



State University System System Initiatives

The following provides a brief explanation of the system initiatives included in the 2021-2022 Legislative Budget Request. More detailed information is available in the Board Office.

1. Distance Learning and Student Services-Library Services - \$20.9 million

Since July 2020, the Chancellor and staff of the Board of Governors have been working with staff in the Department of Education (DOE), Florida College System (FCS) Office, and the University of West Florida to ensure critical support services continue to be provided for SUS and Florida College System institutions until those services can be provided by a new host institution. Funding (\$21.9M) for essential and centralized services, plus a 3% overhead fee for the host institution, to support libraries, distance learning, and student services is being requested for the State University System and Florida College System. These funds provide essential services for libraries for shared e-resources as well as technical support for basic library services, including workflow (ordering, receiving, and invoicing payments), circulation of materials (annual circulation exceeds one million transactions for the FCS and over two million for the SUS), interlibrary loans, the discovery tool/catalog, and authentication for access to licensed resources. The funds also support services for distance learning, including the distance learning catalog, which is statutorily required to include distance learning courses for which distance learning fees are charged. Student services supported include the transient student application process, which processed over 60,000 applications last year for students taking courses at institutions other than their home institutions, and the ability for students to audit their transcripts to access current academic standing, the requirements for transferring to another institution, and all requirements necessary for graduation.

For a full description please see the materials in the Innovation & Online Committee.

2. State Fire Marshal Inspections - \$2.4 million

Pursuant to Section 633.218, Florida Statutes, the State Fire Marshal (SFM) is required to inspect all state-owned buildings on a recurring basis, and high-hazard occupancies must be inspected annually. The 4,000 plus buildings of the

State University System generally fall in the category of both state-owned and high hazard, and thus, as a practical matter, all university facilities are inspected every year by SFM employees.

Historically, the SFM has not assessed an inspection fee to the universities for the annual inspections. It appears that this practice dates back many years to the former Board of Regents with an agreement between Chancellor Reed and the SFM office. Section 633.218, Florida Statutes, provides that each state department must include in its annual budget proposal a request for sufficient funds to cover the costs of any fees imposed by the SFM services, including inspection fees. Pursuant to statutory language, the SUS requests recurring appropriations in the amount of \$2.4 million to cover the annual inspection costs for each university beginning with the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Below is a break-down from the SFM by university for the annual inspection fees:

Name	Annual Fee
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University	\$105,322.46
Florida Atlantic University	\$199,057.14
Florida Gulf Coast University	\$94,083.86
Florida International University	\$214,346.09
Florida Polytechnic University	\$13,849.24
Florida State University	\$428,669.57
New College of Florida	\$19,264.99
University of Central Florida	\$225,543.50
University of Florida	\$611,994.82
University of North Florida	\$85,111.69
University of South Florida	\$326,226.05
University of West Florida	\$62,876.26
Total:	\$2,386,345.67

**3. University of Florida - Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Workload - \$3.7 million**

The UF-IFAS Workload Formula is a cost to continue funding formula that responds to increased research and extension workload demand. It was developed at the request of, and approved by, the Board of Governors in 2004. The legislative request for 2021-2022 increased workload is \$3.7 million.

The model uses extension delivery methods to measure increases in workload by both extension and research faculty in the form of workload delivery units. The model uses non-traditional teaching methods (such as field consultations, office consultations, telephone and email requests, group workshops, and printed materials) and converts these contacts to the equivalent of student FTEs. These delivery methods are converted by multiplying by a factor to account for level of effort and then divided by 40, which is the number used to convert student credit hours to FTE. The total IFAS research and extension budget (General Revenue) is divided by this number to determine the value of a workload delivery unit.

The request for UF-IFAS Workload addresses three separate priorities of the University of Florida in their strategic plan: (1) to have “an exceptional academic environment, achieved by a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff”; (2) “growth in research and scholarship that improves the lives of the world’s citizens”; and (3) to have “a physical infrastructure and efficient administration and support structure that enables preeminence”.

4. Johnson Scholarship Program - \$40K (\$20K nonrecurring)

The Theodore and Vivian M. Johnson Scholarship is a need-based scholarship program for undergraduate, degree-seeking students with disabilities attending a state university in Florida. Recipients must be a Florida resident for tuition purposes, must meet certain academic requirements, must have demonstrated financial need, and must provide documentation regarding the nature and/or extent of their disability.

Funding in support of the Johnson Scholarships originates from two sources; funds provided annually by the Johnson Scholarship Foundation and the related 50% matching funds provided by the Florida Legislature in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The Johnson Scholarship Foundation has notified the Board of Governors of a \$40K recurring increase in the Foundation’s support of the scholarship program, from \$475K to \$515K annually. This request for additional state matching consists of \$40K (\$20K recurring increase and \$20K nonrecurring for the 2020-21 scholarships matching) to address the annual private donation increase.