
Academics in the Crosshairs

In the past two years, two other UCLA researchers have been the targets of attacks using incendiary devices. Animal-rights proponents have shouted threats outside the homes of university researchers at night and have threatened them by using phone calls and e-mail messages, and, in one case, a razor blade hidden in a letter, according to the university.

UCLA has responded by providing extra home security for researchers at a "substantial" cost, said Mr. Block.

Compared to private companies, which have also been the targets of attacks, universities are at a disadvantage when trying to defend against animal-rights extremists, because they must remain much more open, said Mary F. Hanley, executive vice president of the National Association for Biomedical Research. "It's very difficult in academia," she said.

Utah has recently adopted several measures to try to protect university researchers. The State Senate passed a bill this month that would conceal the names and personal information of scientists at state universities who use animals in their research. And in response to protests against researchers at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County passed laws that bar protesters from demonstrating within 100 feet of private homes. The bans are apparently having the desired effect, said Jeffrey R. Botkin, a professor of pediatrics and associate vice president for research integrity at Utah.

P. Michael Conn, associate director of the Oregon National Primate Research Center, has personally been the subject of harassment by animal-rights protesters, and he said that universities must fight back. He and James V. Park, a retired public information officer from the center, document the history of attacks against scientists in a book, The Animal Research War, that will be published in May by Palgrave Macmillan.

"It's extremely important that word of what's happening get out in the public," Mr. Conn said, "because if the animal extremists win, the people who will suffer are the public." Animal research helps develop cures for diseases, he said. "It's important that we refer to this by the word: terrorism. This is harassment of people in their homes. It's not an effort to change laws or persuade the public. It's an effort to frighten and intimidate people."
In its research on dangerous microbes that could be used for biological warfare, Texas A&M University at College Station did not play by the federal safety rule book. Now it will pay the price—a fine of $1-million, the university announced on Wednesday. The institution hopes this will be a first step toward resuming the research, which the government suspended last summer, as early as March.

The university's new president, Elsa A. Murano, only six weeks on the job, indicated on Wednesday that she was eager to resolve a problem that gave the university a black eye. As part of the fine, Texas A&M has admitted to all violations of safety regulations cited by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in July 2007, she said.

That month, the agency halted all of the institution's research with "select-agent" microbes (The Chronicle, September 5, 2007), the first such action ever taken by the CDC. The agency cited the university for numerous violations, including that Texas A&M failed to inform the CDC when laboratory workers were infected by regulated microbes. In addition, workers misplaced vials of bacteria, failed to follow proper decontamination procedures, and performed studies without permission.

The regulated research will not resume until at least March, when CDC inspectors are scheduled to visit the campus to consider whether to lift the suspension.

As a necessary first step toward resuming the research, Texas A&M volunteered to pay a fine and suggested $1-million, and the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC's parent agency, accepted on Tuesday, she said.

"We are confident that we now have a model program, not only in terms of accountability, but also in performance," Ms. Murano said during a telephone news conference. "We're ready to comply and do things the right way."

That's a more-conciliatory tone than the one struck immediately by Texas A&M officials after the suspension, when they questioned whether the university had broken CDC regulations (The Chronicle, July 5, 2007.)

Since the suspension began, the university said, it has overhauled its procedures for monitoring and carrying out the regulated research. Among the changes:
increased staffing and oversight of the laboratory facilities; extensive training of lab personnel; more-stringent procedures for gaining access to the labs; and the establishment of a mechanism for external experts to conduct periodic, unscheduled inspections.

The suspension was initially reported to involve a total of five laboratories and 120 lab workers. During the suspension, the affected scientists have performed research not covered by the select-agent regulations but are eager to resume working on those microbes, Ms. Murano said.

The university will pay the fine from money set aside for research compliance, not from state general revenue, or from student tuition or fees, she said.

**Columbia U. Says Professor Repeatedly Plagiarized Students and Colleagues - Chronicle.com**
02/21/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

In a strange twist of events, a professor at Columbia University who reported finding a noose outside her office door last fall has been reprimanded after an investigation concluded that she had committed numerous acts of plagiarism over several years.

The investigation, which was conducted by a law firm hired by the university, found that Madonna G. Constantine, a professor of psychology and education at Columbia's Teachers College, was guilty of plagiarism in at least two dozen instances, borrowing passages from both colleagues and students without attribution. The findings of the investigation were first reported by the university's student newspaper, the *Columbia Spectator*, which obtained a copy of a memorandum from administrators at Teachers College to faculty members.

The memo does not specify what punishment Ms. Constantine will face as a result of the investigation. But a source close to the investigation said the professor's salary had been reduced.

In a vehement, 475-word written statement, Ms. Constantine insisted that she was innocent and accused Teachers College of intimidation and blackmail. She also used the words "witch hunt" and "conspiracy" in reference to the investigation.

In October, Ms. Constantine, who is African-American, said she had found a noose dangling outside the door of her office at Columbia. In her statement on Wednesday, she implied that that incident was related to the allegations of
plagiarism. "I believe that nothing that has happened to me this year is coincidental," she wrote, "particularly when I reflect upon the hate crime I experienced last semester involving a noose on my office door."

The New York Police Department's hate-crime task force told the Spectator in January that it still had no suspects in the incident.

In her statement, Ms. Constantine also alluded to evidence "showing my accusers to have lied."

**Several Complaints**

One of those accusers is Christine Yeh. In 2005, Ms. Yeh, then an associate professor of psychology and education at Teachers College, discovered that portions of papers that she had published appeared in verbatim or near-verbatim form in papers by Ms. Constantine. "I felt violated, betrayed, totally unsure what to do," she said.

What she did was contact Suniya S. Luthar, who was chairwoman of the department of counseling and clinical psychology at the time. It was then that Ms. Yeh, who is now an associate professor of counseling psychology at the University of San Francisco, learned that hers was not the only complaint.

"Many, many more" people complained, said Ms. Luthar, who, in the wake of the October noose incident, was portrayed by some news-media outlets as Ms. Constantine's rival in the department. That's ridiculous, she said of such judgments on Wednesday.

According to Ms. Luthar, she was interested only in seeing that those who brought plagiarism allegations against Ms. Constantine received a fair hearing. And she remains upset that the controversy has been framed in racial terms.

"I'm from India. I am a woman of color," Ms. Luthar said. "Most of the kids who came forward are ethnic minorities, and several were black. To cast this as an issue of race is misguided and wrongheaded, to say the least."

Among the graduate students who came forward is Tracy Juliao. She said she discovered that several portions of her dissertation on the multiple roles of women had been copied by Ms. Constantine in a paper. Like Ms. Yeh, Ms. Juliao described it as a violation. "You never expect not to be able to trust your faculty members," she said.
Because of the nature and extent of the copied passages, Ms. Juliao said she believed what Ms. Constantine did had to be intentional. "Given that there is more than one instance, there is no other explanation for this," she said. "It's not a random, Oh, I forgot to cite this."

In the memo sent to faculty members, Ms. Yeh and Ms. Juliao were commended for coming forward with their allegations. According to sources familiar with the investigation, there were other students who declined to participate for fear of retribution.

The investigation into the plagiarism accusations was conducted by the law firm Hughes Hubbard and Reed, and began in 2006. Ms. Constantine had been aware of the investigation, according to a university spokeswoman. The spokeswoman, Marcia Horowitz, called allegations of a conspiracy against Ms. Constantine "absurd."

Ms. Constantine did not respond to telephone and e-mail requests for an interview on Wednesday.

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**An Upstart Web Catalog Challenges an Academic-Library Giant** - Chronicle.com

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At only 21, Aaron Swartz is attempting to turn the library world upside down. He is taking on the subscription-based WorldCat, the largest bibliographic database on the planet, by building a free online book catalog that anyone can update.

Many academic librarians are wary of Mr. Swartz's project because it will allow nonlibrarians, who may be prone to errors, to catalog books.

But some young librarians are rallying around the precocious entrepreneur because his work may make their collections more visible on the Web. "It really provides the potential for libraries to leap forward in terms of working with electronic books and collections of electronic books," said Jeremy A. Frumkin, director of emerging technologies and services at Oregon State University.

Mr. Swartz does have a track record that inspires hope. At 14 he helped write RSS, a popular Web tool used to alert people to new blog posts. While still a teenager he became wealthy after Condé Nast Publications bought Reddit, the Web site he had helped build that lets users rank news and other electronic content.
Now his passion is a modern library. "I saw all these great books locked up in the stacks of libraries," Mr. Swartz said. "But nobody ever found out about them, because they didn't have a spot on the Web, and people weren't browsing the stacks anymore."

The new catalog project, Open Library, is set to go live in early March with records on 20 million books. The goal is to create a comprehensive Web page about any book ever published. Each page will include not just author, title, and publisher but also links that direct users to the nearest library with a copy and to related books. Other links will allow users to buy a book online or write a review of it.

The pages will be created or updated by anyone, in the style of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.

Some Web pages will also connect to the full text when its copyright has expired. Or users will be able to pay about 10 cents a page to have an unscanned out-of-copyright book at a college library digitized.

The Open Library is backed by the Internet Archive, a nonprofit digital library, which gave the project $300,000 this year and will provide the full texts of materials in its own collection. (The Open Content Alliance, a book-digitization project, is another partner.)

**Pushing Books on the Web**

The project is similar to WorldCat, which is owned by OCLC, a nonprofit group that promotes technology in libraries. But it seeks to be bigger. While WorldCat has catalog records only from libraries — including about 10,000 academic libraries — that pay to be part of OCLC, the Open Library will include records from anywhere, free of charge. And while librarians maintain WorldCat, the public would maintain Open Library.

Mr. Swartz also wants to integrate his database with Wikipedia so that a citation of a book on the popular encyclopedia links to the book's page on Open Library. Another idea is to integrate Open Library with LibraryThing, a site that helps people catalog and share their own books. Eventually, Open Library may expand to include journal articles, too.

Should all those connections help increase Open Library's holdings close to the 72 million unique book records in WorldCat, Mr. Swartz's enterprise could upend the way libraries maintain records. Librarians could choose to bypass WorldCat and contribute catalog data to Open Library, jeopardizing OCLC's
membership of more than 60,000 libraries and threatening a big chunk of its $235-million annual revenue.

It would be an amazing feat, especially since, at the moment, Open Library is struggling to get libraries to contribute.

Librarians are not just uneasy having nonlibrarians edit catalogs; they are also afraid of offending OCLC.

They rely on the organization as a broker for interlibrary loans and other crucial services. And libraries' contracts with OCLC prevent them from sharing their catalog information with for-profit institutions. That doesn't appear to be a problem for Open Library itself, because the group is nonprofit. But since there is nothing to stop Google or any other business from using Open Library's records for commercial gain, many librarians are holding back.

**Striking a Deal with OCLC**

Publicly, OCLC has stated that WorldCat and Open Library are complementary databases and should work together.

"We have an interest in synchronizing WorldCat with digital libraries that are of interest to our member organizations, and Open Library is certainly one of those," said Chip Nilges, vice president for business development at OCLC.

But one OCLC official, speaking on the condition that he not be identified, said Open Library was a waste of time and resources, and predicted it would fail.

Mr. Swartz plays down the competition between Open Library and World Cat, aware that highlighting the tension won't bring librarians to his project. A beta version of Open Library even provides links to WorldCat for users seeking to find a book at a local library.

"We're not in opposition with OCLC," said Mr. Swartz. "It's just that because they've built this structure over time, dependent on a particular business model, it's much harder for them to move on to the Internet than it is for a new group like us."

Most of the Open Library records to date have come from the Library of Congress and various publishers. The University of North Carolina system has provided Open Library with 4.2 million records. Additional records have come from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and Talis, a British library cooperative. Mr. Swartz said he was talking with a few other academic libraries, including the University of California's, about obtaining their records.
Jessamyn C. West, a librarian based in Bethel, Vt., who runs a popular blog, Librarian.net, wants Open Library to flourish. The small libraries she counsels can't afford subscriptions to WorldCat. As a result, their holdings are invisible to Vermonters searching online.

She acknowledges, though, that contributing to Open Library would be difficult for many.

"The library community is comfortable having a vendor," said Ms. West, "even if the vendor is not doing exactly what they want."

**Disputed Plan Would Let Congress Weigh In on State Budgets for Colleges - Chronicle.com**
Some federal lawmakers are trying to press states to provide consistent spending increases to their higher-education systems, saying they recognize that the level of state aid colleges receive plays a critical role in how much institutions are able to rein in tuition increases and spend on improving their quality.

The proposal would insert the federal government into state decisions about higher-education budgets, a new role that some colleges would welcome but that governors and state legislators call a dangerous precedent that might actually lead to less spending on higher education.

The proposal, which was included in the version of legislation to renew the Higher Education Act that the U.S. House of Representatives passed this month (The Chronicle, February 8), would ask states to increase spending on higher education each year by at least as much as they increased it, on average, over the previous five years.

States that failed to do so would not receive any new matching funds from the federal government under the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership program, which matches funds that states commit to provide grants to financially needy students.

The Senate version of the higher-education bill does not include the proposal, and House and Senate negotiators are now meeting to hash out that difference and others between their two bills.

As Congress seeks to apply pressure on colleges to keep costs down, proponents of the House-approved measure say states need to be held accountable, too, for the role they play in driving up the price of college when appropriations falter.

"There's been so much attention on the institutions themselves, and they are taking the hit" as Congress and the Bush administration raise concerns about rising college costs, said Daniel J. Hurley, director of state relations and policy analysis for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, which supports the proposal. "We're pleased that Congress, for the first time, is looking to states and tasking states with some responsibility."

Too Much Meddling?

But the idea of the federal government meddling in state budget decisions does not sit well with governors, state legislators, and state-budget officers, who are vigorously lobbying against the measure. Moreover, they say, the approach
would end up hurting students and colleges because states would be pressured to curb increases for higher education when their economies were strong, for fear that they could not keep up with federally required levels of spending if their fiscal circumstances weakened.

An analysis by the National Association of State Budget Officers found that the new provision might result in states spending close to 10.6-percent, or $197.8-billion, less than they otherwise would on higher education from the 2008 budget year through 2012.

The analysis assumed that, if the provision were not enacted and current law did not change, state spending would continue to grow annually at the same 5.7-percent rate as it has, on average, over the past 10 years. For its calculations of how state spending would increase if the measure did take effect, the group assumed that states would limit their growth in aid to colleges to the minimum increases required under the federal provision.

"While this mandate would reduce the cyclical nature of state higher-education funding, it would have the unintended consequence of slowing the growth of state higher-education funding over the long run," the National Governors Association argued in a statement laying out its opposition to the provision.

Raymond C. Scheppach, executive director of the governors' group, said the House-passed measure employed a "whole new use of the word 'maintenance of effort.'"

Congress has appropriately imposed such a minimum-spending requirement on states before, he said, in cases where the federal government was taking over more responsibility from states for financing a particular government program and wanted to make sure states didn't shirk their obligations in response. Such a requirement was imposed, for instance, in 2003, when Congress temporarily changed the rules of the Medicaid program so that the federal government paid a greater share of the costs when states' economies were weak, he said.

But it would be inappropriate for the federal government to dictate how states spent large portions of their budgets in a general area, Mr. Scheppach said. On average, 11 percent of state budgets go to higher education, he said. When combined with current federal requirements of states to spend certain amounts on Medicaid, that would mean more than one-third of state budgets would be tied up in priorities set by the federal government, he said.
Potential Harm Minimized

Advocates of the House-passed provision, though, argue that the fears opponents have raised about tying the hands of state lawmakers are overblown.

Preventing states from receiving new funds from the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership, or LEAP, program, would not be a particularly strong punishment, Mr. Hurley argued.

LEAP, he said, is relatively small when compared with many other federal student-aid programs, providing a total of $170-million to states this year. States would be able to make do without that money, if they had to, he said, at times when they struggled economically and might not be able to meet the federally required level of spending.

One of the main proponents of the measure, Rep. John F. Tierney, Democrat of Massachusetts, wrote in a January commentary for The Chronicle that he and other supporters specifically did not want to threaten states with losing "fundamental student-aid monies," such as those the federal government provides through Pell Grants.

LEAP grants, he wrote, "were selected because they are presumably important enough to garner the attention of the states, yet are not part of the existing base student aid—and thus a better incentive than other punitive proposals suggested."

The bill also provides a waiver for states that are experiencing especially severe economic downturns.

Nevertheless, RaeAnn G. Kelsch, chairwoman of the standing committee on education of the National Conference of State Legislatures, wrote in the same issue of The Chronicle that the choice of LEAP funds was problematic and counterproductive to the goals of improving college affordability. "The penalty for a state facing a fiscal crisis would be to deny poor students access to need-based grants and work-study assistance," she wrote.

More broadly, she and other opponents of the House plan also worried about the new ground the House plan might break.

"It would set a dangerous precedent for federal intrusion into state policy and appropriations authority," wrote Ms. Kelsch, who is a Republican legislator in North Dakota.
Mr. Scheppach, of the governors' association, argues that mandating spending levels is the wrong approach to accountability anyway. State officials, university regents, and private businesses in the local communities need to be at the table together to discuss standards and financing if meaningful changes are to take hold, he says.

He is encouraged, he said, by what he is hearing so far from senators who have been meeting this week with their House counterparts to reconcile their differences over the higher-education bill. His group and other opponents seem to have significantly more support from negotiators on the Senate side, Mr. Scheppach said.

A spokeswoman for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts and chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said that Mr. Kennedy was continuing to examine the proposal.

House members appear to feel pretty strongly about the provision, however, having adopted it despite the outcry from their governors and legislators. That, Mr. Hurley said, "is quite striking."

**Panel Discusses How Colleges Can Stem the Rising Cost of Higher Education - Chronicle.com**

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If colleges want more financial help from state and federal governments to combat rising college costs, they must be willing to approach government officials with solutions of their own, such as improving their efficiency and reallocating their use of aid.

That was one of the main messages from a panel discussion at George Washington University on Wednesday, where college leaders and policy experts focused on the reasons for rising college costs, as well as possible solutions for curtailing them.

The increase in tuition and other costs has been well documented, and experts here described several reasons for it. Besides covering the growing expenses of salaries and energy needs, many colleges are financing multimillion-dollar facilities to stay competitive as they try to recruit top students.

But the very nature of higher education makes cutting costs difficult, panel members said. Teaching is still a costly, labor-intensive task. And while technology is used in the classroom, it hasn't revolutionized how teaching works.
"Technology hasn't increased productivity," said Jared Bernstein, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington.

Despite the conventional wisdom that rising expenses are inevitable, speakers on the panel said colleges could take steps that would make significant progress in curtailing them.

In recent months, Harvard and Yale Universities have grabbed headlines by deciding to dip into their endowment assets to help make college more affordable for students from lower- and middle-income families.

Using endowment income to support financial aid is not feasible for many institutions, panelists said, but institutions without enormous endowment assets do have other options.

After the State of Maryland slashed $20-million, or 2 percent of its budget, the University System of Maryland made major cuts to various programs and services, said William E. Kirwan, the system's chancellor.

The 13 institutions of Maryland's system centralized their use of energy, goods, and services and required faculty members to spend more time in the classroom. That allowed the system to decrease its use of adjunct faculty.

"When people in higher education say costs can't be controlled, there are lots of things that can be done," Mr. Kirwan said.

In addition to cutting costs, the Maryland system re-evaluated its use of student aid, making provisions to ensure that the neediest students received more of the money.

That has helped Maryland's relationship with the state. If an institution comes to the table with plans to reduce expenses and use aid to help low-income students, Mr. Kirwan said, government officials will be more likely to help out if they have the money to give.
There's much buzz in academic circles about creating more-global college campuses, but to strengthen campuswide internationalization by capitalizing on often-disparate activities—such as study abroad, international research by faculty members, and overseas-development work—can be challenging.

That theme was echoed throughout a conference, "Globalization: Implications for International Education," held here this week by the Association of International Education Administrators.

The three-day event also featured panels and presentations on learning outcomes for overseas study, global student mobility, and the impact of federal policy on international education, among other issues. But several speakers and session participants returned to the idea of how to better integrate various international activities to realize institutions' more ambitious internationalization goals.

Colleges do not always take full advantage of the relationships they have established to build additional partnerships, said M. Peter McPherson, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges in a speech to participants on Tuesday. In particular, Mr. McPherson, who is also chairman of the board of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Commission, a federally appointed panel, urged participants to expand on existing agreements their institutions may have to allow students to study on foreign campuses to build other associations, like faculty exchanges and joint research programs.

"I think universities can take better advantage of those connections than they are," Mr. McPherson said in an interview.

The goal of better leveraging current international ties was also reflected in a survey of campus chief officials for international research and development, conducted by the land-grant-college group, in conjunction with the Association of International Education Administrators, and released at the meeting.

Nearly half of those surveyed cited enhancing campus internationalization as the principal desired outcome of engagement in international research and development—a response rate far higher than that for any other stated goal.

According to Peter Koehn, a professor of political science at the University of Montana at Missoula, who carried out the survey, respondents said that such work could strengthen broader internationalization efforts in a variety of ways, such as increasing interaction with foreign scholars, enhancing the university's overseas reputation, enriching course offerings, and aiding in the recruitment of international students.
Several audience members at the session questioned parts of the survey’s methodology, including the decision to group together international research, which is generally conducted by individual faculty members, and larger development projects that often are federally financed.

In addition, the scope of the work is somewhat limited — international-education administrators at just 73 four-year colleges were invited to participate in the preliminary survey, and 31 replied, a 42 percent response rate. The respondents included some institutions with broad international portfolios, like Michigan State University and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, along with others that say they do relatively little research and development abroad. The two organizations plan to expand the survey.

The survey’s findings, however, in many ways were amplified by comments made by audience members, several of whom said they found it challenging to build on international activities by faculty members and students to enhance broader internationalization efforts. One of the biggest difficulties, a participant said, is pinning down exactly what international-research projects are being undertaken by faculty members.

"We have hundreds of faculty who do international research, but it's unclear to me how to translate that into international development work," said another participant, Laurie S. Koloski, director of the Reves Center for International Studies at the College of William and Mary.

Greater willingness of faculty members to participate is one of the factors survey respondents cited as being most helpful in enhancing a university’s international engagement. They also called for greater coordination of campus resources and — the No. 1 answer — for greater financial support from their institutions.

**Success Stories**

Still, some conference-goers had success stories of their own to offer in surmounting those challenges. JoAnn S. McCarthy, who recently stepped down as assistant provost for international affairs at the University of Pennsylvania, said that institution was able to "demystify" the idea of development work by focusing on a project on HIV in Botswana. Although the project originated in the School of Medicine, the university has since expanded the relationship to involve other departments and disciplines, and to offer opportunities for overseas study and undergraduate research.

Likewise, Delaware State University, which did not have a history of international-development work, parlayed a $25,000 grant — small by
international-development standards — to study malaria in Uganda into overseas research opportunities, a new course on international public health, and a pending agreement with a Ugandan university, said John L. Graham, assistant vice president for international affairs there. Delaware State now is in the process of applying for a $1-million grant to expand its work.

"You don't have to have millions of dollars," Mr. Graham said. "Sometimes, it just takes great ideas."

Number of Israeli Scholars in the U.S. Equals One-Quarter of Those at Home, Report Says - Chronicle.com
A new report on the brain drain from Israeli universities suggests that the ratio of Israeli academics working in the United States to those in Israel is nearly 25 percent.

The report, "Brain Drained," is based on a study by Dan Ben-David of the department of public policy at Tel Aviv University. It says that "a massive policy breakdown" in higher education has created conditions in which "the rate of academic emigration from Israel to the United States is unparalleled in the Western world."

In the report, Mr. Ben-David argues that a shortage of university teaching and research posts here "has made it extremely difficult for young new researchers to return to Israel," and so "a large and growing number of Israel's top researchers and scientists have emigrated from the country, primarily to the United States."

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 82,905 foreign scholars worked at American universities in 2003-4, representing 7.1 percent of the combined senior academic staff.

Of those, the largest single group was 3,117 British scholars, representing 2.1 percent of the senior academic faculty in Britain. Among Canadian scholars, the ratio of those residing in the United States that academic year to those in Canada was 12.2 percent.

Philosophers From Afar

Israeli scholars were far ahead of that rate. "The 1,409 Israeli academics residing in the States in 2003-4 represented 24.9 percent of the entire senior staff in Israel's academic institutions that year—twice the Canadian ratio and over five times the ratio in the other developed countries," writes Mr. Ben-David.

He says that the numbers of Israelis working in the United States are equal to one-eighth of all Israel's chemists, 15 percent of the country's philosophers, and 29 percent of "top Israeli economists."

"The group with the greatest proportional representation in the top American departments is computer science," he reports. "The number of Israelis in just the top 40 U.S. computer-science departments represents a full third of the entire contingent remaining in Israel."
Israel's educational policy makers have been concerned for some time about a brain drain. A government committee that reported last year on reforms in higher education recommended specific new spending to encourage talented young academics to stay in Israel and to lure back those who had left.

Rabbi Michael Melchior, chairman of the education committee in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, puts the total number of Israeli academics abroad at about 3,000—more than double the figure cited by Mr. Ben-David.

"It costs about $1-million to train and educate someone to professor level," Mr. Melchior told *The Chronicle*. "So we've paid about $3-billion, which has been thrown out of the window."