



Potential Substantive Issues

Governance

Relevant sections of the Florida Statutes must be changed to clearly delineate responsibilities of the Board of Governors, Legislature and the State Board of Education regarding the State University System. Additionally, these statutes need to conform to Article IX, Section 7 of Florida's Constitution which states that the Board of Governors "shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system".

Fees

- **Technology Fee**

Due to limited resources for the upcoming fiscal year, other sources of revenue must be identified in order to meet the technological needs associated with higher education. Each year, university technology infrastructure lags further behind, providing an impediment to the education of our students in this globally competitive world. Florida's public universities require a reliable and consistent means of ensuring that technology needed to educate Florida's students is available. A fee paid by students would address technology needs at each campus with students having a significant role in the establishment and expenditure of the funds.

- **Local Fees**

Universities are requesting that the Legislature raise the annual cap on increases of the health, activity and service, and athletic fees from five percent to eight percent per year and to raise the overall cap on these fees from 40% to 45% of resident undergraduate tuition.

21st Century Technology, Research and Scholarship Enhancement

In an effort to continue the State University System Research and Economic Development Investment Program, World Class Scholars program, and Centers of Excellence program created by the 2006 Florida Legislature, the Board of Governors is requesting consideration by the 2007 Florida Legislature for the appropriation of funds to be used by the state's public universities for conducting cutting-edge, state-of-the-art science and engineering research, acquiring specialized equipment to support research programs, fostering economic development, accelerating Florida's innovation economy and hiring world class scholars.

Facilities

The Chancellor and Board of Governors created a Facilities Task Force that has been charged with examining and making inclusive recommendations regarding all aspects relating to educational facilities. The report from this task force is due September 22. The recommendations will include issues related to revenue, process and procedures, and best practices. Chancellor Rosenberg will review this report and consider the recommendations in crafting his final recommendations to the Board of Governors at the November meeting.

Building Designations

As an effort to streamline the process, the state universities are requesting that the Board of Governors receive authority from the Florida Legislature to be responsible for the designation of buildings after living persons on the campuses of our institutions.

Medical Liability

Proposed revisions to s.1012.965 and s.1004.24, F.S. will ensure that university self-insurance programs are empowered to fully and exhaustively investigate allegations of medical malpractice brought against the entities it protects and ensure the university's participation in litigation when brought against its affiliates when that litigation is based in whole or part on care provided by university faculty and residents.

Administrative Revisions to University ORP Plans

The SUS will seek a change to the law governing the SUS Optional Retirement Program to allow participants the right to make a one-time switch to the FRS Defined Benefit plan. This change will align SUS personnel with personnel in other public higher education systems.

Student Safety and Security Act

State university police departments are seeking to be added to section 938.15, Florida Statutes, so that they can receive funding for officer training from the Additional Court Cost Clearing Fund. They also want to receive a share of the funds generated from payment of civil penalties based on violations within their jurisdictions as provided for in section 318.21, Florida Statutes. In addition, state university police departments are seeking funds to support the mandatory shift to the statewide communications system that improves the ability of various law enforcement agencies to work together.

First Generation Matching Grant Program

During the 2006 Session, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed HB 795, which established the First Generation Matching Grant Program to provide financial aid to undergraduate students at state universities who have financial need and whose parents have not earned a baccalaureate degree. For the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the recurring sum of \$6.5 million from the General Revenue Fund was appropriated to match private contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Currently, the statute does not allow universities to carry money forward from year to year, and does not provide

funds to bring in additional cohorts of students while providing on-going assistance to students served during 2006-2007. University representatives are seeking the ability to carry forward funds to ensure assistance for needy students throughout their undergraduate careers, seeking additional funding to serve new cohorts of students, and seeking a change in reporting dates to align with current data collection schedules.

Tuition Flexibility

The Board of Governors requires tuition and fee flexibility at the undergraduate level to meet local and national market conditions in attracting students and raising revenue.