

From: <Goen>, Jennifer <jgoen@fgcu.edu>
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Subject: 2013 Session information

Below is information that has been provided to the SUS lobbyist group regarding 2013 Session issues. I have added a few FGCU specific comments, and at the direction of the President, will be contacting individuals for additional information and input as we finalize our 2013 legislative agenda request.

2013 LBR Issues

At the June BOG meeting, the Presidents met and developed an outline for a 2013 LBR strategy. The framework would be a request for approximately \$150 million in new base funding support (with the assumption that the \$300 million is already securely in the budget), and in return each institution would agree that they would not request a tuition increase for the 2013-14 academic year.

BOG staff has calculated that a 15% tuition increase, including the 30% for need-based financial aid would equal \$118,132,859. The request for Senator Gaetz to turn his technology initiative into a recurring incentive pot would add \$15 million to this figure for a total request of approximately \$134 million. This request is reportedly supported by many of the members of the Board of Governors.

To ensure the request includes an accountability and transparency component, it is anticipated the BOG will ask each institution to come back after the September BOG meeting (and before the November meeting) with some data on how it would spend the new money to move particular metrics as identified in the work plans. Accordingly, it would be said that this is "performance-based" funding in the sense that we are each using our share of the new funds to meet the individual critical needs of our institution in improving our performance.

The \$300 Million Cut

The SUS lobbyist have had several discussions as a group and with others about the advocacy strategy associated with the \$300 million cut. Presidents Delaney and Hitt recently discussed the pros and cons of using particular words (e.g., "restore") and have landed on the same page – and would recommend the following to the Presidents, the Chancellor and the Governors: that we should adopt the "wait and see" approach, requesting that leaders "keep their promise" and to be ready with data to dispel any notion that all of the funds sit idly in an unnecessary savings account. For many of us, it may be true that reserves are too low and should be increased to be fiscally responsible in an uncertain future. For others, the money may be used to rehire people or purchase equipment or services that had to be eliminated because of the cut. The key will be to be responsible and transparent and accountable in showing how the money will work for us, without indicating that these funds will move metrics or produce any significant gains. Having these funds back in our budget won't make us better – they get us back to where we were - so without the \$134 million, we cannot promise to move metrics (or at least not significantly).

Key points for necessary FGCU funding increase from the overall SUS message

- Increase of funding is fiscally responsible to secure required reserve balances
- Indicating additional fund allocation

Student Government Aim Higher Initiative

Janet Owen has had conversations with TJ Villamil (UF SG President) and others, regarding the launch of the student initiative "Aim Higher". We have been working with our FGCU student government leaders to make sure they have any information we are given regarding the development and execution of the initiative. I spoke to TJ after the brief presentation of a sample video during a break at the Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting in St. Petersburg to suggest the video be shown at the September BOG meeting. I requested he contact Peter Cuderman to discuss any details or assistance. Tentatively, the plan is for the students to make a presentation (brief, but fast-paced to include their message, strategy, website, Facebook page, and to show a YouTube video or 2) at the opening of the BOG's Budget & Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, September 13th.

PR/Media Relations

It has been brought to Janet Owen's attention, our media relations are beginning to collaborate and set some common goals for the 2013 session. We are enthusiastic that they have begun to talk, and look forward to working with them to develop a consistent message. Additionally, we will make our media relations aware of the students' Aim Higher initiative.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Jennifer Goen
Director of Government Relations
FGCU
239.823.5718

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