



COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of April 21, 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) and Trustee Michael Dennis.

Other Trustees attending the meeting included: Trustee Ronald Nyhan; Trustee Paul Tanner; Trustee Robert Rubin; Trustee Julius Teske and Trustee Thomas Workman.

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, Director of State Relations.

Trustee Stilley mentioned that as far as the Chair's comments we are working on putting together a meeting so that we can do a workshop. David, Stacy and I have talked numerous times about it and hope to have some more information available at our next meeting. The only thing on the agenda today is the Legislative Update.

Trustee Stilley invited VP Volnick to approach the podium to give the update.

CG: I-1 Legislative Update:

VP Volnick thanked The Board for their time and for allowing her to move this agenda item to be the first thing presented. Ryan Britton is on the phone; he is currently in Tallahassee where he needs to be representing us and will give us the Legislative Update.

VP Volnick invited Ryan Britton, Director of State Relations to begin with the update via telephone.

I apologize for not being there in person, I am in Tallahassee as the legislature is trying to finish up all of their budget negotiations and policy work before the May 1st deadline. I will give you a quick update on the budget negotiations, where they stand and then a couple of policy pieces that could impact FAU and the larger SUS University community. I'm happy to take any questions so please feel free to interrupt me.

Right now the biggest difference between the House and Senate is healthcare funding. I'm sure everyone is aware that the House and the Senate are very far apart, they've proposed budgets that are over \$4 billion dollars different and the main difference is the way Medicaid expansion and Low Income Pool healthcare funding are being handled. The Senate has proposed a plan to address both Medicaid expansion and Low Income healthcare funding but the House only wants to address Low Income healthcare funding; they do not favor Medicaid expansion. Because of that the entire budget negotiation process has come to a halt and both sides are waiting for the other to make a move. House members are in a meeting as we speak discussing the way forward and the Senate is in the appropriations committee right now talking about what their plan is going to be. The last piece of this puzzle is that Governor Scott has asked the Federal Government to address Low Income Pool healthcare funding or if not has threatened to sue the Federal Government for their lack of dealing with this issue.

All of this is kind of a waiting game as we are waiting for the Federal Government to give a response. What complicated this even more is that last week the Federal Government indicated that the two issues are tied together. Low Income Pool healthcare and Medicaid expansion would be tied together and would have to be dealt with as one issue. Until this is resolved none of the other budget issues will be addressed. There a number of other budgetary issues; the Governor has a number of proposed tax cuts, the highest K-12 funding in the state's history has been proposed and Amendment 1 which is Land Conservation and Water Management is something that is waiting. All of these other issues are on hold until the healthcare compromise can be reached. If the Federal Government gives an answer and a dollar figure, budget negotiations could move forward, if they do not the Legislature could be pushed into a special session or an extended session.

One of the SUS budget issues is Performance Funding. The House and Senate have proposed two different types of performance funding. The House has a \$200 million performance funding pot; that's \$100 million in new funds and \$100 million in base funding contributions. Obviously our improved score and our current standing as the BOG has given the points would allow us to keep our base funding secure and access those new funds. The Senate has proposed a \$400 million performance funding pot; that would be \$100 million in new funds, \$100 million of reallocated funds from last year's performance funding pot and \$200 million in base funding contributions. Again the base contribution part would be secure because of our score but they would reallocate last year's money and put in another \$100 million of new funds.

Last but not least the number of specific items that are FAU specific are included in the budget but again are not moving until these larger issues are addressed. We've received funding in the House or Senate proposals on a number of issues including our new collaboration with Scripps and Max Planck, FAU's TechRunway Program and our CARD Center; all of that remains up in the air until final budget negotiations are completed.

There are a couple of policy issues I'd like to touch on briefly and the biggest ones are some of the Governors initiatives going into this Legislative Session. The Governor continues to maintain a strong emphasis on access and affordability to higher education. As a result of that on the House or Senate side there are initiatives to remove the tax on textbooks, to cap graduate school tuition rate, to mandate how institutions adopt and how long they keep textbooks and when they post information about textbook cost and affordability in relation to registration. So a number of those issues are up in the air in terms of how we're going to finally resolve them and will again probably be a conference issue that would have to be debated between the two sides.

They will be expanding in-state tuition rates for Veteran's dependents. I'm sure a number of you are aware that last year a bill passed that expanded in-state tuition rates for Veterans, this year there is a measure moving on both sides that would allow the benefit to be extended to dependents; spouses and children of Veterans or active Military Personnel. That seems to be moving and has a good amount of support.

Also, there will be a couple changes to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program. The Bright Futures Program right now states that if you don't accept your award within the first year of graduating high school you lose it, however students who participate in a service activity that may last over a year or a religious experience that last over a year just after high school would not have access to the award. This was seen as a problem and they are introducing legislation to adjust that meaning that if you can prove that you have participated in one of these activities you would be able to postpone the acceptance of your award until you've finished your participation. The other thing that they are addressing is what counts as a service component of the Bright Futures award. Right now you're required to participate in some type of service activity and accumulate a certain number of hours before you accept that award. There's legislation moving that also has seen a good amount of support that would change the definition of what counts towards service to include business internships, potentially working for a public official or on a political campaign and those would still be uncompensated experiences but they could count towards the service.

Dual Enrollment is continuing to be addressed and we obviously are impacted greatly because we have a large number of dual enrollment students on our campus and through FAU High.

They are looking at articulation agreements with private schools, with home schooled students and with public schools.

Public Private Partnership legislation is moving again this year; the legislation that's moving is permissive and just enacts some of the recently completed task force guidelines about how to pursue public private partnership and that expressly includes the State University System.

Last but not least there is legislation or language moving that addresses the college system. The language would impact the state college system as well as technical centers and redefine their scope. The legislation is basically trying to prevent duplicity, a duplication of efforts or any type of mission creep. This is a Senate priority and it's moving on the Senate side, the House doesn't have anything right now but it is something that the Senate passed last year and they are looking again at the college system and its role as well as other institutions.

It is undetermined right now for these last two weeks what's going to happen, we are hopeful that this will all be resolved by the May 1st deadline however at the moment everything remains up in the air and could change at any moment. This is the most up to date information we have as of today but it could all change tomorrow.

This concluded Ryan Britton's update and he invited questions and comments from the Trustees. There were none.

Trustee Stilley called for approval of the February 24, 2015 meeting minutes as it was not done towards the beginning. 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 requested a motion to adjourn the committee's meeting; a motion was made and seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved.