

The Development of the State University System Legislative Budget Request

On March 23, 2006, the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) adopted policy guidelines for the development of the 2007-2008 State University System (SUS) Legislative Budget Request (LBR). Board members contended that the LBR should be need-based and should provide flexibility for the BOG and university boards of trustees to jointly manage the System to meet the critical needs of the State, to achieve the statewide goals and objectives of the SUS *Strategic Plan*, to address specific institutional concerns, and to demonstrate accountability/justification. The Guidelines also limited the submission of university issues to no more than 8% of their 2006-2007 recurring general revenue and lottery appropriations.

Board members specified that individual university proposals should address the following goals and objectives of the SUS *Strategic Plan*:

1. Access to and production of degrees.
2. Meeting statewide professional and workforce needs.
3. Building world-class academic programs and research capacity.
4. Meeting community needs and fulfilling unique institutional missions.

The LBR guidelines and instructions for submitting university issues were issued on March 29, 2006 with a requested submission date of June 23, 2006. The universities submitted issues equal to their allotted 8%, which totaled \$183 million for the system. All universities stayed within their 8% except for FGCU. FGCU's tremendous growth in the Southwest Florida region has placed extraordinary fiscal burdens on their campus. Thus their 8% allotment of \$3.7 million was not sufficient to address many of the issues.

The university submissions did not include other issues such as cost-to-continue items, enrollment growth, major gifts, and other priorities of the Board included in the LBR guidelines. Using the Board's guidelines as the point of reference, staff developed a number of questions that were used in analyzing university proposals. Questions used in analyzing each university issue included:

1. Is the issue a cost-to-continue issue (i.e., an issue that needs to be funded to continue current necessary operations of the state universities)?
2. Is the issue a restoration issue (i.e., an issue that restores reductions or that was funded from non-recurring appropriations in 2006-2007)?
3. Does the issue address one or more of the BOG goals listed above?
4. Does the issue address an unmet SUS or State need?
5. Is the issue duplicative of another SUS program?
6. Does the issue have measurable outcomes?
7. Is this issue necessary due to federal/state law or regulation?

8. Does the issue reference an action needing BOG approval (e.g., program, State of Florida Institute, branch campus)?
9. Is the need clearly stated and the cost clearly justified?
10. Is there an existing facility/space to support this issue?
11. Does this issue require a new facility or new equipment?
12. Have other supporting comments/documentation been provided?

After analyzing all issues, staff communicated with each university to provide them feedback. In some cases, universities were asked to submit additional data to support their issue.