



## **Florida Gulf Coast University**

### **Budget Priorities**

**Submitted to the Planning and Budget Council**

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Co-Chairs: Mr. Steve Magiera and Dr. Shawn Felton

Members: Mr. David Vazquez, Mrs. Jennifer Baker, Mr. Richard Michel, Dr. Kathleen Miller, Dr. Chuck Lindsey, Mr. Billy Blood & Dr. Douglas Harrison

**Overview:**

Over the past five fiscal years, the state of Florida has reduced support to Florida Gulf Coast University by 27%. In addition to the reductions of operating budget, each year FGCU receives approximately \$13 million less in per FTE funding as compared to similar institutions within the SUS. During the same period of time, the funds that provide the source of funding for the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) fund has been less each year; thus, limiting the amount of available funds from this source. The \$300 million cut from the state's higher education appropriation for the current year was passed as a non-recurring change, and is expected to be restored for academic year 2013-14. On this assumption, the Budget Committee began an exercise in September 2012 examining funding priorities in the event of new and/or restored available monies for academic year 2013-14. This report is the culmination of that exercise and documents the results of the committee's work in this regard.

**Report Purpose:**

The Budget Committee submits this report to the Planning and Budget Council to be used to inform recommendations for allocating any new and/or restored revenue available through various funding sources. The identified priorities emerged from an extensively collaborative process, and this report was developed by representatives of stakeholders from within administration, faculty, staff, and student government including the FGCU Faculty Senate, Senate Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (SPBAC), and Staff Advisory Council (SAC).

**Assumptions/Limitations:**

The ranking of priorities was a challenging endeavor. After much deliberation, it was decided to categorize all items into two general groups by cost type: recurring and non-recurring. Within each of these categories, the list is presented with priority rankings; however, there is a certain degree of uncertainty to these rankings. The current rankings represent an attempt to prioritize a range of items based on the most urgent needs for institutional effectiveness and excellence in light of our mission and vision. However, priority levels are not absolute and in some cases there is little separation between them. The level of prioritization for any given item might well rise or fall depending on the amount of the potentially available funds or the source of those funds (i.e. E&G, PECO, bonds, or private monies), which of course is unknown. As an example, if a private donation was secured or presented itself, a relatively low-priority item might rise to a higher priority position (though the committee discussed the potential need for the institution to look carefully at any underlying assumptions to ensure decisions are both financially sustainable in terms of the ongoing demands such gifts often make on the university budget, and align with the mission of the University). The committee treated this exercise as zero-based in terms of the allocation of new or restored funds, and does not assume that any restored funds will automatically be directed toward reversing any specific cuts made previously (this assumption follows from the presidential directive in September 2012 outlined at the Board of Trustee meeting that all budget cuts be made on a permanent basis). At the same time, the committee recognizes that some divisions might prioritize individual items differently if emphasis is placed on restoring previously eliminated resources. Finally, many of the recurring priority items on the list appear on the assumption that the basis for funding would be E&G monies.

<u>Recurring</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Description/Explanation/Notes</u>
1) Advisor to Student Ratio SP Goal 3, Strategy 1, 3, 4	1,182,240	Reduce Advisor to student ratio. Currently 680-1. Freshman advising 800-1.ideal 340-1 24 advisors needed@ salary avg \$37,000 with benefits \$49,260
2) Meeting Academic Needs of At-Risk Students SP Goal 1, Strategy 4,5—SP Goal 3, Strategy 5	1,000,000	Staffing and infrastructure support for Writing Ctr, CAA, ACE; Creation of Office of Enrollment Mgmt.
3) Restoration of Library Funding SP Goal 1, Strategy 4 -- SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	150,000	Hours of operation, staffing, etc. Replacement, databases, new materials
4) Competitive Salaries/Compression and Inversion SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	1,875,000	One percentage cost \$625,000. C&I is subject to study and bargaining and such costs are not reflected herein.
5)Personnel Infrastructure SP Goal 3, Strategy 1,3 – SP Goal 4, Strategy 2	1,246,000	20 staff @ salary avg \$47,200 with benefits \$62,300
6) Faculty Funding SP Goal 3, Strategy 1,3 – SP Goal 4, Strategy 2	1,682,150	Reduce student-Faculty ration in gen ed course \$1,167,000; To meet the enrollment target while maintaining a 70-30 ft-adj ratio \$515,150.
7) Technology Operational Deficit SP Goal 1, Strategy 4 -- SP Goal 3, Strategy3	1,100,000	Recover operational deficient within technology fee
8) Restoration of Retirement Benefits SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	2,000,000	Restoration of 3% contribution requirements
9) Cost of Benefits SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	2,100,000	Offset employee health insurance cost increases estimated at \$2,000 per employee
10) Professional Development/Certifications SP Goal 4, Strategy 2	150,000	Academic Affairs contributes an additional \$90,000 of non-recurring funds to support faculty development. Each year requests outnumber the available funds
<b>Total Recurring Costs</b>	<b>12,485,390</b>	

<u>Non-Recurring</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Description/Explanation/Notes</u>
1) Impact Fees*		
2) Chiller Plant Expansion SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	9,000,000	Adding Capacity for Future Buildings
3) South Entrance Road SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	3,000,000	Provide additional access to the campus
4) EDI of Transcripts SP Goal 3, Strategy 2	300,000	Electronic communication of transcripts
5) Planned Maintenance and Refurbishment SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	500,000	Repair and refurbishment of roofs and other building structures in order to keep facilities in good working order
6) Recreation Center SP Goal 2, Strategy 3 SP Goal 6, Strategy 3	15,000,000	Construction of Phase I for Rec Center
7) Buckingham Refurbishment Phase I SP Goal 5 Strategy 2	2,000,000	Retrofitting and Renewal
8) Lawn Space SP Goal 2, Strategy 3 SP Goal 6, Strategy 2,3	200,000	Actual cost higher, SG assuming some costs
9) Next Academic Building SP Goal 2, Strategy 3 --SP Goal 3, Strategy 3 – SP Goal 6 Strategy 3	25,000,000	Provide classroom space and offices for future growth
10) Entrance Signage SP Goal 3, Strategy 3	250,000	Refresh and upgrade of current entrance signage
<b>Total Non-Recurring Costs</b>	<b>57,355,800</b>	