

Dear Friend of USF,

Today is Day 36 of the 60-day legislative session. At the end of last week, the House and Senate each amended, debated and passed differing versions of a proposed state budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. The special negotiation process that is designed to agree upon a single state spending plan that both chambers can support, referred to in Tallahassee lingo as the “Budget Conference,” is expected to begin later this week.

There has been little change in overall higher education spending plans since the last newsletter, with the Senate proposing to spend roughly a quarter of a billion dollars more on post secondary education issues next year. The most significant portion of that difference is in total proposed spending to support state universities. We are hopeful that the leaders of each chamber will agree upon a higher education “allocation” of funds closer to the Senate’s proposed spending level, at which time individual issues will be negotiated within that total spending cap. Your continued advocacy for increased funding support for Florida’s state universities, and especially for the USF System, is much appreciated during this critical time.

Included in this issue (see Bills in Brief) are summaries of each chamber’s proposed higher education budget conforming bill. These bills provide changes to the law that are generally designed to implement specific spending decisions contained in the state budget. Oftentimes, these budget conforming bills are the vehicles that contain the major policy changes passed each session.

For example, the Senate’s proposed budget conforming bill (SB 2150) proposes to suspend the state matching gift programs. These programs have been very successful at USF; our donors appreciate the opportunity to leverage their own gifts with the state’s matching contribution to increase their support of USF. We hope funding for these programs continues and we will be monitoring this issue along with others impacting the USF System on your behalf. Donors with questions about the impact of this provision on their current or future gifts are encouraged to contact USF’s Office of Donor Relations at 813-974-2035.

Also included in this issue is an update on the progress of an exciting new initiative passed during the 2010 Legislative Session, the creation of the USF College of Pharmacy (which was passed as a component of last year’s higher education budget conforming bill). In future newsletter issues we intend to include similar additional updates on past accomplishments so that you can see the programs, facilities and issues come to life. We also hope it will provide you with the information you need to say, “Thank you,” to our elected leaders for the role they have played in transforming the USF System today and for future generations to come.

We hope you enjoy this issue and welcome any feedback you may have.

Mark Walsh

Assistant VP & Director of Government Relations for the USF System



First students selected for USF’s new Pharmacy program

Pictured above is USF College of Pharmacy founding Dean, Kevin B. Sneed, PharmD, instructing students.

This fall, USF will welcome the first students to its newest college, the USF College of Pharmacy. During the 2010 Legislative Session, the legislature passed House Bill 5201, which included specific authority for USF to offer the Doctor of Pharmacy, or PharmD, degree program. Along with this new degree-granting authority, the 2010 Florida Legislature also provided USF with new recurring funding to support the new College of Pharmacy and its students.

The charter program for USF’s new and innovative College of Pharmacy is starting to take shape as faculty recruitment continues and the first students are being selected.

From the start, founding Dean Kevin B. Sneed, PharmD, set out to build a program that is a pacesetter in pharmacy curriculum and clinical experience.

“We are charting new territory in pharmacy education,” Dr. Sneed said. “Our student pharmacists will be trained to participate as effective and integral members of an inter-professional health care team, and will know that, although drug research and treatment are sciences, every patient is a unique individual with distinct needs. We feel that our pharmacy program will be absolutely transformative for the pharmacy profession.”

When classes begin this fall, 17 faculty members will be in place to lead and teach the inaugural class of 50 students. Dr. Sneed said these talented faculty members are bringing skills that will help maintain the pace set for this inaugural program and that this first batch of students absolutely matches his expectations.

“All of the first students we interviewed were top candidates and have the collaborative, creative, energetic traits we want in this program,” he said.

In keeping with the innovative aspect of the new pharmacy school, the interviewing process that all candidates face is unique, as well.

Called multiple-minimum interview (MMI), the process is a series of seven stations, each with one interviewer, in this case a pharmacy faculty member, who asks a non-academic question to elicit answers that show certain traits. The characteristics are assessed and given an aggregate interview score.

“This interview process is fairly new and aims to find softer skills, like teamwork and interpersonal aptitude, which not only indicate a likelihood for success in our program, but for success as pharmacists as well,” said Nazach Rodriguez-Snapp, Director of Admissions for the USF College of Pharmacy.

The entire USF family is excited about the official opening of the new USF College of Pharmacy to its first students this fall. Over a period of the first few years, USF will ramp up the number of students served in the new college until it reaches a capacity of 400 PharmD students per year.

Read more about the USF College of Pharmacy: health.usf.edu/nocms/pharmacy/

CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN VISITS USF



Pictured at right are Patel Partnership Bulls students with (Back row, l to r) Dr. Steve Sanders, Congressman Vern Buchanan, Dr. Lisa Hansen, Dean Colleen Kennedy and Principal Lynn Roberts.

President Genshaft recognizes the importance of introducing our elected leaders to the wonderful initiatives on our campuses and to the students, faculty, staff and other members of the USF family

who make it all happen. That is why USF’s Office of Government Relations recently hosted Congressman Vern Buchanan for a Tampa campus visit. Congressman Buchanan, concerned about America’s growing problem of childhood obesity, requested a briefing on the nationally acclaimed XRKade laboratories in the USF College of Education’s School of Physical Education & Exercise Science. The XRKade labs investigate the impact of technology-based interactive game activities on children’s physical activities and fitness levels. The lab pictured above is located in USF’s Physical Education building on campus. Another XRKade lab is located in the Belle Witter Elementary School in Tampa, in partnership with the Hillsborough County School District. Visit Congressman Buchanan’s website at buchanan.house.gov/.

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usfalumni.org/advocate

Locate contact information for your local Florida State Senator and Representative using your home address at:

flsenate.gov/Senators/Find

BILLS IN BRIEF

(SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill)

SB 632 BY SENATOR OELRICH (R-GAINESVILLE) RE: UNIVERSITY CONCURRENCY TRUST FUND

Summary: This bill provides a recurring funding source for the state’s University Concurrency Trust Fund. The trust fund provides funding to state universities to pay their host communities for the impact of any construction on campus which necessitates offsite improvements. The trust fund’s balance has depleted over time and this bill would designate a recurring source of existing state revenue into the trust fund to replenish it. Without the ability to pay for these impacts, construction on state universities’ campuses could be negatively affected. The passage of this bill is a high priority for USF and the full State University System.

Latest Action: On April 11th, the Senate Community Affairs Committee further amended the bill to revise the structure of future university concurrency payments. The revised bill must pass one additional Senate committee prior to receiving a full Senate vote.

LINK TO SB 632: <http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/issues/alert/?alertid=34325526>

SB 2150 BY THE SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE RE: POST SECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING

Summary: SB 2150 is the Senate’s post secondary education budget conforming bill. The bill makes proposed changes to Florida Laws in order to enact the budget decisions made in the Senate’s proposed state budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. The proposed changes contained in the bill include: 1) temporarily suspending the state’s matching gift programs for private donations to state universities and community colleges; 2) creating additional bonding capacity for the state to construct school facilities through the PECO program; 3) increasing the surcharge the state charges on top of tuition for students who take certain “excess hours” beyond the number of hours required to complete a degree program; 4) allowing state universities to implement a program in which a cohort of students would attend the university only in spring and summer terms; and 5) creating a new scholarship program for students with financial need who are majoring in certain Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) degree programs.

Latest Action: Passed by the full Senate on April 7th. The bill will be included in the budget conference negotiation process between the two chambers.

LINK TO SB 2150: <http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/issues/alert/?alertid=41255686>

HB 5201 BY THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE RE: POST SECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDING

Summary: HB 5201 is the House’s post secondary education budget conforming bill. The bill makes proposed changes to Florida Laws in order to enact the budget decisions made in the House’s proposed state budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. The proposed changes contained in the bill include: 1) allowing state university boards of trustees the flexibility to use certain fee revenues to offset budget reductions in the next fiscal year; 2) instituting a cap on the amount of state funds that may be used to pay for certain state university and Florida College System administrators’ salaries; 3) increasing the surcharge the state charges on top of tuition for students who take certain “excess hours” beyond the number of hours required to complete a degree program; and 4) significantly increasing the minimum standards required for students to meet to become eligible to receive a Bright Futures scholarship award.

Latest Action: Passed by the full House of Representatives on April 7th. The bill will be included in the budget conference negotiation process between the two chambers.

LINK TO HB 5201: <http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/issues/alert/?alertid=41255686>

To send feedback email:
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