



Item: CG: A-M

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 20, 2015

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 _____

Dr. Jeffrey Feingold _____

Mr. Robert Rubin _____

Mr. Paul Tanner _____

Dr. Julius Teske _____

Mr. Thomas Workman _____



COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2015

SP: A-M Roll Call:

Trustee Anthony Barbar, called the meeting to order and initiated the roll call. Communicated that Chair Stilley and Vice Chair McDonald were not there and he would be their replacement. In addition to Trustee Barbar, the following committee members were present: Trustee Daniel Cane (ex-officio); Trustee Kathryn Edmunds and Trustee Michael Dennis.

Other Trustees attending the meeting included: Trustee Paul Tanner; Trustee Julius Teske; Trustee Christopher Beetle 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 Barbar called for approval of the April 21, 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 Barbar invited VP Volnick to approach the podium to give the update.

CG: I-1 Legislative Update:

VP Volnick thanked The Board for their time. Ryan Britton is on the phone; as you know he is currently in Tallahassee working hard for us but will give us a brief update and answer any questions you might have.

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 getting to the end of their special session. The regular session as everyone at this point probably knows ended abruptly at an impasse, there was a significant budget problem basically revolving around medicaid expansion and the low income pool healthcare program and how the legislature was going to deal with that. Because it ended abruptly most of the policy bills especially related to education ended up not passing. No budget was passed during the regular session and policy bills related to service requirement or bright future scholarship, expanded dual enrollment benefits for private and home schooled students, framework for public/private partnerships, allowing concealed weapon holders to carry guns on campus and realigning the state college systems mission; all of that ended up not passing at the end of session.

There were two things related to higher education that did pass at the end of the regular session that were of significance importance to us. One is the expansion of Veterans benefits to not just Veterans but their dependents. Last year in the regular session we passed in state tuition rates for Veterans; this year we passed the expansion of those in state tuition rates to not just Veterans but their dependents; spouses and children. In addition there was also a focus this year on individuals with disabilities. The legislature created The Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience Program or the ABLE Program which assist individuals with disabilities to save money without losing their eligibility for state and federal benefits. The Senate President Andy Gardiner has been focused on expanding opportunities and increasing benefits and resources for individuals with disabilities and that was one of the other pieces of legislation that passed.

There were a handful of other smaller bills related to higher education that passed during the regular session but obviously the majority of focus was on the budget. The budget didn't pass and so the legislature called a special session that ran from the 1st of this month and it will finish this Friday on the 19th and has focused mainly on the passage of a balanced budget. The Chambers have reached consensus on most of the budgetary categories however education is the last budget category that remains to be closed out, they expect that to happen today and as a result of that happening hopefully by this afternoon or this evening the budget will be on members' desks tomorrow morning which is Tuesday. They'll have to wait a statutory required 72hrs before they can vote on final passage, the substance of the budget will not change in that 72hrs but if it is printed tomorrow morning and put on members' desks they cannot vote on it until Friday morning so that is what they're hoping to finish negotiations today and put the budget on members' desks tomorrow.

What the budget looks like now; it's a little different than the budget that was originally proposed during the regular session. The Chambers have agreed not to expand medicaid, as a result the low income healthcare program was also adjusted and the state has had to chip in funding to continue that; they are contributing \$400 million dollars in recurring revenue to continue the LIP Program. They've dedicated about \$750 million dollars to Amendment 1 which is Conservation Funding, they've also put together a \$400 million dollar tax cut package and they've agreed to raise per student FEFP funding which is K-12 funding by 3% per student. Those are some of the larger budget issues some of which impact us but obviously the main SUS budget issue is performance funding. The Chambers have agreed to \$400 million dollars in performance funds and that's broken down in two ways; \$150 million dollars in a performance funding pool which is the money that we can access based on our improved performance and \$250 million dollars in institutional contribution; that money again based on our improved performance will be returned to us once it's taken from us and I'm sure Dorothy Russell will go into far more detail about that when she gives her presentation.

Last but not least we continue to look at a number of FAU specific budget issues. Our Tech Runway Program, the Chambers agreed last week to fund Tech Runway again at \$1 million dollars which is approximately what we received last year and they've agreed to do that and put that back into the budget. We're waiting to find out a level of funding for our Jupiter Initiative and our collaborations with Scripps and Max Planck. Our CARD Center was funded again at a flat level from last year, the Lab School is going to receive an increase in its sparsity funding based on the per student funding level increase that they receive for all the students that attend the Lab Schools.

The budget is going to be finalized but is in no way finished. Once the Chambers vote on the final passage of the budget later this week the budget then moves to the Governor for his veto and final approval. He will have basically until the end of the month to review the budget; June 30th is the end of the fiscal year, starting a new one on July 1st so it is expected that his recommendations for veto and final approvals will be done before that.

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

Trustee Barbar thanked Ryan for his thorough update and for all the work he is doing. He requested a motion to adjourn the committee's meeting; a motion was made and seconded. The motion to adjourn was approved.