TAMPA - Now that the state's universities have decided to cut enrollment to offset a whopping budget shortfall, community colleges will have to figure out how to absorb even more students while cutting millions of dollars.

The budget cuts afflicting four-year schools are hitting the two-year schools just as hard - if not harder. Community colleges, which enroll most of Florida's undergraduate students, rely more on state money than do universities, and the aid they get from Tallahassee is wildly unpredictable.

How Hillsborough Community College has dealt with those challenges can be seen in Linda Tarrago's accounting class. In previous years, Tarrago capped her class at 28 students, but she now enrolls up to 39 because of increased demand. And her class runs twice as fast - eight weeks instead of 16, with sessions running twice as long so the college can squeeze two semesters of courses in the space of one.

"We're seeing a lot of students," Tarrago said. "Our projector bulbs are blowing earlier than they normally did. When they're running full time, they're going to blow quicker."

Things will only get busier, and there will be less money. Recently, the state's 11 public universities decided to admit fewer students for next fall because they plan on eliminating faculty jobs to help balance their budgets.

That decision will send more students to community colleges.
Community college leaders say that won't jeopardize their open-door policies and create higher standards for entry as it has at the state's universities. They warn, however, that their classrooms will reach capacity sooner.

When that happens, students registering later may find they will have to defer some classes another semester.

Last fall, HCC cut about $1.4 million from a pot of money that pays for salaries and school programs that need funding every year.

While the college hasn't laid off employees yet, another significant cut will surely eliminate jobs, said Bob Chunn, president of HCC's Dale Mabry campus. Administrators say they will try to protect faculty positions. They will find out how much they'll need to cut as lawmakers meet in the coming weeks.

"A reduction in jobs is in nobody's interest," Chunn said.

Across the state, higher education leaders are preparing for hard times as state economists continue to warn of falling tax revenue. The University of South Florida, for instance, has planned to cut more than $52 million from its budget, and has announced it will freeze the size of its freshman class to keep class sizes from enlarging.

All of that has an effect on community college enrollment.

Weak Job Market Boosts Enrollment

Community colleges already have been in demand. HCC's student body grew by 5 percent last fall. Much of that growth came from students seeking to sharpen their skills in Florida's souring economy.

"When the employment market is the weakest, that's the time you need the most money," said Carl Kuttler, president of St. Petersburg College, which also saw a 5 percent enrollment increase last fall but had to cut about $2 million from its budget.

In addition, the state two years ago provided greater incentive to attend a community college by offering free tuition and fees to students who receive the less selective of the two primary Bright Futures scholarships. The scholarship, called the Medallion award, now covers all of a community college student's tuition and fees and covers 75 percent of costs at a state university.

Lawmakers thought the move would relieve crowding in university classrooms.
It worked. The number of students who enrolled at HCC with the Medallion award increased 35 percent over the past two years, to about 1,500 students.

One of those students was Aurora Clegg, 19, who turned down an offer at USF. If Clegg attended the university, she figured she'd have to work part time. With a Medallion award at HCC, she can focus on school, she said.

"At a university, you're a number," Clegg said. "At a community college, you're a name. That was a very big attraction for me."

Clegg was accepted to USF. But more students seeking entry to the university will have a harder time, leaving hundreds to consider community college.

HCC already has increased its online course offerings by 15 percent to accommodate the student influx. It also added more afternoon class sections, even though they had been less popular with working students who wanted either early morning or evening classes. Every one of them filled up this year.

'The Unknown Factor'
Community colleges have always found it hard to predict their needs. They receive money from the state based on the previous year's enrollment, so money comes up short when enrollment spikes.

By comparison, state universities receive funding based on their projected enrollment.

"It's the unknown factor," Kuttler said. "We have a lot of rainy-day funds; the issue is, do you use all of them up in one year."

Also unknown is what universities will do in the coming weeks.

University system Chancellor Mark Rosenberg said universities may have to revise agreements that have guaranteed community college students a spot at a university after two successful years in school.

Universities for years have offered admission to students on the hopes the Legislature would provide the necessary funding, only to come up short financially, Rosenberg said.

Bill Edmonds, spokesman for the state university system, said Rosenberg hasn't proposed any changes yet.
Last week, however, USF leaders announced that they're limiting the number of transfer students over the next three years. They won't accept any more students trying to transfer in as freshman and sophomores next fall, and they will set a higher academic standard on those seeking admission as juniors and seniors.

That means that even students with an associate's degree may be refused entry to USF, a fact Chunn said would "discourage students."

"It would have an impact on them realizing their educational destiny," he said.

Regardless of what's unknown, though, community colleges must plan to cut deeper, said Ed Cisek, vice chancellor for financial policy in the state's community college division.

"It's a really tough dilemma we're in," Cisek said. "Anybody who's not planning on cuts is taking the ostrich approach."

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE MATH**

$1.4 million How much Hillsborough Community College cut last fall from recurring expenses such as salaries and programs

5 percent Growth of HCC's student body from last year

35 percent Increase over two years in the number of HCC students getting full tuition paid for through the Bright Futures Medallion scholarship

847,486 Statewide community college enrollment this year, a 6 percent increase from last year

**Florida scholarship plan to remain, legislator says**

02/26/2008 © Palm Beach Post

Bright Futures will remain untouched this legislative session, House Speaker Marco Rubio predicted Monday.

Florida's merit-based scholarship program costs about $400,000 annually and fully or partially paid the tuitions of about 150,000 students last year. The cost could blow up to an unmanageable $1 billion in the next 10 years, according to the Board of Governors, which oversees Florida's 11 public universities.
Various ideas have been thrown out this year to control costs. They include raising standards, limiting applicants to needy students and cutting scholarships for all but degrees in high needs areas.

All are politically unpalatable, said Rubio, R-West Miami.

"I don't think anything will happen this session on Bright Futures," he said.

The program has kept Florida's in-state tuition artificially low because higher tuition would cost the state more money in Bright Futures scholarships. Students with a 3.5 grade point average earn a free ride to college.

Josef Palermo, student organizer for the Save Bright Futures campaign at Florida Atlantic University, said his parents "make just enough" not to qualify for financial aid. Without his scholarship, he's not sure how he would have afforded college.

Palermo said he opposes efforts to cut funding, but he wouldn't mind gearing the program to need.

"It's pretty much a joke with upper-middle-class suburban students," he said. "The BMW scholarship is what they call it. If a student graduates high school with Bright Futures, their parents will reward them with a BMW."

Rubio also said Monday, during an editorial board meeting at The Palm Beach Post, that universities probably will see a tuition increase similar to last year's, around 6 percent or 7 percent. But university presidents might have more flexibility in how they spend the money.

Rubio said he supports an idea some presidents pushed in which each college would commit to meeting specific standards in exchange for funding.

Community colleges also could see some changes, Rubio said.

He expects the legislature to create a board of community colleges, similar to the Board of Governors that oversees Florida's four-year institutions.
Event highlights impact of black-owned businesses
02/26/2008 © Tallahassee Democrat

The Florida A&M University Student Government Association is continuing the initiative of national radio host Warren Ballentine, who tried to show the power of the black dollar in November when he asked blacks to stop spending for a day.

From Feb. 29 to March 2, FAMU’s Department of Economic Development and the Florida State University Black Student Union will seek to increase support of black-owned businesses through an event called "Blackout 2k8."

Blackout co-chair Kianta Key, secretary of the FAMU Department of Economic Development, said the goal of the event is not just to support black businesses, but rather to increase awareness.

“This is our way of saying farewell to Black History Month 2008,” said Key, a senior public relations student from Atlanta. “It’s a little more proactive than just reading a list of facts about what someone did in the 1800s. When you look at it, the Civil Rights movement was really about money and giving black people a fair chance.”

• Check back on Tallahassee.com for an update of this story and look for additional reporting in the Tallahassee Democrat tomorrow.

Florida Atlantic University

Boca Raton: FAU students planning a rally to protest state's budget cuts
02/26/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Some students at Florida Atlantic University plan to hold a rally Thursday to protest budget cuts to the state university system.

The event will be at 11:30 a.m. on the Free Speech Lawn of the Boca Raton campus, 777 Glades Road.

The university made $4 million in cuts this past fall and could make $6.8 million more by the end of the year. The state has reduced funding for universities and state agencies because of the state's poor economy and lower-than-expected collections of property taxes.
While it's unclear what state universities will actually cut, organizers say they are worried about such areas as Bright Futures scholarships, summer school and safety measures in the wake of campus shootings.

The students have invited local legislators, university administrators, members of the Board of Trustees, student government officials and members of the media to attend. The rally is free and open to the public.

**South Florida: Ideas sought on how to redevelop areas**
02/26/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Broward County officials and Florida Atlantic University architecture students today plan to ask residents what can be done to help redevelop parts of State Road 7 and Broward Boulevard.

A public meeting will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd.

The meeting is part of Broward County's Transit-Housing Oriented Redevelopment program, which aims to encourage new businesses and housing along major roads.

The program is meant to help build the property tax bases of Central Broward neighborhoods still in unincorporated Broward, county officials said. Their lack of property tax revenue has deterred nearby cities from annexing them.

Call 954-762-5186.

**At FAU, be true to your school, or face consequences**
02/26/2008 © Palm Beach Post

BOCA RATON — It's not unusual for Florida Atlantic University students to don the regalia of other schools - a true no-no at more traditional colleges where wearing the wrong mascot is a treasonous offense.

(Imagine a Florida State Seminole shirt in Gator country.)

But a group of FAU fans wants to end the damage done to Owsley's self-esteem with a shame campaign against students sporting enemy colors on campus.
Called Fowl Owl - a play on FAU's owl mascot - the nearly year-old program has a Facebook page where students are encouraged to take photos of classmates wearing other schools' clothes and post them on the site.

FAU T-shirts were purchased by student government for students wanting to trade in their offending garments for ones touting FAU.

There's also discussion of creating a wall of shame in the main thoroughfare at FAU's Boca Raton campus to advertise repeat turncoats.

"You are going to FAU, why would you wear a shirt from a different school?" said 20-year-old sophomore Bradley Phibbs, who supports the Fowl Owl program, which is not an official FAU student group. "An undergrad walking around with a Florida International University shirt- and that's the worst - I don't understand that."

At just 43 years old, FAU has struggled to change its commuter school reputation and build a tradition of its own.

And with more than 2,000 students living in residence halls, a young - but winning - football team, and the national attention that came with hosting January's Republican presidential primary debate, students say the campus atmosphere is becoming more like a regular college.

"The students are finally proud of where they are," said Trevor Caulkins, 22, a former FAU student who ended up on the Fowl Owl Facebook page after he lost a bet and had to wear a Clemson University shirt. "They are starting to form a traditional campus."

The Fowl Owl program was started last summer by student government officers and former FAU PrOWLer spirit club director Rick Smith, who has since graduated.

Smith acknowledged the program is not as "hard core" since his departure, and school officials said the T-shirt campaign was short-lived, but the Fowl Owl movement still has student support with 315 members on its Facebook page and requests that more be done to bolster school spirit.

"They are talking about having spirit police," said student Pedro Smeryage, 21. "I think that's a good idea."
At least one student, however, is concerned that overzealous FAU boosterism, not necessarily the Fowl Owls, is to blame for someone peeling another school's sticker off her car while it was parked in an FAU garage.

The incident, first reported by FAU student and University Press reporter Dori Zinn in her "Inside FAU" blog, happened last month when sophomore Minnie Bhimani had her Rice University sticker defaced.

Bhimani's best friend attends Rice University in Houston and the sticker was a gift. The vandal ripped off the words on the sticker, but left a part that contained Rice's mascot, "Sammy" the owl.

"Sammy" and "Owsley" look a lot alike.

"I definitely think it was a school spirit issue," said Bhimani, 19. "It was just a little sticker but it made me upset because it's my car."

Bhimani said she doesn't want FAU to become like the University of Florida, where she once received myriad dirty looks for wearing an FAU shirt.

"If you step onto the UF campus with a Florida State shirt you are going to die," said Bhimani, who replaced her missing Rice University sticker with one from FAU. "I go to football games, I'm not against wearing FAU colors, but being shamed for wearing an FSU shirt is ridiculous."

FAU's vice president for student affairs, Charles Brown, said the growing school spirit at FAU has created many offshoot student groups trying to start their own traditions.

He doesn't believe, however, that any would resort to vandalism. "I see so many cars here with other school logos on them," Brown said. "That's the last thing on our students' minds."

**FAU's teacher program a success**

02/26/2008 © Palm Beach Post

Over the past two weeks, much has been written by The Palm Beach Post about the Florida Atlantic University Madras Educational Research and Integrated Trust (MERIT) program and the impact it has had on some members of the Treasure Coast community. I want to clarify some of the points surrounding the program and its participants.
First, since the publication of these articles, including an editorial, the U.S. Department of State has extended the visas of the 16 participants, ensuring that our priority - the return of these talented individuals to the classroom - has been successfully completed. We are extremely pleased that the students of St. Lucie County once again will have the benefit of being educated by these dedicated and talented educators.

The articles and editorial questioned the construct and salaries associated with the program. The MERIT Program is modeled upon the College of Education's highly successful and innovative Accelerated Induction into Teaching (AIT) program, which has been operational for the past six years. These programs provide individuals the opportunity to intern in Florida's public school system to become successful classroom teachers. AIT and MERIT interns receive intensive mentoring by experienced retired teachers, direct ongoing administrative support and professional training designed to strengthen their skills and abilities as teachers.

MERIT interns receive the same stipend ($5,000 for the 90-day fall semester, and full teacher's salary with benefits in the spring semester), support and training as do AIT interns, all of whom are American citizens. MERIT differs from AIT in that MERIT participants must complete a month-long intensive training program in India, equivalent to six graduate credit hours, on American classroom management and American culture. Any doctoral student in the College of Education on a graduate assistantship, including international students (with a master's degree and multiple years' experience) receives a stipend of $5,000 for each semester.

The Post also questioned FAU's time frame in accepting responsibility for the visa error. When developing this program, members of the university community, legal counsel and members of the St. Lucie County School District met to discuss the unique partnership. When the participants were selected, it was intended that they would receive short-term visas during the first semester, and if they were selected by the school board, their visas would be transferred in the spring semester to the school district.

Unfortunately, when the university filled out the paperwork, an incorrect type of visa that could not be transferred was issued. In late November, the Department of State made the university aware that there was a problem. Immediately, the university began working with the departments of State and Education to resolve the error. The university engaged in an extensive review of its international studies program. We asked outside counsel to assist staff in reviewing the steps that led to the visa error.
After a thorough review, it is evident that the university erred when issuing the visas. We regret the challenges this error has presented to the MERIT program participants, the students in St. Lucie County and their families. We extend our sincerest apologies and commitment to their continued educational successes.

As this review of policies and procedures continues, we are committed to putting in safeguards to ensure that this situation never is repeated. The university has performed an initial review of all other visas issued through the State Department's Exchange Visitor Program, and these appear to be in good standing. In addition, the university has restructured its visa operations and transferred responsibility for their issuance to our general counsel's office.

The university and the College of Education will continue to evaluate the MERIT program and learn from its opportunities and challenges. While a conscious decision was made in October to discontinue this program in its present form, we remain committed to the academic success of the program participants and the students of St. Lucie County. We will continue to develop innovative and creative solutions to the educational challenges facing our society.

**Missing visas keep Indian teachers home**
02/26/2008 © Palm Beach Post

Sixteen Indian teachers working in six St. Lucie County schools through a cultural exchange program remained at home Monday, still waiting for the arrival of their visas.

The teachers, who have already missed two full weeks of class, were granted visa extensions by the State Department on Wednesday, but cannot return to class until the visas arrive in St. Lucie County.

The visas had not been delivered as of late Monday, officials said.

"I just need to have them in my hands," said Susan Ranew, the school district's assistant superintendent of human resources.

The teachers were placed on unpaid leave when their visas expired Feb. 9. Florida Atlantic University, which recruited the teachers to fill positions in science, math and special education, applied for the wrong type of visa, an error that was discovered in November.

School and university officials and Florida lawmakers made several requests to the State Department to extend the visas after the error was discovered. The
request was granted Wednesday, with visas expected by late last week. On Monday, neither the school district nor FAU knew why the documents had not arrived.

"We've repeatedly called the Department of State and we haven't had any luck," said Lisa Freed, a spokeswoman for FAU.

The visas are to come from the State Department to FAU, which then will send them to the district, Ranew said.

State Department officials did not return calls for comment Monday.

Ramesh Raman, an eighth-grade math teacher at Oak Hammock K-8 School, said he was hoping to be back in class today. He said he had sent lesson plans to his substitute teacher, but missed his students.

"It's really hard," he said.

**Scripps to fight energy disease**
02/26/2008 © Palm Beach Post

Scripps Florida is entering a new era with Roy Periana.

I know, I know. It's a little early to be concluding that any eras have taken place as the national research powerhouse awaits completion of its $200 million, publicly financed campus at Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter. But after three years of collecting scientists who pursue cures for disease, Dr. Periana, a University of Southern California chemist, represents a radical shift.

He's pursuing a cure for the common oil conundrum. He doesn't want to stop America's love affair with the internal combustion engine. He wants to make it non-destructive to the planet. To do that, he needs just one little chemical catalyst. Problem is, as Dr. Periana explained Wednesday to a group of potential Scripps donors, he and everyone else in the energy industry have been looking for this catalyst for decades, and no one has been able to find it.

Dr. Periana may be the guy who has come the closest. He found a catalyst that makes natural gas - an abundant and clean-burning fuel - more useful. Usually, it takes intense heat to change the chemical composition of natural gas, but that's too expensive. Dr. Periana's catalyst works without heat, but it isn't perfect. It doesn't work quickly enough to be practical. Still, it shows that the chemical change he needs is possible.
When approached by Scripps President Richard Lerner, also a chemist, Dr. Periana pitched Scripps on shifting from its normal mission of drug discovery this way: In 50 years, he said, all the cures in the world aren't going to amount to anything if global warming makes the planet uninhabitable.

Sober words. But there's more to Dr. Periana's recruitment. As taxpayers have witnessed first-hand in the race to build the next great biotechnology hub, money matters. To attract Scripps, the state in 2003 pledged $310 million - an estimated $369 million with interest. The money, mostly paying for Scripps scientists, won't last forever. About half is gone.

Dr. Periana will head up a whole new wing of Scripps Florida: the Scripps Energy Laboratories. He envisions raising $90 million over five years to, in his words, "tackle the major fundamental chemistry challenges that must be overcome to provide for alternative fuels and a cleaner environment in the 21st century."

Unlike drug researchers, Dr. Periana can't tap the National Institutes of Health for support. The Department of Energy has no energy-focused counterpart. Dr. Periana's hot prospect right now is a major oil company. A $20 million, five-year contract is pending.

His aim is nothing less than "moving the petrochemical and power industry to the next paradigm." What oil company could resist radically lower production costs resulting in a fuel source that, as Dr. Periana said, would never run out?

Scripps is trading Big Pharma for Big Oil. Health dollars, after doubling in 2003, have dropped, relative to inflation. Eight in 10 applications are rejected, a group of "concerned universities" wrote last year in a report to Congress. But there are more scientists than ever seeking grants - many driven to biotech hubs financed with taxes from communities believing that biotech can transform their economies. Sound familiar?

Bringing an energy lab to Scripps could be considered a reasonable step toward diversification. It will aim at a potentially huge source of new research money. It could have a phenomenal payoff. It also will be a gamble.

Devoting an entire wing to energy research would shunt aside crucial space for preventing the "devastating human diseases" that Scripps Florida vows on its Web site to stop: "AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, depression, diabetes, hepatitis C, obesity, mad cow disease, Parkinson's disease and schizophrenia, to
name a few." It would be hard to give any of that up to pursue the Holy Grail of 21st-century energy research.

Distraction from core mission? Or diversification against hard times? It's a bold new era at Scripps Florida. Even before the first era has played itself out.

**Florida Gulf Coast University**

**FGCU program cuts making students steamed**  
02/26/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

Future writers and broadcasters are pleading with Florida Gulf Coast University's administration to reconsider indefinitely delaying a journalism major. College officials hoped to launch that program this fall, along with master's degrees in mathematics and environmental studies.

Last week, FGCU indefinitely shelved the trio of proposals because of state budget troubles.

Freshman Caity Kauffman, 18, said the promise of a journalism program is the sole reason some students chose FGCU over other colleges.

"I love FGCU and I love my professors, but when you go to school to study something, you want to study it," said Kauffman, who started a petition to save journalism. "Their hands are tied and they had to cut something. Ultimately, the state is responsible."

Budget proposals floating through Florida's Legislature again would withhold cash from FGCU, resulting in a $2.2 million loss this academic year. The 2008-09 budget is expected to be more of the same.

Of the three delayed programs, the bachelor of arts in journalism is the costliest. Its first-year price tag is estimated at $290,000, while the master of science in mathematics would cost $117,000 and master of arts in environmental studies would be $90,000. Journalism has a higher cost because the program is expected to attract more students.

"We simply don't have the dollars to do it," said FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw. "We're not going to bring forward any new programs unless we can fund quality programs."
Bradshaw said FGCU isn't abandoning its desire to have a journalism major. Until then, students can earn a communications degree, and journalism might develop into a minor or concentration within that program. The communications umbrella presently has four tracks: communication studies, political communication, public relations and environmental communication.

No other Southwest Florida colleges offer journalism. Initial communications classes have been popular at FGCU, where records show five vacancies out of 60 seats this semester in its three journalism classes.

All three delayed programs were in their developmental stages and had yet to receive approval from FGCU's Board of Trustees or the Florida Board of Governors. However, the university already concluded a round of interviews with potential faculty members.

**Cape discusses safety building construction options**
02/26/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

A land trade and the commission a former contractor to build on city-owned land are among the latest options for a public safety building.

A variety of new options were discussed publicly for the first time at a Cape Coral City Council workshop Monday.

Debate about how to build a public safety building has focused on a $40 million proposal made by the Public Safety Committee that included the purchase of an existing building at the Mid Cape Corporate Center on Pine Island Road.

But at the workshop Monday, District 1 Councilman Jim Burch said he wanted the city to explore other possibilities for police and fire employees.

"I've had one option on the table for several months," he said. "I would like to have other options."

He appeared to get his wish Monday as several other council members announced they had been working independently toward options besides the so-called McGarvey purchase.

District 5 Councilman Eric Grill said he set up a meeting with McGarvey officials for later this week to discuss trading the property for a part of the city-owned Academic Village, an undeveloped property at the corner of Kismet Parkway.
and Del Prado Boulevard. Grill said he would like McGarvey to build a new charter high school for Cape Coral as part of the trade for the 171 acres.

"I think we could pull this off," Grill said.

Representatives for McGarvey could not be reached for comment.

Wetlands issues have plagued development of the village, which was to include a high school and possibly a college campus and library. Grill believes a private developer would be able to mitigate those environmental concerns without dealing with the same sort of bureaucracy.

The proposal was met with enthusiasm from Burch. "I give Mr. Grill some credit for introducing something entirely new into the mix," Burch said.

But District 6 Councilman Tim Day said he wants to know if the proposal would be detrimental to any plans Florida Gulf Coast University might have to build a campus at the village. Grill said he believes a campus could still be built there, and figured the presence of a nearby charter high school could offer dual enrollment possibilities benefiting both institutions.

Meanwhile, District 4 Councilwoman Dolores Bertolini said she has been working with city staff to have Balfour Beatty Construction do work the company is already under contract for thanks to a failed public safety proposal last year.

Voters in April shot down a $110 million proposal for a larger public safety building on land near City Hall. That land was acquired through the eminent domain process from VK Development. The proposal was based on work done for the city by Centex Construction.

Bertolini said she would still like to build a structure to house police and fire. She said she has worked with staff for weeks on a plan lower than the $40 million price tag proposed by the public safety committee.

"We have someone we paid to get plans back to us," she said.

A proposal should be publicly released this week, she said. She expects a proposal that could run $25 million or less.

Mayor Eric Feichthaler, who has favored the purchase from McGarvey, said he has spoken with McGarvey about a separate land swap. He believes the city can
trade the VK property to McGarvey to reduce the cost of getting the Pine Island Road building.

Burch also suggested that the city accept bid proposals for building on the VK site. He said he has spoken to interested parties at BB&L and to Wright Construction. District 2 Councilman Pete Brandt said he doubts a bid process would be time consuming because many contracts already have plans nearly complete.

**Bike advocates push for path into FGCU for them**
02/26/2008 © Naples Daily News

The problem with biking to the Florida Gulf Coast University campus is you can’t get there from here.

At least not yet.

Lee County commissioners will hold a second public hearing Tuesday to adopt changes to the campus development agreement. During the first hearing bike advocate and enthusiast Dan Moser told commissioners the on-road bike paths on Ben Hill Griffin Parkway work great. So do the bike paths on campus.

But the main campus access road has no bike path at all, Moser said. There is an off-road sidewalk, but with curbs and gutters lining the road there’s no way to ride a bike from the road to the sidewalk.

“‘That’s a concrete sidewalk,’” Moser said. “‘To me that’s a pedestrian facility.’”

Even that came after the fact.

“They forgot to put it in when it was built,” Moser said.

Moser should know. He’s been a member of the county Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee for years, and is an injury prevention specialist for the Health Department.

At least he is for now. Moser was caught in the recent layoffs — a victim of state budget cutting. County and Lee Memorial officials are looking to save his job and the injury prevention program.
“We were really surprised,” said Commissioner Tammy Hall of the layoff. “Our contribution to the Health Department is increasing and state support is going down. Maybe we should pick and choose what we fund.”

Hall facilitated a meeting between Moser and FGCU vice president Joe Shepard on Monday.

“He’s the first person I actually got in the door to see,” Moser said.

Shepard said the university wants easy bike access to campus, Moser said, and he’d see to it the access road bike path is considered in the 5-year building budget. The agreement commissioners will approve today governs how FGCU pays for its impacts off campus.

“This would have to wait for the update to the campus development plan,” Moser said. “Joe said he’d try to put it into the budget sooner.”

That’d be good, Moser said. He rode his bike to campus to meet with Shepard, and had a close call with a semi when he was leaving.

“Ironically as I was leaving a truck almost took me out,” he said. “When I hollered at him he beeped his horn at me. It’s a perfect example of why we need this.”

Florida International University
No Articles Today

Florida State University

Brevard in danger of doctor shortage
02/26/2008 © Florida Today

Slightly more than 10 percent of Brevard County physicians plan to leave medicine or significantly reduce their practices by 2012, according to a study by researchers at the Florida State University College of Medicine.

That compares with 12.9 percent overall of physicians planning to leave Florida's work force in the next five years, just as baby boomers start to age and need more medical care, the researchers said.
The study’s results, based on the voluntary responses of physicians renewing their state licenses in 2007, were published recently in Florida Medical Magazine, put out by the Florida Medical Association.

About 34,000 physicians regularly practice in Florida --16,000 fewer than previous estimates, the study found.

It also found that the mean age of survey respondents was 51, indicating an aging work force that could be affected by attrition through retirement.

"Half of Florida's doctors renew their license in even years; half in odd years," said Lynne Takacs, a spokeswoman for the Florida Medical Association, suggesting further research may reveal even wider gaps in the physician workforce.

Among the doctors in Brevard saying they planned to leave the profession or cut back hours by 2012 were:

Psychiatrists, with
31.3 percent, compared with
16.7 percent statewide.

General surgeons, at
12.5 percent, compared with
17.8 percent across Florida.

Anesthesiologists, at
20 percent, compared with
13.1 percent for Florida.

And dermatologists, at
16.7 percent, compared with 11.3 percent for Florida.

New College of Florida
No Articles Today
University of Central Florida

Secret taping at University of Central Florida under investigation
02/26/2008 © Orlando Sentinel
Someone has been following women around the University of Central Florida campus, secretly shooting video of their backsides and posting the clips online, a student told police.

The videos are not lewd, but whoever shot them should be stopped because his subjects are clearly clueless that they're being exploited by a video voyeur, said Benjamin Collard, 20, a UCF senior and student Senate member who reported the videos.

"It's kind of disgusting," Collard said Monday.

Collard stumbled upon the videos Thursday night at Breitbart.com, a Web site focused on breaking world news. He said he only stopped to check the first clip because a video image of UCF's distinctive fountain caught his eye. Then he realized the clip's true focus.

With the help of others in student government, he found about 100 similar clips on sites such as Dailymotion and YouTube that appeared to have been shot on campus.

Collard went to campus police Friday. Afterward, police alerted students and staff via e-mail that the videos were popping up online.

The secret videotaping "just weirds me out," freshman Regina Gorman, 18, said Monday. "You don't want your daily walk to class up on YouTube."

Some female students at the campus said they feel safe in general but would welcome more visible evidence of security such as police patrols and surveillance cameras.

"UCF is so large," said Nicole Valdes, 19, a freshman. "You just don't know who is out there."

The videos disappeared from the various sites during the weekend, Collard said.

"The guy probably was getting scared," said Cpl. James Roop, a spokesman for the UCF Police Department, citing the campuswide e-mail.

Anyone with information about the videos or who thinks they might have been secretly videotaped should contact the department at 407-823-5555, Roop said.

Based on students' descriptions of the videos, the secret shooter is not breaking the law because the videotaping takes place on public property, Roop said.
He or she would cross the line into illegal behavior by trying to photograph or videotape under a skirt or continuing to tape after being told to stop, Roop added.

Collard said it was clear the videos were shot in recent weeks because campaign signs from recent student-government elections can be seen in the background. A few of the videos were described as having been shot on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville, Collard said. UF police said that they had received calls from the media but had not issued any campus alerts.

UCF students uncomfortable walking across campus at night can request an escort, said Alexander Hamilton, health and safety coordinator for the Student Government Association. Students can also contact police from emergency kiosks on campus, he said.

Collard said he hopes surveillance tapes will turn up clues. Even if the video shooter can't be arrested, Collard said, the creepy camera work should stop.

"Celebrities expect to be photographed in public," he said, "but not a girl just trying to go to school."

UCF students report ignoring e-mails from police warning about crime on campus
02/26/2008 © Orlando Sentinel

About two or three times every week, the University of Central Florida Police Department sends out crime advisories to students by e-mail.

Most of them inform students of crimes recently committed on or around campus, such as robberies or attempted sexual assaults, and provide crime-prevention tips.

It seems like a great system. The problem is that many students apparently don't read the e-mails, and some students don't receive them at all.

"I get them sent to me so much, I don't even really look at them," junior hospitality major Josh Blasberg said.

"I try to look at the crime e-mails more than the others the school sends me, but sometimes I get five a day," he said.
Because signing up to receive campus e-mails also means receiving the daily "Good Morning UCF" e-mail, athletics advertising and campus surveys, some students block the messages.

"I got tired of getting a bunch of junk, so I went on MyUCF and blocked them," said senior radio-TV major Travis Johnson.

Johnson and Blasberg aren't alone.

UCF Police Officer Jeannette Emert said she has talked to other students who don't pay much attention to the advisories or don't receive them at all.

"But we're trying to change that," Emert said. "We're working with the university to find different ways to try to reach students in times of an emergency."

UCFPD recently announced an emergency "crawl" that can display messages across the bottom of on-campus televisions, including those in dormitories.

"We have the on-screen crawl in place, and we're working on a reverse 911 system," Emert said.

The reverse 911 system would call all students at the university, with a recorded message that provide emergency information.

The system wouldn't be used for crime advisories such as the e-mails, but only in extreme emergencies.

"Hopefully we'd never have to use it, but it's something we want to have in place," Emert said.

In addition the e-mail advisories, the on-screen crawl and the reverse 911 system, Emert said she would like to see even more notification tools.

"I'd like to see a combination of all those things, a pop-up message on all computers on campus, a text-messaging system, reverse 911 and an emergency broadcast system," Emert said.

Natalie Bookal, a junior accounting major at UCF, said a text message is the best way to reach her.

"I don't check my e-mail all that much, but I'm always checking my phone," Bookal said.
Blasberg agreed with Bookal, and said when he needs to contact another student, he calls or sends a text message. He doesn't e-mail.

"It shouldn't be any different if the school is trying to reach us," said Blasberg.

"They should call us instead of e-mailing. I live next to my phone, while I only check my e-mail every once in awhile."

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**University of Florida**

**Our view: A sweetheart deal | floridatoday.com | Serving Brevard County and Florida’s Space Coast**

02/26/2008 © Florida Today

Political favors aren't usually this blatant, or ill-timed.

State Sen. Mike Haridopolos is now also a full-time lecturer in the political science department at the University of Florida.

It's his right to seek a job beyond the part-time Senate position, and his background is as a history professor at Brevard Community College.

Outside employment is a necessity for some state lawmakers, who earn about $31,932 a year, plus a $126 per diem for expenses up to a maximum of 60 days.

But there's something a little too sweet about this deal.

Florida's universities are in the middle of an unprecedented crisis, with frozen enrollment, students unable to get the courses they need to graduate on time and professors fleeing for other states where higher education hasn't been crippled by slow fiscal starvation.

They need dollars to hire professors to ease overcrowded classrooms -- not hire Haridopolos who won't be responsible for teaching a regular load, with no courses in the spring when the Legislature is in session.

It's true his job is a joint appointment and that he'll log hours trying to place UF students in internships in the public policy arena for the new Graham Center for Public Service in Gainesville.
That's an admirable goal but something an administrative assistant could handle if power brokers such as Haridopolos stepped up voluntarily to help secure internships for deserving students.

Then there's the matter of salary.

At $75,000 annually, the Indialantic Republican -- who doesn't have a doctorate -- will be paid $5,000 more than his predecessor, who did. And much more than two other full-time PhD lecturers in the department, who are paid an average of $46,580.

What makes Haridopolos' deal with UF particularly egregious is this:

   He continually bangs the anti-tax drum of government waste -- including pushing hard for the passage of the recent property tax amendment that will cost public schools $1.5 billion over five years, but hasn't hesitated to take cushy posts at taxpayer expense.

When he was elected to the Senate in 2003, Brevard Community College created a special four-year contract for him under which he wasn't required to teach. Instead, he earned $40,000 annually to write a book about the history of the Legislature and his then three years of experience as a lawmaker.

Taxpayers might rightly ask where their signed copy of the book is, having footed the $160,000 bill for the tome, which has yet to be published.

   His position as Senate Finance and Tax Chairman -- and his likely promotion to Senate president in 2010 -- means he'll have tremendous influence on university funding, opening the door for conflicts of interest.

That the chairman of political science at UF says his department wasn't consulted in the hire compounds the appearance it was made in the hope of future special favors.

By greasing him into the position, UF has undermined the credibility of the entire university system with taxpayers -- and parents being asked to pay higher tuition and fees.

Both UF administrators and Haridopolos should have the good sense to see this as a bad decision and immediately undo the deal.
Call off Albert and Alberta, and deflate those orange and blue balloons.

The University of Florida's "Gator Day," an annual tradition in which UF officials promote the university at the state Capitol, has been canceled.

The decision to forgo the affair, which typically includes decking out the Capitol in Gator colors, was made to help cut costs during a lean budget year, officials said.

"It was kind of done as a result of the budget situation, just to demonstrate to people that we really are serious about controlling our costs, and that was one of the things we decided we could do without this year," said Joe Hice, UF's associate vice president for marketing and public relations.

UF typically spends about $10,000 on Gator Day, Hice said.

Facing the same bleak budget situation, Florida State University has also canceled its day at the Capitol, FSU officials confirmed.

The University of Florida's Gator Party and Orange and Blue Party squared off in a debate Monday night featuring their candidates for president, vice president and treasurer.

The debate, hosted by the Freshman Leadership Council, was presented to a packed house in the Reitz Union Arredondo Room.

All six candidates expressed their answers to student-posed questions on issues ranging from the online voting controversy and safety on campus to sustainability and budget cuts.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to present ideas and have them challenged," said Kevin Reilly, the Gator Party presidential candidate.
The debate started with questions for the treasurer candidates Shea Parrish, from the Orange and Blue Party, and Paul Drayton, from the Gator Party.

Both candidates agreed that the recent $6.2 million budget cut will not affect student programming and the SG student activities budget.

According to Drayton, student activity fees are actually increasing and will create a larger budget for student organizations in the upcoming year.

Yooni Yi, Gator party vice presidential candidate, and Frank Bracco, vice presidential candidate from the Orange and Blue Party, disagreed over the improvements needed in Student Government and on the UF campus.

Bracco suggested that the main problems in student government surround a lack of community involvement and partnership with students and organizations. Most students don't feel that SG represents them, he said.

Yi said that she accepts the challenge to improve Student Government. "When the going is easy, you're going downhill," she said.

When asked what their major concerns were about the other party, both Reilly and Orange and Blue Party candidate Tommy Jardon had strong opinions.

"I'm concerned things are going to stay just the way they are," Jardon said.

He went on to criticize the lack of checks and balances in Student Government, citing the appointment of the SG Supreme Court as an example.

Reilly quickly answered that his concern about the other party was the "unrealistic platform full of half truths and whole lies."

The discussion about online voting, the night's most heated topic, focused on the decision by the UF Supreme Court to rule online voting unconstitutional. Jardon disagreed with the Supreme Court's ruling.

"It's the wisdom of the voters to decide what is a constitutional amendment and what is not," he said. "Everywhere it has been tried it has increased voter turnout."

He used FSU, FIU and UCF as examples of major universities with online voting. He also added that the faculty senate at UF is elected via online voting.
Jardon said that the convenience of online voting will help students who don't want to stand in line on campus to vote. He suggested that platforms and candidate profiles also be available online to inform students prior to voting.

"When they skip that Tuesday class, they won't skip voting," he said. Students can even voted naked from home, he joked.

Reilly supported the SG Supreme Court's decision and stressed that interaction between candidates and students is more important than simply reading a platform and then voting.

In talking about going green, both presidential candidates suggested more improvements need to be made. Jardon pointed out that last year's voters voted "yes" to a sustainability initiative.

Reilly also said the creation of a sustainability minor and using biodiesel fuel on buses are important issues to his party.

In light of the recent NIU tragedy, both presidential candidates were asked how they felt about the security on campus.

Jardon said that UF is one of the worst-lit campuses, and improvements such as more lighting, more blue lights and more SNAP vans are needed to ensure student safety.

Reilly stressed safety both on and off campus as important to the Gator Party.

"Drinking and driving is at an epidemic level on our campus. Drinking and driving is at an epidemic level in our city," he said. "We are not only residents of UF but also residents of Gainesville."

Overall, both parties encouraged students to vote today and Wednesday.

"Every year it's a struggle for parties to fight apathy and bring people out to vote," Jardon said. "The power of democracy is letting every voter decide."

Surveys sent out to gauge the health of UF students - News - GainesvilleSun.com 02/26/2008 © Gainesville Sun
More than 8,000 University of Florida students have been e-mailed health surveys that include questions about mental and physical health, sexuality and drug use.

Healthy Gator 2010 e-mailed the surveys "to collect data about risk and protective behaviors and prevalence of a variety of health problems and conditions that may affect the academic performance of UF students," according to the survey organizers.

The potential survey respondents are offered incentives to complete the survey. The first 10, middle 10 and last 10 survey respondents will receive $50 gift cards to the UF Bookstore - an incentive funded by the UF College of Health and Human Performance.

Healthy Gator 2010 is a coalition of students, faculty and staff from more than 40 UF departments and organizations. The 8,000 students who received the survey were randomly selected by the UF Registrar's Office.

Shirley Haberman, the data collection and analysis work group chair for Healthy Gators 2010, said the student surveys conduct important research on behalf of the Healthy Gators campaign.

"The survey responses are used to plan programs, allocate resources and design intervention strategies," Haberman said. "They are used as a benchmark against national data and measure our progress on Healthy Campus 2010 objectives."

"The main goal of Healthy Gators 2010 is to promote a campus environment supportive of the development and maintenance of a healthy body, mind and spirit for all members of the UF community," Haberman said.

Healthy Gators intends on administering the survey every two or three years, Haberman said.

Amber Reilly, a 20-year-old UF junior, participated in the survey. After receiving an e-mail requesting her participation, Reilly followed the Web site link to the survey, which was posted using www.surveymonkey.com, a Web site that enables users to create professional surveys online.

"It took about 15 minutes," Reilly said. "Some of the questions were pretty personal, but it guaranteed all answers would be anonymous."
A former Costa Rican presidential candidate will deliver the 2008 Bacardi Lecture at the University of Florida on Wednesday.

Professor Ottón Solís, Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar at the UF Center for Latin American Studies will lecture on "Winners and Losers in Free Trade Agreements: The View from the South," at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Presidents Room of Emerson Alumni Hall.

Solís has twice run for president in Costa Rica and was founding president of Costa Rica's Citizens Action Party. Solís lost the 2006 elections by less than one percent. In 2007 he led the opposition to his nation's signing of the Central American Free Trade Agreement with the United States. Solís, an economist, has served as a congressman in his nation and as the Minister of Planning and Economic Policy. A twice published book author, Solís is currently researching the impact of free trade agreements on development and democracy.

According to UF, the Bacardi Family Eminent Scholar Chair in Latin American Studies was established in 1991 through the leadership of Bacardi Imports Inc. and the collaboration of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the state of Florida. Officials said the endowment allows the Center for Latin American Studies to invite distinguished scholars and public figures to teach, lecture, mentor students and carry out research at the university.

**University of North Florida**

No Articles Today

**University of South Florida**

No Articles Today

**University of West Florida**

No Articles Today

**State Higher Education Issues**

Editorial: Florida's class war has ended and our students lost

02/26/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel
As a faculty member at Broward Community College, I cannot let BCC President David Armstrong's assertion that Jeb Bush's policies have improved Florida education go unanswered. President Armstrong worked for Jeb Bush as the Florida community college chancellor. Perhaps he should review these facts.

Florida student Scholastic Achievement Test scores were 1,001 in 1998 compared to a 1,017 national average, before Bush became governor. In 2007, SAT scores were 993 compared to 1,017 nationally. More students are taking the test, but facts don't support the thesis that Bush's programs have improved K-12 education.

If Bush's programs improved student preparation, why is it that the number of community college prep students increased from 27,120 in 2001-02 to 27,351 in 2005-06, according to the Florida Department of Education's community college Fact Book?

Florida's schools and colleges and universities regressed under Jeb Bush because he defunded them, just as Charlie Crist and the Republican Legislature plan to do by gutting the property tax base in Florida. Jeb cut taxes for his rich friends, but eviscerated public school funding. The most recent U.S. Department of Education Center for Education Statistics report shows that in 1997-98 Florida spent $5,552 per public school pupil compared to the U.S. $6,189 average — a $637 per pupil funding deficit. In 2004-05, Florida funding increased to $7,215, but the national average rose to $8,701 — making the Florida funding deficit $1,486 per pupil.

In Florida, the class war is over. Our students lost.

James Wilson

**Don't cut students' college grants**
02/26/2008 © Gainesville Sun

As reported in the Feb. 20 story Don't kill our dreams, Barry students urge, thousands of college students across Florida might not have the chance to improve their futures with a college education if the state slashes funding for private-university grant programs.

Funding for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) is at risk of being cut in half. FRAG offers up to $3,000 a year in state resources to qualifying students. Also at risk is the Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) grant, a smaller program with the same mission that offers up to $1,250 a year.
The proposed budget cuts put the state's 40,000 ABLE and FRAG recipients in jeopardy of losing financial aid that is vital to pursuing their college education. Not surprisingly, minorities will be the hardest hit. Data show that 43 percent of FRAG recipients are minorities, with 35 percent of recipients coming from families earning less than $60,000 a year.

Once considered to be available only for affluent students, Florida's private institutions play an increasing role in providing higher education for all students, particularly minorities. Overcrowding has forced public universities to freeze or reduce student enrollment, making it more difficult for minority students to gain access to public higher education.

This makes the role of nonprofit private institutions more important than ever in delivering the dream of higher education. Almost 70 percent of students at Johnson & Wales University are minorities, compared to 40 percent at state universities. Maintaining funding for the FRAG and ABLE programs is a good way to show that we believe these students deserve our support.

Families with students seeking private higher education need to contact their legislators to express their concern over this potential loss of funding.

DONALD G. McGREGOR, president, Johnson & Wales University, North Miami

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National Higher Education Issues

Professors React to Southern Methodist's Agreement on Bush Library and Think Tank - Chronicle.com
02/26/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

Southern Methodist University publicly released the terms of its agreement with the George W. Bush Presidential Library Foundation on Monday afternoon, three days after finalizing a deal for the university to be the host of the president's official library and museum.

Faculty members at Southern Methodist have only begun to digest the 143-page document. But in interviews late Monday, several faculty members offered provisional thoughts on the agreement. Some were hopeful about the deal. Others worried about the future of Southern Methodist's academic culture. And still others raised concerns about the entire system of federally administered presidential archives.
Battle Over Institute

By far the most controversial element of the Bush foundation's project is a conservative policy institute that will be affiliated with the library and museum. Unlike similar think tanks and academic units at libraries affiliated with the former presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, the institute created by George W. Bush will not be governed by its host university. Instead, the institute's personnel will report to the Bush foundation.

The library and museum themselves, like all other modern presidential libraries, will be administered by the National Archives and Records Administration, a federal agency.

In a series of resolutions over the last 18 months, Southern Methodist's Faculty Senate has urged the university's administration to set careful ground rules for any joint faculty appointments between the university and the proposed institute. If the policy institute's fellows are invited to teach courses at the university, the Senate declared in an October 2007 resolution, they should be "fully subject to the policies and expectations of the university."

The final agreement released on Monday sketches rules for the relationship, and it appears to have satisfied some but not all of the Faculty Senate's requests. The university and the institute will form an academic advisory committee, with an equal number of personnel from both parties, to oversee concurrent appointments and to develop joint projects.

In an e-mail message to *The Chronicle* on Monday, Edward S. Countryman, a professor of history and a member of the Faculty Senate, said he was hopeful about the ground rules for concurrent appointments. On this matter Southern Methodist's president, R. Gerald Turner, has been responsive to the faculty's concerns, Mr. Countryman believes.

But Mr. Countryman is much less happy about provisions that allow the university to make two appointments to the Bush foundation's board of directors and at least one appointment to the policy institute's board of directors. Those provisions, Mr. Countryman wrote, are much too weak, because the foundation retains the right to reject a particular nominee and to ask the university to try again until it names someone acceptable to the foundation.

"The veto power seems absolute and discretionary on the Bush foundation's part," Mr. Countryman wrote, "and seems to point, as I would have feared anyway, toward ... , instead of the open discussion of the Bush Presidency that I
think the Presidential Records Act is intended to bring about, a situation where dissenting opinion will have no place."

That opinion was echoed by Alexis McCrassen, an associate professor of history and a member of the Faculty Senate. The foundation's veto power "is problematic, to put it lightly," she said in an interview.

During the last year, SMU's administration has given the Senate too little information about what the foundation wanted, Ms. McCrassen said, with the result that "we were arguing in a vacuum."

But Ms. McCrassen added that she was happy about one element of the contract: a clause that requires all parties to tell the public that the policy institute is not part of Southern Methodist. (The university's name should not appear on the institute's letterhead, for example.) "I'm very pleased that that made that explicit," she said. "That's something that many of us were concerned about."

The Faculty Senate's president-elect, Dennis A. Foster, wrote in an e-mail message to The Chronicle that he is generally hopeful about the relationship between Southern Methodist and the Bush library complex.

"What is important is that the Senate claimed a right to be part of the ongoing discussion," wrote Mr. Foster, who is a professor of English. "If we remain attentive and vocal, we should be able to preserve our academic autonomy and still take advantage of whatever good the library, and perhaps even the institute, may bring. But it does bring a level of responsibility for the faculty to be vigilant that we have not had to assume in the past. And in some ways, I am sorry that so much of our energy will have to be channeled into that duty."

James F. Hollifield, a professor of political science and a strong supporter of the project, said that he is confident that the institute will enrich the community's intellectual life and that the university can maintain its academic integrity.

"This is a very, very detailed agreement," Mr. Hollifield said. "My sense is that, at least initially, this is going to be much less of a work in progress than what you have seen with previous libraries of this sort." When the Carter and George H.W. Bush libraries opened, he said, "I doubt that there was nearly as much planning and groundwork. There's been so much scrutiny here that I think they've tried to dot every i and cross every t."
Money and Mystery

Among those i's and t's are provisions for fund-raising. The agreement stipulates that the university and the foundation will work together to raise $500-million to support the library's construction and to create various endowments. Most of that money will be controlled by the foundation. But after the first $200-million is raised, 15 percent of any remaining money will go into a "restricted endowment established by SMU for underwriting SMU's share of the costs of joint programs conducted with the institute, library, and museum."

Ms. McCrossen said that she and other faculty members have been anxious about the widespread perception that donations to presidential library funds are sometimes corrupt. Writing a check toward a library, it is said, is an easy—and often anonymous—way to curry favor with a president who is about to leave office. After the controversial pardons granted at the end of Bill Clinton's term, there was a move in Congress to require greater disclosure of donors to library funds. (Such concerns pre-date Mr. Clinton's presidency. Just before he left office, George H.W. Bush pardoned Edwin L. Cox Jr., the scion of a wealthy Texas family that gave at least $100,000 to his library foundation soon after the pardon.)

In March 2007, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would require the disclosure of most donations to presidential libraries. That bill is now being prevented from reaching the Senate floor because Sen. Ted Stevens, Republican of Alaska, has placed a hold on it. In an e-mail message to The Chronicle on Monday, a spokesman said that "the senator continues to support the proposed reforms, as he supported them earlier in the current administration. However, there are now concerns about unfairly applying the new standards to Bush's administration at the very end of his term, and Stevens would prefer a bill that only applies to future presidencies."

A final set of concerns involves the general management of presidential archives—a question that is outside the direct control of the university or the Bush foundation. In 2001, President Bush promulgated an executive order that gave presidents and ex-presidents much more latitude to restrict the release of White House documents. While relatively few documents have actually been withheld under the order, it has reportedly slowed down the processing of historians' requests by six months or more (The Chronicle, March 9, 2007).

Part of that executive order was struck down by a federal court last October, but most of its provisions remain. The House of Representatives passed a bill by a wide margin last March that would rescind the executive order—but that bill, too, has been placed under a hold in the Senate and remains in limbo there.
Last year, Southern Methodist's history department unanimously passed a resolution denouncing the executive order and asking Mr. Turner, Southern Methodist's president, to raise the issue with President Bush. "I thought that was a very clever tactic," said Stanley I. Kutler, a professor emeritus of history at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who famously sued to force the preservation and public release of many of President Richard Nixon's papers.

But Mr. Turner apparently did not press the issue. In an e-mail message to The Chronicle on Monday, a spokeswoman for Southern Methodist wrote that "it is SMU’s position that this topic is more appropriately addressed by the courts and by Congress. We know that presidential libraries are for the long term and that policies governing them can change over time. We are confident that the library will be a plentiful and useful source of information."

Benjamin H. Johnson, an associate professor of history at Southern Methodist who helped to organize that resolution, said on Monday that he is hopeful that any of the three remaining major presidential candidates would overturn the executive order.

Mr. Johnson said that he and most other library skeptics will cautiously observe the long-term effects of the library and institute on Southern Methodist's culture. "I feel like we made our case last year about the problematic nature of the institute," he said. "Now we have to wait and see."

"The fundamental problems lie in the presidential-library system itself," Mr. Johnson added, "in the way that mixes what is on the one hand the public documents, which are under the custodianship of the public institutions, with the partisan, political, and family interests of the ex-presidents. And those issues can't be solved at SMU under any sort of leadership."

**Maryland Bills Would Hand Labor Rights to TA's, Adjuncts - Chronicle.com**

When graduate students who work as teachers and researchers at the University of Maryland at College Park reignited their efforts to gain collective-bargaining rights this past fall, they knew they would be waging an uphill battle.

Maryland's labor laws don't grant those rights to graduate students or adjunct professors, even if they do form a union. And university administrators, who
could voluntarily recognize a graduate-student union, have made it known that they are not inclined to do so.

So the graduate students, who are organizing as a group called Maryland Teachers and Researchers, are looking to another powerful state institution — Maryland's General Assembly — for help in changing the rules.

Their lobbying has already borne its first fruit: the introduction of legislation in both chambers of the assembly that would grant graduate students and adjuncts in Maryland's public colleges and universities collective-bargaining rights.

Still, the efforts to win over lawmakers and university administrators signal how difficult it is for graduate students to gain recognition for a union in states like Maryland, where collective-bargaining laws don't work in their favor.

The push for "enabling legislation," as it is called, has been a cornerstone of unionization campaigns in other states and is viewed as a surefire way to gain a seat at the bargaining table. But getting such bills signed into law has had mixed success, and the process sometimes takes years.

At Maryland, Kyle B. Gustafson, a doctoral student in physics and a member of the organizing committee for Maryland Teachers and Researchers, says the group wants to gain the status enjoyed by graduate students and adjuncts at other public universities.

"We look at what the other top universities have — Berkeley and Illinois and Michigan — all of these top universities have bargaining units," he observes. "You look at Maryland, and you have a Democratic governor here and you say, 'This might be the year to get it done.'"

Sen. Jamin B. Raskin, who sponsored the bill in the legislature's upper chamber, has a background in labor issues. Before he was elected senator a little more than a year ago, he was the chair of the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board. He has already found 11 co-sponsors for the bill.

"If we're going to use graduate students for the purpose of carrying big teaching loads and working with undergraduates — and we should — we have to recognize that they are indeed in a contractual relationship with the university," says Senator Raskin, a Democrat who is a law professor at American University. "Nobody's ever going to get rich being a Ph.D. student, but there has to be some decent level of support and respect."

Public-Private Divide
The unionization of graduate students at private colleges and universities falls under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board, which ruled in 2004 that graduate students are indeed students, and not employees who can bargain collectively. However, that hasn't stopped graduate students at such institutions from trying to seek recognition, with little or no success.

Public institutions are governed by state law. Graduate students who teach classes, do research for faculty members, or work as administrative staff members have had union representation at some public institutions for decades now. In fact, teaching assistants at the University of Wisconsin at Madison won their first contract in 1969. Since that time, unions have won the right to bargain on behalf of more than 55,000 graduate employees at nearly 80 public universities, according to the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions.

Maryland's College Park campus has about 10,000 graduate students. About 40 percent of them were graduate assistants in the fall of 2006, according to the most recent annual report from the university's graduate school. The minimum stipend paid by the university to those students in this academic year for a nine-and-a-half month assistantship is $13,826. It is a sum that Laura Moore, president of Maryland's graduate-student government, says has not kept pace with rent for graduate-student housing. For instance, she points out that while stipends rose 4.5 percent last year, rent rose 9 percent during the same period.

Ms. Moore also says that a union would strengthen graduate students' hands by allowing them to negotiate benefits and work on concerns about unpaid overtime. She points to a 2006 survey of graduate assistants conducted by the university, which showed that teaching assistants worked an average of 29 hours per week, nine hours more than the allotted 20 hours required for the stipend.

"The fact that we don't have a right to be at the table has meant our situation has become close to untenable," says Ms. Moore, a master's candidate in entomology who participated in the lobbying campaign that led Senator Raskin to introduce his bill. "Without this basic accountability measure, I don't think things are going to change."

The American Federation of Teachers, which represents about 20,000 graduate students nationally, is helping organize the graduate-student union at Maryland and is lobbying Maryland lawmakers about the new legislation.

However, not all graduate students in the University System of Maryland support unionization on their campuses. The president of the graduate students association at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Jessy Warner-
Cohen, says the association "has a very good relationship with our administration that we've worked hard to create. We think that even the potential of a union could undercut that relationship."

She mentioned a recently approved policy on graduate-student leaves — in the works for about two years — as one example of how administrators have worked with graduate students on issues of importance to them.

Ms. Warner-Cohen, a Ph.D. student in clinical psychology, shared the association's concerns about the bill during testimony she gave last week at a House of Delegates Appropriations Committee hearing.

"We are worried about what could happen to our campus," Ms. Warner-Cohen says. "We've been talking to some of our delegates, and we've just been seeing how things are going."

**Altering States**

Craig P. Smith, deputy director of the American Federation of Teachers higher-education division, says winning the passage of new enabling legislation "is a very difficult task in the current environment." Over the past six years, such laws have only been successful in Washington State, where graduate-student employees at the University of Washington at Seattle won the right to bargain collectively, and in Illinois.

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a lengthy effort to organize a union for graduate students that began in the 1990s included years of legal battles and some failed attempts to change the state's labor laws. But two major sit-ins helped compel the university to recognize a union in 2002, and a law that gave graduate students collective-bargaining rights ultimately passed in 2004, the same year the union negotiated its first contract.

Dave Kamper, a teaching assistant during those turbulent times at the Illinois university who was an active member of the graduate-employee organization, said a key lesson from that experience was "the importance of organizing and being in a union even if you don't have the right to be in one. If we had simply folded up and gone quietly, we would never have gotten that legislation passed."

Mr. Kamper, who is now a field service director for the Illinois Federation of Teachers, says that subsequent organizing efforts at the University of Illinois's campuses in Springfield and Chicago were much easier because of the legislation: "Once you get a law in place, it's very difficult to keep graduate employees away from organizing, frankly."
Ohio is another state that could soon witness a similar battle. At Ohio State University, the co-president of the college's graduate-student-employee organization is hopeful that legislators in that state will revive a previous attempt to get collective-bargaining rights for graduate students and part-time faculty members.

Ryan Phillips, a political-science Ph.D. student, says the group has already spoken with members of the Ohio governor's staff. Meanwhile, he and other members of the group's organizing committee continue to drum up support for a union among the university's roughly 5,000 graduate students.

Recently, out of 70 people approached in a card drive, 45 people signed up, Mr. Phillips says.

"We want to get a majority and then go back to the administration and see what they say," Mr. Phillips says. "We want to be recognized, and hopefully we'll be able to convince them this is just the right thing to do."

Murky Prospects

But the University System of Maryland, of which most of the institutions affected by the proposed legislation are a part, disagrees. Lawmakers heard the system's opposition to the bill during the House hearing last week.

"We don't view it as an employment relationship — it's an educational relationship," says Patrick J. Hogan, associate vice chancellor for government relations for the system.

In addition, Mr. Hogan says, when graduate students have housing or workload-related issues "there is the ability now to go to the department chair and work things out. We have a shared governance process that has worked very well for decades."

Anxiety on behalf of university officials is often at the root of union struggles, Senator Raskin says.

"We live in a country where there is an instinctive resistance to letting people unionize," he says. "The people who run the University of Maryland system are very good people who are invested in the success of the university and their student employees. I want to encourage these great educators to overcome any irrational fear of unions for young people at our universities."

The collective-bargaining bill's ultimate prospects in Maryland aren't yet clear. Christine Hansen, a spokesman for Gov. Martin O'Malley, says he hasn't yet
reviewed the bill, but he "has a record of supporting the freedom of all workers to have their voices heard."

The hearing last week on an identical bill sponsored by Del. Barbara A. Frush in Maryland's House will be followed by a Senate hearing is scheduled for early March. Meanwhile, organizers for Maryland Teachers and Researchers have been asking various groups on the campus to show their support by contacting lawmakers. And they plan to keep signing up students as members of the union.

Mr. Raskin says he told the students at Maryland "to be prepared to work for this for a long period of time. Union struggles are always for the long haul."

Ms. Moore, for her part, says if the legislation doesn't pass this year, the group will try again the next. She graduates in May.

"I'm optimistic," she says.

**Landmark Digital History Monograph Project Goes Open Access - Chronicle.com**
02/26/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

Without much fanfare, Columbia University Press has radically restructured Gutenberg-e, its high-profile experiment with digital history monographs, from a subscription-only series to an open-access model. The 36 titles will also be available—in somewhat different form, and enhanced with related scholarship—through Humanities E-Book, a subscription-only collection of digital versions of humanities monographs administered by the American Council of Learned Societies, or ACLS.

The Columbia press has been quietly making the monographs freely available since late fall, but the association announced the news on its blog only this month. Gutenberg-e's switch to open access highlights some of the financial and logistical difficulties that can hamper attempts to establish a viable e-monograph series in the humanities—not that many have yet tried.

Gutenberg-e was created in 1999 in collaboration with the American Historical Association, with financial backing from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The idea was to hold a yearly competition for the six best dissertations in subdisciplines that were considered difficult to publish in, including African and colonial Latin American history. The series has also focused on women's and gender history, military history, pre-1800 Europe, and pre-1900 North America.
Cost, unsurprisingly, proved to be one of the bigger obstacles to the success of the original Gutenberg-e model. That platform allowed authors to do a multitude of things, in various media, that they wouldn't have been able to do in print. For instance, one scholar, Helena Pohlandt-McCormick, created an interactive archive of 1,300 digital images for her book 'I Saw a Nightmare...': Doing Violence to Memory: The Soweto Uprising, June 16, 1976. But adding such innovations required a large investment of technological as well as editorial and authorial expertise, and subscription revenues didn't generate enough to meet that burden.

"It appears that the basic costs of preparing the Gutenberg-e titles for online publication were not sustainable without a significant revenue stream or outside support," Robert B. Townsend, the association's assistant director for research and publications, wrote in the blog announcement "We have not been able to create a sustainable financial model for the publication of these online scholarly monographs." He noted that only the support of the Mellon foundation and Columbia University had kept the project going.

**Not So Brave New World?**

It also appears that the demand for digital publishing opportunities for monographs by academics wasn't as great as the association anticipated. In an interview, Mr. Townsend said the association had set out not just "to legitimize the electronic monograph" but to meet a publishing need that turned out to be less pressing than it appeared to be a decade ago.

"We kept going into fields that we heard were endangered, and we got a much smaller pool of applicants than we expected," he said. "The return word was that people were pretty confident that they could get their books published in print."

He called this the "field-of-dreams scenario—just because we built it didn't necessarily mean that people were going to come. Building a structure that would legitimize these objects was a big problem."

Kate Wittenberg, the manager of e-publishing programs in Columbia's Center for Digital Research and Scholarship, has overseen Gutenberg-e since its inception. Digital publication turned out to be more labor-intensive than anticipated, she said, which offset any savings in printing, binding, warehousing, and other print-based expenses.

Ms. Wittenberg praised "the courage and creativity and innovation" of the scholars who participated, but says that even this Web-savvy generation of authors needed editorial and technical help at every stage. "If we misjudged anything, it would be that, at some point, authors wouldn't need that kind of
support past a certain point of thinking through their projects," she said. That turned out not to be the case.

Still, "we've seen an extraordinarily collaborative model develop in which authors and designers and production staff have worked together as a team in a way I've never seen with print," Ms. Wittenberg said. "I can't help thinking that's the model we're moving toward in the future."

At least one Gutenberg-e author, Sarah Lowengard, reported feeling more like a content provider than a partner in the project. "We didn't design the project; we aren't managing the project; we are simply the recipients of its largess," she said.

Ms. Lowengard, a historian of science and technology who teaches on the humanities and social-sciences faculty at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, is the author of *The Creation of Color in 18th-Century Europe*. She described the overall experience as "very positive." She also pointed to a number of challenges presented by the model, including the highly experimental nature of the venture, the rapidly changing technological environment of the last decade, and the difficulties of working out "the social patterns of a large grant like this," in which multiple partners have to sort out competing visions.

"The fact that they're able to produce books period is really, really remarkable," said Ms. Lowengard.

**Fresh Challenges**

Although Ms. Lowengard welcomed Gutenberg-e's move to join the Humanities E-Book project, she expressed more reservations about the open-access model that is being offered simultaneously by Columbia. For instance, that model requires authors to get fresh permission to use certain images, which could be a genuine hassle for visually rich e-monographs.

"I told all of the authors that they needed to review their permissions for images" to make sure they had clearance to reproduce those images in a freely accessible online format, Ms. Wittenberg said. "In any cases where the agreements stipulated that the Web site had to be restricted to subscribers, the authors will request permission to use the material on the open-access site. Most of the agreements did not require restricted access, but in any cases that do, we are prepared to renegotiate rights arrangements."

Ms. Lowengard also raised a question that, in one form or another, has dogged the Gutenberg-e series: how to get the attention of the field. "I worry about the perception of these books when they're available in open access," she said,
wondering whether reviewers would be inclined to take open-access monographs seriously.

The press and the historical association have announced each batch of Gutenberg-e titles as they appeared—the final group should be ready this summer—but it has been tough to persuade book-review editors to take a look at monographs that they cannot physically hold or ship out for review. Several people close to the project expressed frustration that Gutenberg-e monographs haven't gotten more scholarly attention already. Although some journals have written about them, "they haven't been reviewed all the way across the spectrum of academic journals and less-academic journals like The New York Review of Books," said Robert Darnton, the director of the University Library at Harvard University. "I confess to disappointment on that score." Mr. Darnton was president of the historical association in 1999, the year the project was born, and served as the guiding spirit behind Gutenberg-e.

Certain historical circles, he said, cling to the belief that the old ways are best. "My main worry is that there may still be some members of the old guard who don't believe that an e-book is a real book," he said. "It could be that in some history departments, the attachment to the traditional codex is so strong that it has created a prejudice against the newer modes of communication."

He added, "The fact that they haven't received the attention they deserve is an example of the bumpiness that occurs when you venture into new territory. So there will be difficulties. I think that's inevitable. But that's not in itself an argument against the general tendency."

**Crossing Platforms**

Open access may increase the likelihood that scholars will seek out and cite Gutenberg-e titles. But the Humanities E-Book option could also enhance their attractiveness to scholars, even though it's a subscription model.

Its platform allows it to give users what its co-director Ronald G. Musto describes as "thick scholarly context—that is, our titles are interlinked with reviews and with related historiography," which the authors provide.

The council's venture took shape at the same time Gutenberg-e did and was also financed by the Mellon foundation. Because of that joint start, the people involved with each project compared notes over the years, Mr. Musto said, and eventually a consensus developed that Gutenberg-e's monographs would fit nicely into the Humanities E-Book project. "It seemed like a natural fit that we should do this," Mr. Musto explained. "We don't derive any extra income from
having these books" on board, he added; subscribers buy access to the entire collection, not just to specific titles.

Humanities E-Book's subscription-driven model became self-sustaining in 2005, according to Mr. Musto. The database contains more than 2,000 books, he said, and is adding more at a rate of about 500 a year.

It also offers a more consistent, standardized format than Gutenberg-e does. "Our interface is much more predictable," Mr. Musto said. Although it can handle all the sound files and images that the Gutenberg-e platform supports, he added, it may not do full justice to each project's individual flourishes. "Sometimes you may lose a little pizazz on the page," Mr. Musto said, "but you can judge for yourself. Compare the navigability, the searchability, the provision for reviews, for related scholarship."

"Gutenberg-e books will live in two different forms," the historical association's Mr. Townsend explained. "The ones at Columbia will replicate the author's vision for what the books should look like. The ACLS books will have more connectivity. They're really two different models of what online books should look like."

**Evolution of Multimedia Model**

Mr. Townsend, Mr. Darnton, and Ms. Wittenberg all characterized the dual switch to open access and the Humanities E-Book as a logical next step rather than the end of the story.

"This whole project has been one big experiment, first to see what authors would do with the opportunity to experiment with multimedia elements, then to experiment with whether digital-only monographs would receive the same attention in the academic world as print monographs," Ms. Wittenberg said. "Now I feel we're in a third phase."

*The Chronicle* asked Mr. Darnton whether he considered Gutenberg-e a success. "I think it was an experiment that produced results, and the results are successful," he said. "I wouldn't call it an unmitigated success. In some ways, it was a disappointment."

But he remained optimistic. The transition to e-dissertations and e-monographs, he said, "is going to take time. It will be bumpy. But it will happen, and it's already happening in a way that will promote far richer communication in the world of learning."
Not only are college campuses safer than they used to be but they also have less crime than the country at large does, according to a report released last week by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The report, "Campus Law Enforcement 2004-5," updates one that the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics published more than a decade ago, using data from the 1994-95 academic year.

Over the 10-year span, the new report says, violent crimes on college campuses decreased by 9 percent, to 62 per 100,000 students in 2004. Private campuses reported twice as many violent crimes per student as public institutions did. But nationally, the rate was far higher: 466 violent crimes per 100,000 residents.

Property crimes on college campuses also declined — by 30 percent, to 1,625 per 100,000 students in 2004 — according to the report. Private colleges also reported a higher rate of property crimes than their public counterparts did, but the levels at both fell short of the national rate, 3,517 per 100,000 residents, the report says.

Its campus crime statistics come from the Education Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the Justice Department's own survey data. That department polled 750 four-year institutions with enrollments of at least 2,500 students and 163 two-year institutions with enrollments of more than 10,000, yielding data from more than 80 percent of each group.

**Level of Preparation**

Campus law-enforcement agencies are better prepared and equipped now than they were a decade ago, according to the report, which focuses more on those agencies than it does on crime data. Its findings reflect a continuing trend toward the professionalization of campus officers.

"These are not second-class police," said Jeffrey S. Jacobson, a lawyer in New York who specializes in campus law enforcement.

Three-quarters of campus agencies at four-year institutions employed sworn police officers — as opposed to security guards — and two thirds of all agencies at four-year colleges were armed in 2004-5, the report says. Among agencies that
responded to both the 1994-5 survey and the new one, the proportion of sworn officers rose slightly, by one percentage point, and the percentage of armed officers increased by six points.

But more campus agencies are now armed than the report's three-year-old data indicate. In the past year several institutions, including the University of Iowa and Worcester State College, have opted to arm their officers.

According to the report, nine in 10 sworn campus police forces had armed officers, and only one in 10 public-safety agencies did. One in five campus law-enforcement agencies authorized sworn officers to use Tasers and similar devices, it found, while one in four equipped unsworn officers with Tasers. These data are also for four-year institutions; the report includes two-year colleges only in its appendix.

Campus law-enforcement agencies employing sworn officers screened new hires more thoroughly than other agencies did. They almost always used criminal- and driving-record checks and sometimes incorporated psychological evaluations and aptitude tests, according to the report. Colleges' agencies were more likely than municipal police forces to require officers to have a college degree and to evaluate recruits' community-relations skills.

Across the country, the average campus law-enforcement agency had 34 full-time employees, or 3.8 for every 1,000 students, the report found. Where there were sworn officers, campuses had, on average, 2.3 per 1,000 students. Both of those measures were higher at private institutions, according to the report.

Howard University had the greatest number of full-time sworn officers, 166, of any institution surveyed. Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania each had 100 or more. New York University had the largest staff, 345, of any institution included in the report, but its officers were unsworn.

Policies and Profiles

Nearly all campus agencies surveyed—94 percent—had written emergency-preparedness plans, according to the report. But only 58 percent, it says, conducted related exercises in 2004-5.

The report also examines campus law-enforcement agencies' other emergency-preparedness activities, as well as their written policies (on racial profiling and the use of nonlethal force, for example), community-policing activities (like student ride-along programs and partnerships with citizen groups), and day-to-day responsibilities (like crime investigation and building security).
About 80 percent of sworn campus officers are male and 70 percent are white, according to the report.

The average starting salary for an entry-level officer was $22,300 in an unsworn agency and $30,600 in a sworn one; for a chief it was $61,700 over all. Although the salaries for sworn officers had risen since the last survey, the report found that municipal police forces generally still paid more.

_Wired Campus Blog - Chronicle.com_
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When Henry Jenkins was growing up, he wanted to be an expert in many things. His models? The Disney cartoon duck Ludwig von Drake (who bragged in his signature song about knowing everything about science and art), and the professor from _Gilligan’s Island_ on TV. “He knew everything,” Mr. Jenkins told a luncheon crowd at _The Chronicle’s_ Technology Forum in Tampa, Fla., “except how to get off the island.”

Mr. Jenkins, director of the comparative media-studies program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, did have a weightier theme than cartoon birds and televised castaways. How does technology enable a professor to project expertise beyond the private classroom and into a public space, he asked?

His ideas on this are complex, but one could gloss them this way: Just throw it out there.

He did that a few years ago with an essay about violence that was intended as Congressional testimony, but when he put it up on the Web it went viral and was published all over the place. And published not in the form he originally intended. But that didn’t really corrupt his ideas, Mr. Jenkins said. “The ideas gained greater power as I lost control over them.” — _Josh Fischman_

_Choice Tech Forum: Campus Rights vs. Copyrights_

Campus officials don’t want to be cops. They made that point loud and clear today in Tampa, Fla., in a panel discussion about the digital piracy of music and videos by college students. But a law professor and a representative of the movie industry told them that, in certain circumstances, colleges didn’t have much choice.
Stewart McLaurin, executive vice president for education affairs at the Motion Picture Association of America, seeks education before enforcement. College students are some of the movie industry’s best customers, he said, and his group doesn’t want to sue them. But the multibillion-dollar industry has to protect itself from theft, he went on. He would prefer to do that by educating students that getting a copy of a movie free, with no compensation to the copyright owners, is wrong.

No one disagreed. But Tracy Mitrano, director of information-technology policy at Cornell University, asked how committed the MPAA was to education. She, along with members of the audience of more than 200 people, objected to language in Congressional proposals during the past 12 months to promote the use of technology to catch copyright crooks—technology that doesn’t really work well. If education is the goal, college officials ask, why try to push an ineffective technical fix?

James Gibson, a law professor at the University of Richmond, pointed out that colleges were compelled to play cop only if they were aware of repeated instances of wrongdoing. But he had a question for those in the audience: If there was no legal pressure at all, and students were still grabbing movies and songs using a campus network, “what would you do?”

—Josh Fischman
Posted on Monday February 25, 2008 | Permalink | Comment [2]

**Chronicle Tech Forum: Top Trends in Campus Technology**

*Tampa —* The age of technology hype in higher education might be over, and that’s a good thing. That was one theme of the opening session of The Chronicle’s Technology Forum, taking place here this week.

For many years, technology at colleges was in a Cro-Magnon period, said Mark David Milliron, president of Catalyze Learning International. Any decision about technology was simply greeted with a cave-man-like grunt of “Technology, good!”

“People have realized now it’s a lot more difficult than that,” Mr. Milliron said. “Conversations are becoming much less hyperbolic and are happening much more slowly.”

But that doesn’t mean that the age of innovation is over, even if the “velocity” might slow down a bit, he argued. “We’ve got 15 or 20 years of really dynamic time before us.”

Among the top trends in college technology identified here:
• **Analytics:** Colleges are starting to better analyze the real costs and benefits of technology by using hard numbers on whether better outcomes are being reached. That’s part of the trend of asking harder questions about the benefits of technology, said Mr. Milliron.

• **Customer service:** Technology on campuses is starting to borrow customer-service techniques from Amazon and other online businesses. Or at least it needs to in order to meet the growing demands for such services from students, argued Richard A. DeMillo, dean and professor of computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

• **Outsourcing:** Colleges are starting to outsource technology services like e-mail. Institutions are also looking to collaborate with businesses or other colleges to tackle portions of IT infrastructure. Richard Garrett, program director and senior research analyst at Eduventures, said colleges needed to continually ask the question, “What is core business, and what should we outsource?”

The session ended with a quote from a poet, J.G. Holland. “That which grows fast, withers as rapidly. That which grows slowly, endures.”

“Since we move at a glacial pace, we should be OK,” said Warren Arbogast, a technology consultant who moderated the session. – Jeffrey R. Young