

**Board of Governors General Office
2007-2008 Legislative Budget Request
Narrative Description**

SREB Increase – Through a compact entered into in 1948 by Florida and other Southern States, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) was created. The SREB was the nation's first interstate compact for education and assists state leaders by directing attention to key education issues; collecting, compiling and analyzing comparable data; and conducting broad studies and initiating discussions that help states and institutions form long-range plans, actions and policy proposals. Florida's annual membership dues are paid by the BOG office; they were formerly paid by the Board of Regents and then the Division of Colleges and Universities. For 2006-2007, the SREB's dues are \$182,400. SREB has indicated that the membership dues will increase another 3% in 2007-2008. Thus, \$5,500 is requested to cover the increase of Florida's membership in this organization.

Additional Positions – Seven new positions are requested and 2 current vacant positions will be reclassified to support the following Board activities:

1. Inspector General.
2. Senior Auditor to assist the inspector general in reviewing operational and financial audits.
3. Associate general counsel to provide research with regards to BOG and SUS issues and make recommendations to the BOG General Counsel.
4. A BOG liaison to assist the corporate secretary in carrying out the Board's activities and duties.
5. A senior external relations specialist to review and monitor legislation and other related activities and ensure that SUS program analysis and recommendations are coordinated with all entities.
6. Three Education policy analysts to focus on academic learning compacts, student diversity, research/economic development, best practices, medical initiatives and data and policy analysis issues. These positions may develop goals, standards, and measures that could be tracked in order to urge greater efficiencies in the State University System, in addition to providing research and analysis on economic development issues and continued development of expansion options for medical education.
7. A web manager to effectively communicate Board activities with constituents through the Board's internet site.

Additional expense and operating capital outlay funds are requested for the new positions.

Database Modernization Project – This request would modernize the State University System's (SUS) data collection process by procuring the necessary hardware, software and services in order to move off the mainframe and onto a newer platform running a modern database. The SUS has been recognized as

having one of the richest data sets of university information in the nation. The governing bodies of the SUS and the legislature had the foresight to create a system of data collection and exchange many years ago that today is the envy of many state university systems. However, because the system and processes were developed during a mainframe centric era, the data that have been collected and that are still collected today by the Board of Governors are not stored in a database but as a collection of "flat" files, dating back over 20 years.

Advantages of converting to a relational database would include:

- Faster, more complete, and more dynamic access to information and analysis for the Board, the Legislature, the Governor's office and other interested parties.
- Wider access within the BOG and the SUS.
- Lower operating costs for data manipulation.
- Easier historical analysis.
- Better fit with IT personnel pipeline.
- Improved ability to participate in K-20 data initiatives, including the Data Warehouse.

Additional Funds are requested to fill vacant positions. The Legislature provided partial funding of the Board's 2006-2007 LBR for funds to fill vacant positions. This request would allow the Board to fill all remaining vacant positions.

Additional Other Personal Services - These funds would allow the board to hire two (2) part time personnel to support Board activities.