



Item: CG: A-M

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 15, 2016

SUBJECT: ROLL CALL

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Initiate roll call to document member participation and ensure quorum.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Robert Stilley, Chair _____

Mrs. Mary Beth McDonald, Vice Chair _____

Mr. Anthony Barbar (ex-officio) _____

Mr. Daniel Cane (ex-officio) _____

Dr. Michael Dennis _____

Ms. Kathryn Edmunds _____

Mr. Abdol Moabery _____

PARTICIPATING BOT MEMBERS

Dr. Christopher Beetle _____

Mr. Shaun Davis _____

Dr. Jeffrey Feingold _____

Mr. Robert Rubin _____

Dr. Julius Teske _____

Mr. Thomas Workman _____



COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2015

SP: A-M Roll Call:

Trustee Robert Stilley, Committee Chair called the meeting to order and initiated the roll call. In addition to Trustee Stilley, the following committee members were present: Trustee Mary Beth McDonald; Trustee Anthony Barbar (ex-officio); Trustee Daniel Cane (ex-officio); Trustee Kathryn Edmunds and Trustee Michael Dennis.

Other Trustees attending the meeting included: Trustee Paul Tanner; Trustee Abdol Moabery; Trustee Jeffrey Feingold; Trustee Robert Rubin; Trustee Julius Teske; Trustee Thomas Workman and Trustee Christopher Beetle.

A quorum was present and the committee was called to order.

The following university officials participated: Dr. John Kelly, University President; Ms. Stacy Volnick, Vice President, Administrative Affairs & Chief Administrative Officer and Interim Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Mr. David Kian, Vice President, Legal Affairs and General Counsel and Mr. Ryan Britton, Executive Director of Government Relations.

Trustee Stilley called for approval of the October 20, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve meeting minutes without change or correction. No discussion or commentary followed. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Stilley mentioned briefly the delegation up in Jupiter earlier this fall and that The League of Cities will hold their meeting here on campus tomorrow (December 16th). Ryan Britton, Executive Director of Government Relations was invited to approach the podium to give the legislative update.

CG: I-1 Legislative Update:

I'm going to give a recap on a relatively eventful and interesting year in Tallahassee; obviously our office focuses not just on Tallahassee though it is the majority of our attention. We do also have a lot going on locally. Constance Scott the Director of Local Relations is doing a great deal in our community. In addition, our office is working with Dr. Flynn in the Division of Research to keep our Federal Delegation informed and making sure we're good stewards at

that level as well. The majority of what happened this year happened in Tallahassee and it impacted everything from federal to local relations. Over the past few months, the Legislature has been preparing for the 2016 Legislative Session and we've been back and forth, so I spend a week in Tallahassee and then a week back home. What's good about that is when we're not in Tallahassee our goal is to bring people to campus and to bring events here and to connect people to FAU and get them engaged with what we're doing and show them firsthand the programs that we enjoy what we're transforming here. Through people like Representative MaryLynn Magar who is the Chair of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation and through champions like CFO Jeff Atwater who gave us a very nice recognition yesterday and helped bring the Cabinet meeting to campus back in November; we've had a lot of people helping that effort and not just ourselves reaching out.

To give you a little recap of some of the things we've had going on. In October we had the first Tech-Runway graduation and we had a couple Legislators attend that, we hosted a Palm Beach County Legislative meeting up in Jupiter. In November the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Florida House Matt Hudson toured our Jupiter campus. In addition, the Florida Cabinet with the Governor, CFO, Attorney General and the Secretary of Agriculture all were on campus. The CFO and Secretary of Agriculture stayed and toured our facility, Max Planck and Scripps and heard a little bit more in depth explanation on what we were doing. President Kelly was able to address the entire Cabinet and talked about what we were doing. One other thing I'll mention about the Cabinet meeting that I think was great is that we had a tremendous amount of support from the local business community and at the breakfast prior to the Cabinet meeting we were able to recognize the great partnerships we've been developing with the Palm Beach County BDB, the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, the Northern Palm Beach Chamber and obviously we enjoy a very good relationship with the Boca Chamber.

When we're speaking we are not only speaking as a university but we're also speaking with the voice of the business community behind us who have been vocal advocates both in Tallahassee and here locally to tell the legislators, elected officials and influencers that what we're doing is not just beneficial to us and our students but that it's also impacting the local community in a positive way and bringing economic benefits here to FAU. As soon as the Cabinet meeting was over we transitioned and brought FAU to Tallahassee for FAU Day at the Capitol which was wonderfully successful. We met with members of our delegation, members of the legislative leadership, committee leadership, and the individuals who control our funding and how it's pushed through. We were able to put on a really good show and I've gotten really good feedback for another great FAU Day. This was FAU Day 2016 but we actually had two FAU Days at the Capitol in one year because of the unique legislative calendars, it was a busy year to say the least.

In December we had the Health Policy Committee Chairman Senator Aaron Bean tour our Jupiter campus. We also did a stewardship event. A couple years ago we received funding for the Indian River Lagoon Observatory Project which is something out of Harbor Branch. They have since installed a monitoring network in the water specifically in the St. Lucie Estuary but it goes up and down the Lagoon, this is something that has drawn great interest from a number of the delegation members especially those in the Treasure Coast and Senator Negron spearheaded that. This December we brought a handful of Legislative Aides out to one of the monitoring sites pulled it up out of the water and showed them what they did. We received \$2 million dollars a couple years ago and even though that's not a current request we continue to receive recurring funding to support that operation and we want to show them that what we're doing now is important as well as what they funded in the past we continue to put emphasis on and continue to hold ourselves accountable and want to show that we're being good stewards on those investments and just not only focused on what's coming up in the next year.

Last but not least, tomorrow morning President Kelly and Dr. Fitzpatrick are going to be the keynote speakers at the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Before Hours and he will leave that immediately to come back here and host our second delegation meeting of the year over at the stadium. This will be FAU, the Palm Beach County Delegation and the League of Cities doing a workshop; it's a great amount of exposure for us, it's been a very busy fall but again it ties them into what we're doing and they get to see it firsthand so when they go back to Tallahassee they'll remember how great it is.

I will touch on a few things in terms of all the work that happened in 2015 that is not over yet. 2015 involved a lot of special sessions; there were three of them actually. Special session on the budget got done, the special session on congressional redistricting just got finished in December and our congressional delegation is going to change because they redrew the lines of our congressional delegation. They are now in the process of redrawing the lines for the Florida Senate district and our Senate representation will change but they are not yet finished with that so the work of 2015 continues. We'll probably have some resolution going forward in 2016 and the makeup of the 2016 election cycle will have far more changes than it has had in previous years. The way that has impacted the process of 2016 in our advocacy efforts as we try to go forward and ask for funding and do the things we normally do is that for a very large part of this fall members were very interested in what was happening to themselves, we're very interested in talking about FAU and the funding that we're seeking, priorities and what's going on around campus but they have not known where they're going to run for reelection yet so it's been a distracting fall but through all of that we've still been there, we've been present, we've been talking about them and talking about how important our priorities are but as these issues get resolved it becomes easier and easier for us to make our requests and to make our asks. One of the big things that just got resolved a couple of weeks ago that's very good for the session as it moves forward is the Senate Leadership. Senate Leadership

particularly Senator Negron and Senator Latvala have been locked in a leadership struggle for the past two years; it's been ongoing, it's caused tension in the body but about two weeks ago they finally reached a resolution. Senator Negron will become the Senate President for 2016 – 2018, Senator Latvala will become his Appropriations Chair and that is the agreement that was reached as I'm sure many of you know. What that does for us is it gives us some finality and gives us at least some clear direction into where we are going with our asks, who are champions will be and what the structure of the Senate will look like. Up until this point we've been trying to make sure everyone is involved and is being kept in the loop of all of our requests and we'll continue to do that but this is going to make the Senate somewhat more predictable going forward.

Last but not least just before Thanksgiving the Governor released his budget proposal and it outlined a number of things but the biggest thing that everyone is talking about is will there be a budget surplus and how are we going to spend it. The Governor identified \$1.3 billion dollars in budget surplus in his budget proposal and he also identified a way to spend all of it. The way he intends to spend it all is \$1 billion in tax reduction coupled with a \$250 million economic incentive trust fund, and what that economic incentive trust fund will do is help bring businesses to Florida. This will be a revolving fund; a recurring amount of money that is kept in a fund and used to attract these businesses. Also the majority of the tax cuts that he proposed would be recurring tax cuts so eliminating income tax on manufacturing retail businesses, eliminating tax on manufacturing equipment, cutting taxes on commercial leases, extending sales tax exemption on text books and additional tax holidays throughout the year. Everyone gets very excited about budget surpluses, it's a good year however if you take those two budget initiatives couple it with the fact that we'll get \$400 million less in LIP funding from the federal government for health care there are significant strains on the budget.

The Senate has outlined about \$600 million in surplus so the Senate is saying there is less than the Governor. How this all works out we'll all see in the next few months and it is the way it goes in Tallahassee, the Governor puts forth his recommendation, the House and Senate will put forth theirs and over the next three months they'll hopefully resolve their differences and we'll get a budget. One thing the Governor did which was good for us is that he identified a larger performance funding pool, he wants the pool to go from \$400 million to \$500 million and he has allocated \$50 million more in new state funding for it. So he continues to believe in performance funding as do the legislative bodies and they'll continue to put money there, we would obviously like more funding to be put towards performance funding especially as Provost Perry, the President and his team work to ensure that our performance stays exemplary. What I will say is all of our legislative asks are tied to our performance. The performance we've enjoyed over the last year and our continued growth in that area is what lends us credibility when we go speak to the legislature. The fact that we are a turnaround story is something that is extremely unique. When we did poorly two years ago in performance funding when I went into a meeting with a legislator that was the lead in every

conversation (what happened/explain this/why is it this way?) and that is to be expected. When we went back this year people were talking about us because we had improved. 2015 was a great year and we were telling a story about how we were able to focus and really improve what we were doing and that was a wonderful way to walk into a meeting, especially when we beat FSU and a lot of the legislators knew that we had done so. When we go back this year I think you'll see a change, a number of institutions improved last year as they should and that was great. But, I don't know if all of the other institutions will be able to sustain their improvement and as that happen the ones that are able to sustain their improvement will begin to set themselves apart from the field. So as we can continue to tell the story that not only were we a one-time improvement institution but we're focused on future growth and we're focused on improvement going forward the meritocracy of the legislative session however much there is one will work in our favor. As we begin talking about our priorities and what we want to do we'll be able to do that with us looking different than maybe some of our peers that were improving with us last year and so when we make that pitch and go in to talk about these things this is the story that we get to tell and that's something I think will begin to set us apart in the legislative process and inform our asks and get legislators who maybe aren't from our area or who maybe aren't graduates of our institution to believe in what President Kelly, Chairman and all of you are doing here at FAU so that is a very good thing and it makes my job a little easier and I greatly appreciate it.

Our priorities are performance always; the Jupiter Life Science Initiative will continue to seek operational funding and the research building and last but not least the Tech Runway program which was vetoed last year, as you see the Governor continue to tell him how important it is and how much we can do to help our young entrepreneurs into the marketplace. I'm going to bring up our website very quickly; all of this information is here, all of the updates and final report are always available online should you need it.

This concluded Ryan Britton's update; he invited questions and comments from the Trustees and thanked them for their continued support. There were none.

Chairman Barbar commended Ryan on doing an outstanding job; we continue to hear from both the professional staff and the legislators how much they appreciate the work being done and how appreciative they are for being kept informed. Trustee Stilley encouraged the board to express their thanks to CFO Jeff Atwater for making the Cabinet Meeting up in Jupiter happen. Chairman Barbar encouraged the board to thank and express appreciation to Rep. Magar for all of her efforts; we would not have had the League of Cities Meeting and Delegation Meeting here at FAU if it were not for her, when the legislators go behind closed doors she has been our best advocate in protecting our interests and we really appreciate it.

Trustee Stilley requested a motion to adjourn the committee's meeting; a motion was made and seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved.