



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
DECEMBER 2, 2015  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AUDITORIUM  
3:30 P.M.

**I. Regular Session**

The regular session of the 2015-16 Faculty Senate was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015. Faculty Senate President Susan Fiorito presided.

The following members attended the Senate meeting:

J. Adams, T. Adams, S. Aggarwal, A. Askew, K. Bearor, B. Berg, B. Birmingham, M. Blaber, J. Broome, K. Brummel-Smith, M. Buchler, E. Chicken, A. Clarke, R. Coleman, J. Cougle, A. Darabi, V. DeBrunner, J. Fadool, B. Fennema, J. Fiorito, S. Fiorito, H. Flynn, R. Gainsford, J. Geringer, M. Gross, K. Harper, E. Hilinski, K. Hires, C. Hofacker, M. Horner, K. Howard, L. Jakubowski, T. Keller, A. Kercheval, E. Kim, W. Landing, S. Lewis, S. Losh, C. Madsen, C. Marzen, K. McGinnis, U. Meyer-Base, P. Osteen, I. Padavic, E. Peters, V. Richard Auzenne, R. Rodenberg, N. Rogers, D. Slice, J. Standley, N. Stein, L. Stepina, M. Stewart, B. Stults, G. Tyson, Col. M. Vanwert, D. Von Glahn, E. Walker, D. Wilke.

The following members were absent. Alternates are listed in parenthesis:

A. Abichou, M. Akiba, E. Aldrovandi, E. Alvarez, H. Bass, C. Bolaños, J. Clark (**S. Slaveva-Griffin**), B. Cox, M. Cui (**K. McCormick**), J. Dawkins, P. Doan, K. Erndl, A. Figueroa, J. Gabriel, K. Goldsby, T. Graban, J. Hellweg, D. Humphrey, S. Johnson, J. Kesten, J. Larson, T. Mariano, J. McNulty, M. Mesterton-Gibbons, D. Moore, R. Morris, O. Okoli, D. Rohlinger, P. Rutkovsky, K. Salata, V. Salters, O. Steinbock, , N. Stoltzfus, U. Sypher, J. Telotte, O. Vafek, S. Valisa, C. Weissert, W. Weissert, W. Wise, C. Wood, K. Yang, T. Zuehlke.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the November 18, 2015 will be ready for approval in January.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

**IV. Report of the Steering Committee, Todd Adams**

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee meet once since our Senate meeting two weeks ago. We are very pleased with the appointment of Sally as new Provost. We are confident she is going to do a great job in leading the University forward. We thank President Thrasher for

making a thoughtful and timely decision and coming to that decision quickly so we can move forward going on. That's basically the report. Any questions?

Fiorito: We really did meet. We really did meet a lot even though we only had one official meeting. But we meet with all of the provost candidates and meet as a Steering Committee after we interviewed each one. We interviewed each one and discussed them. We had four very good candidates for Provost, and we selected the best as we should have.

## **V. Reports of Standing Committees**

There were no reports of standing committees.

Fiorito: I do want to mention at this point, though, that we will be sending you a leave of absence policy from the GPC. We would like you to look at it. And just let me, if I can, say something about our GPC policies. We have a fabulous, hardworking Graduate Policy Committee. They all are very interested in doing the best for our graduate students. I know in the last couple of meetings we've talked about some and tried to wordsmith them at this meeting. I would prefer, because the Graduate Policy Committee spends a lot of time working on their graduate policies, if you are interested in being involved in the nitty gritty of those policy development, please volunteer to be on the committee. The committee is where the issues are talked about. Yes, the Faculty Senate approves the graduate policy suggestions they send forth. But really to get involved with all of the nitty gritty of the policy changes. Please, we do need people in the Graduate Policy Committee and would welcome your help and your comments. So let me know if you'd like to be on that committee. Again, we'll be sending out a policy to you that has been vetted by the GPC. We'll talk about it in January.

## **VI. Special Order: Legislative Update, Kathleen Daly (see addendum 1)**

Thank you for allowing me to address you this afternoon. I am Kathleen Daly. I am the lobbyist for the University. As you know, the legislative season resumed in September after a brief summer break. They have been here more than they haven't been, which is somewhat unusual, because of all the special sessions. Inter-committee hearings will end hopefully by tomorrow. They've been going on all fall. Legislators have been voting on legislative member bills and they've been hearing presentations on budget, particularly on the governor's recommendations which I'll get into in a minute, and some other kinds of presentations that will probably find their way into some kind of committee bill or legislation down the road as we get into the session.

As the president mentioned, the 2016 legislative session does begin on January 12<sup>th</sup>, a whole three months earlier than usual. The good news is it will end on March 11<sup>th</sup>, a whole three months early. We hope. There is a big long reason why all that is going to happen early, but I don't need to get into that right now. The revenue projections for fiscal year 16-17 show a 1.34 billion dollars surplus over the last year. Much of that is nonrecurring, and it will be interesting to see how the Legislature divvies it up. I will give you a little bit of a clue: the Governor released his nearly 79 billion or a little over 79 billion dollar budget recommendation to the Legislature the Monday before the Thanksgiving break. He recommends 50 million in new performance funds for the State University System and 50 coming out of our base. He also recommends 50 million for the State University System Public Education Capital Outlay or facilities needs to expand STEM facilities. He has a

proviso attached to that with some metrics. He focuses on STEM facilities, which is interesting. Just as a baseline, the Board of Governors recommended 80 million dollars for the system. Neither one of those dollar amounts are very high, by the way, if you think about it for the System. I'll get into that in a second too. The Governor also recommends a billion dollar tax break package which would include an extension of the textbook tax break that the Legislature implemented last year. I'll remind you that the Governor really only has the ability to recommend how he would spend the money if he could to the Legislature. It is only the Legislature who has the authority to appropriate. So these are his recommendations. The Governor does have the power of the veto. So he does get the last word. In my opinion, I think the Legislature will probably not do a billion dollar tax package. They will do something maybe smaller than that. And they will probably look at performance funding for the State University System in a little different way. For a matter of fact, as I was coming over here the chairman for the Education Budget Committee in the House said that he would like to see less skin in the game from the Universities and more state support. What we are looking at now with the Governor's budget is a 500 million dollar pot. Three hundred million of that five hundred would come from the University's base and 200 million of it would be new. The Legislature is now looking at maybe dividing that in half. Say, 250 from your base and 250 new. That's better. We'll hope for that and maybe try to make it a little better.

Our legislative priorities for the 2016 session are set, and I believe that has been distributed to you. And the president already touched on our number one issue which is to enhance our preeminence pot. Right now we are at 25 million. We are asking for 10 million more. That's a huge, hefty ask but if we don't ask, we won't get it. We've been getting our increases to preeminence in 5 million dollar slots, so hopefully maybe we can get 7 million if we ask for ten. The other thing, of course, is the performance funding from the FUS which I just mentioned to you which we are working on. The facilities, and you can see that our first priority is going to the Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science building, the EAOS, which has been on our list now for probably five years. We have received funding for that from the Legislature in drips and drops for five years, and that is really unheard of. It usually, once they start with the planning money, they go right in a row and in three years we are done and then we are in the ground. And that just hasn't happened this time. Public Education Capital Outlay funding has just been very scarce. It's PECO for short. Part of the reason is that Floridians continue to disconnect traditional wireline phones in their homes and business. And the reason that is significant is those gross receipts on the landline phones feed the PECO fund. People are disconnecting their landline phones at rapid rates, and that fund is going down. The other problem we had last session, we've had for the last few, is that the Legislature usually takes the money that is accumulated in that trust fund and they bond it which augments it at least times three and then divvies that up and appropriates it to the three education sectors. We are not the only ones that get that facilities money. K-12 and community and state colleges also get some. The Legislature decided last year that they didn't want to bond. So we didn't get our portion of the cash, which was really not very much when you talk about the system. The Board of Governors has recommended 80 million dollars – that would be un-bonded of course. We are going to try to convince the Legislature to bond that money because they can stretch their dollars and rates are still very low and it would be a good deal. To finish off our EOAS building, we are asking for 35 building. That's a pretty big slum for just one building when you think of the total being 80 million dollars. That is kind of what we are up against. It's probably going to be difficult. We have two others items on that list and those will be new items that have not received any funding yet from the State. We'll see how that goes.

Our priorities will be that first one. Years and years ago the Legislature created a matching gift program for facilities called the Cortels Matching Fund, and it was a very great deal because it, depending on the level of donor, could be a one to one match to facilities in the State University System, which is a very good deal. When the recession hit in 2008, the Legislature just didn't have enough funds to support that program. They were going to delete it out of statute but we begged them not to do it, so they put it on pause, and the backlog is still sitting there, waiting to be funded. So we have been trying to convince the Legislature to put some nonrecurring money to that backlog because that is another way for us to get some funds for facilities. Our backlog is 10 million dollars right now. So if you think about that times all the other universities – UF is larger than that. We know that they won't be able to just wipe that backlog clean. They probably won't be willing to do that, but we are asking for whatever they want to start to do to give on that one.

The College of Engineering as you have all read and heard, FSU is now the fiscal agent for that. We have put on our priorities 6.6 million dollar increase to that base budget, which has been, I think, 12.8 right now from the Legislature. We were pleased to see that the Governor put that 6.6 in his budget recommended. That will help us with the Legislature. So at this point in the legislative season, the state legislators have filed 947 bills and my office is tracking 223 of those. A lot of those bills have been re-filed from last session which ended abruptly a little bit early and a lot of bills died. The first bill of course, and you all are very familiar with this, is the guns on campus. The President has already talked about that. That's moving along. The House bill has made its way through all its committees of reference and it's sitting waiting on the House calendar for when they convene. I can tell you when they bring that bill up, and they could do it very early in the session, it will pass the House. It is sitting in the Senate right now in its third committee of reference out of four. That would be the Judiciary Committee. We were pleased that it did not make the agenda this past week. So that means now we'll have to wait till January. We are hoping upon hope that the chairmen of the Judiciary Committee will not agenda that bill, and we are working with him on that. But if he does, it will be heard and then it will go to rules and then from rules it goes to the floor. I'm going to come back and readdress that with you in just a minute.

There is a reemployment after retirement bill out there that we've been pushing for for quite a while because we have faculty who retire when they are a graduate student and then leave the State and then come back and find that the laws changed and it was retroactive and they can't reenter into the Florida retirement system if they choose to go that route. We think that is wrong. We are pushing the Legislature to change that to allow folks to come back. We've been able to get it through the Senate. Our problem has been in the House. So the bill is finally into the Senate, and we'll keep pushing it. There is a bill and it came out today in the Senate, but it's been in the House for a couple weeks, that creates a charter school institute at Florida State University. We are watching that carefully. There are several bills that speak to metrics and performance-based funding measures for the State University System for affordability to universities. It promotes college affordability. There is a bill that came up earlier this week that modifies the preeminence statute. So we are watching all those bills. Those are going to be kind of my focus for the session besides the gun bill. Because essentially there is so many of them and there is bits and pieces and some overlap between House and Senate, they will consolidate at the end into one. There are some good things and also some bad things like when they start talking about metrics and adding more thresholds and things like that. We just pay attention. We are watching those very carefully. Our advocacy efforts are continuing.

We have a 42 member Seminole Caucus. Most of those members are graduates but we have some who are friends whose kids or grandkids go here. We convened last session several times to keep them informed. We also meet with Gator Caucus as well. When you combine the Gator Caucus and the Seminole Caucus as well, you get a pretty big group of legislators. There are safety in number we think. Senator Bill Montford, our local Senator here, is our chair, and I've been working with him. We are going to convene the caucus in January when things start up again. We will review our priorities with everyone then.

I have a website and I know I've put it out there to you all, but if you haven't heard of it, it's called Advocate for Florida State. It's all one word - [advocateforfloridastate.fsu.edu](http://advocateforfloridastate.fsu.edu). It's one of those things where you can go onto the site and move around just fine. There is information, talk points, priorities, the caucus members, links to Online Sunshine, House, Senate, and Governor – things like that. But it would be wonderful if you could register because if you register, we will go into an alert during session and we will say, “Hey, we need you to reach out to your legislators. And here's a message. And do so. That would be really great.” We also have a lobbying policy and I think that was also distributed to you where I am, for better or for worse, the registered lobbyist for the University. I speak on behalf of, officially, the university administration. People ask me and call me all the time – because we are sitting here in the shadow of the capitol and we have scores of experts on this campus who are faculty, you'll get asked to come and speak and we think that is wonderful. We encourage that. I just ask that you let me know when you are going to be down there, especially if you can let me know ahead of time. I might be of some help to you to clue you in on who the committee members are and where they are going to be coming from and the kinds of questions they might ask. It's also helpful if you have just been called in to give expert advice by staff or whoever. I usually end up being asked by the same staff. We encourage you to go do that. It's a wonderful opportunity for us and for you. I also get asked, “Can I contact the Legislature?” Absolutely. I'm going to use the Guns on Campus bill as an example. We encourage you to please reach out to your legislators. If you live somewhere else and you are not sure who they are, let me know. But please, the only restrictions are don't use your fsu.edu. Use a personal email address. Don't use FSU letterhead. Just use plain paper or some other personal letterhead. You can absolutely say you work here, that you teach here, that you are here. There is no problem with that at all. I would actually encourage you to do that, especially on the Guns on Campus Bill. If you are unsure of who to reach out to, send me an email. The other thing – and I'm almost done here – is that I do send out a Legisletter and it comes out once a week on Mondays. I try to keep it brief. Try to update everybody every week. If you are not receiving the Legisletter and you'd like to receive the Legisletter, just send me an email at [kdaly@fsu.edu](mailto:kdaly@fsu.edu) and I'll add you to my distribution list. That first letter will come out on Monday, January the 11<sup>th</sup>. It's kind of a pre-session opening of what we expect to see. And then I also kind of do two wrap-ups. I do one right after session ends and then I do a final/final when the Governor does everything he is going to do, signed every bill we've been tracking, and let you know what passed and what didn't and that kind of thing. Those are also archived on the advocate site if you ever want to go back and look. And finally, FSU Day at the capitol – something we celebrate. People tease me and say, “Isn't every day FSU day at the capitol?” Yes, but we actually zero-in a little bit. That will be on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, this year. And we have a Seminole Evening the night before on the first of February on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of the capitol. You all are invited. We'd love for you to come. We invite all 160 legislatures. We invite staff. We invite our interns who are there working in legislative offices. We invite the Governor and Cabinet. We encourage you to attend. I'm open to any questions if you have any. Dr. Tyson?

Gary Tyson: I know the increase in preeminence is our highest priority item right now. Is it UF's? I know it's a priority for them, but is it their highest?

Daly: Yes. Well actually we collaborated with them on that, and we wanted to make sure we are both on the same page. We actually go and lobby together. We walk the halls together – the presidents do, the lobbyist do, on that one. We make sure that neither one gets in more than the other on that. So whatever people get. There is just, as an aside, this bill I mentioned is creating an emerging preeminent status to bring in probably USF for sure and possibly UCF. The criteria is lower, but they only get half the amount of money and they don't get any money if we don't. So it's interesting. I'll be watching that carefully.

Erin Lusaka: I see in the EOAS building, there is classroom space. Does the Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building, is there any classroom space in that building?

Fiorito: Can I ask you first if you would stand and state your name?

Lusaka: Hi. I'm Erin Lusaka. I'm student president for Student Senate.

Kyle Clark: So the Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building, the plans are still being finalized. It has a lot of different types of spaces: faculty space, student space, postdoc space, and research space. In terms of classrooms, I don't know that we've gotten in to the classroom environment yet. But there will be shared space to provide opportunities for students to interact with faculty and research things.

Fiorito: Any other questions? We've got her here. Everything about the Legislature.

Man: You said it was very unlikely that the EOAS building would get the 35 million and then you mentioned a figure of 80 million. Is that 80 million for the whole state?

Daly: The whole system – State University System. Yes. You know, the BOG vetted EOAS ask this year. They made it their number one priority for funding. So not only will we be pushing for it but the Board of Governors will as well. . So we are going to try to get as much money as possible to get us to closure on that building.

Clark: We are continuing to work with the architectural team and the engineering team on how we keep the project on schedule. It's still on schedule. And then whatever funding we get, hopefully it will be enough to go ahead and break ground starting over the summer and in the fall.

Woman: Are there any other facilities being considered for renovation or anything like that?

Clark: The university has a list of capital projects in its Five Year Plan, and the Board of Trustees approve that every single year. The requests this year for three highest priorities were for the Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science Building, the Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building because that's a match with public dollars and private dollars, and then also the College of Business where the planning money because we've already started raising money on that project. And that's half funded from private fund and also from state funds. So there is a chance within the next year or so, depending on if some of the big gifts hit, that a lot of crowd money could be in place for the College of Business to finally open.

Daly: And all three of those are listed on our priorities document that I'll hand to you on my way out.

Man: I've been in the Faculty Senate for a long, long time and I've watched you work. I think I speak for all the faculty in commending you for your hard work and your timely interventions. Thank you.

**VII. Old Business, Susan Fiorito**

There were no items of old business.

**VIII. New Business**

There were no items of new business.

**IX. University Welfare**

**a. Carol Darling, President, Association of Retired Faculty**

I know that most of you are not retiring this year and maybe not even in the near future, but I hope you can take this message back to your colleagues and departments and colleges. The Association of Retired Faculty, which we kind of call ARF, but it is not just for faculty; it is for faculty, staff, and administrators. It was first established in 1979 by Bernie Sliger, and we are very appreciative of his vision. But I would also like to publicly thank President Thrasher, who is no longer here – I'll thank him tomorrow – and Sally McRorie for their support in our ongoing efforts for ARF. The purposes of ARF are to provide opportunities to continue valued relationships with the University. Also: a conduit for current events; a campus, community, and colleagues; and deepen connections with former and current faculty, staff, and administrators, and their disciplines. One of the things we are doing right now is an exchange between ARF and the Faculty Senate. I'm coming here this year to tell you a little about ARF for you to share with your colleague, n Susan Fiorito is coming to our ARF board meeting in January to tell us some of the issues that Faculty Senate is facing. Basically ARF is an extended family that strengthens the fabric of collegiality. It is really a joy to join ARF. And, in fact, prior to retiring, I kept hearing from many people, like Marilyn Young, "You got to join ARF! You got to join ARF!" So when I retired, yes, bring it on. That's the way to go. I invited a guest to the Luncheon this fall, and he is retiring at the end of this term. He kept saying before, during, and after, ARF is really going to help him make the transition to retirement because there were so many people there that he knew. Also another new member said that she thought she wouldn't know anybody when she came to our fall luncheon and there were so many people she knew. She was very excited to come again. Now the dues. You're in luck here. The first year they are complimentary. You pay nothing except for the food of course. But you don't pay for any dues specifically. The second year, the dues are ten dollars for a retiree. And if you have a second member in your household, be it a spouse or partner, that increases it by five dollars for a total of fifteen. We have the ARF Retiree Journal that comes out three times a year. In august we had one. The main, featured article was by Heinz Luebkekmann who was in his honor flight. This one, which is in the process of being mailed as we speak, is highlighting our current deans because some

of us who are retired weren't aware of all the new deans and who they are and what they look like, so their pictures and statements are in. We thank Sally for her statement. Unfortunately it says "interim-provost." But, you know, when it went to press that's what it was. Please accept our apologies for that one. In the meantime our spring issue will feature FSU's first ladies. I don't know that I know all that I would like to know about first ladies, so we're looking forward to this one. Summer activities. We do have a fall and spring lunch. We appreciate the support of the Alumni association and [Inaudible]. We have all our events at the Alumni Association. We start out with the meet and greet session, which we get a sponsor to pay for. So we have a little wine and casual conversation which we enjoy. We have a variety of speakers. Last fall we had the musical theater program and some selections from *Cabaret* they were about to present. Terry Coonan was our spring speaker who spoke on human rights. This fall Sue Semrau spoke. This May our speaker will be John Thrasher. Now of course one of our other events is tomorrow, in which we will be joining you as Senators at the holiday reception at the President's house. And we appreciate that opportunity to interact. In February we have tours. They are complimentary. We are going from two to three this year. We have a small van that takes us around. It holds about sixteen people. I don't know about you, but when I was on campus I was kind of on one side of campus, and I didn't really know the other side of campus. So the three tours this year – we have three every year - one is the new buildings- we'll stop and look at those and go into some of them –, we'll be going to Innovation Park and the Mag Lab, and our ever-popular athletics tour where we go to the training rooms, the trophies, and indoor practice fields. We have a barbeque at Seminole Reservation in March. And also, if you are retiring and you're saying, "Oh, I have to give up my office!" some of us get to keep one and some of us don't. There is some space available in Kellogg building for one year with continuation based on availability. All you have to do is send the current President the purpose – in other words not just "I'm here to have coffee with my friends" and that there is no other office space available for you. And again, priority is for current members. We have two current projects we are focusing on. One is the stained glass window in Dodd Hall which is for faculty, staff, and administrators. That's not retired faculty, staff, and administrators. But current, all faculty, staff, and administrators. Fred Stanley was the catalyst for the creation of this window project. He's not only past-president of the Senate but past-president of ARF. We hope to have this installed in 2016. We're making progress here. It's a little slow. We are going to let Susan and the rest of you know because we hope to have a reception and an unveiling with that. We are also working to increase the Bernie and Greta Sliger Scholarship up to \$25,000. It was previously endowed at a lower level. We now have it as part of the presidential scholar program, and we want that scholarship with Bernie's name on it to have a little more money to give out to people. So that is also one of our priorities. The other thing is, we don't have any current data, but supposedly for our last capital campaign FSU retirees contributed over thirty-two million to FSU. So we are supportive of FSU and we want to continue to do that. If you have any questions, you can always ask me. You can ask Betty Lou Joanos who is our vice president, Larry Gerber who is our membership chair, and Marilyn Young who is right here and always available for you. Or you can go to our website. I'm not going to give you the address. Just go to the Association of Retired Faculty and FSU. If you just google that, you'll come up with our websites. We hope that you'll consider joining us when you retire and also telling you retired colleagues about the Association for Retired Faculty.



**b. Relay for Life**

My name is Deviyani Joshi and I'm a faculty recruitment representative for the Florida State Relay for Life. I wanted to talk to you about what exactly Relay for Life is. It's a fundraising event that actually happens every single year. All the donations for Relay for Life go to providing funding to find the cure for cancer. We light [inaudible] and create a path for [inaudible]. We all know someone who struggles with cancer and we all know how much they struggle with that. Our goal this year is to try to raise \$300,000 at the end of the year. And you as the faculty of Florida State are connected to many people. With your help we can accomplish this goal of \$300,000. You can sign up or create your own team within your department. You can get a group of people together or you can even join a team if you graduated from Florida State. My email is [fsurfl.facultyalumni@gmail.com](mailto:fsurfl.facultyalumni@gmail.com). You can Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/fsurelayforlife/?fref=ts>) or google (<http://www.relayforlife.org/fsufl>) our Relay for Life page. You can feel free to ask me any questions. Thank you.

**c. UFF, Jennifer Profit**

My name is Jennifer Profit. I'm an associate professor of communications and also the United Faculty of Florida president statewide and I'm also the vice president for our FSU chapter. As was noted last month, the UFF-FSU bargaining team will begin negotiations for 2016-2019 – so it's a three year contract – collective bargaining agreement in early spring. To that end we have asked that faculty complete our brief but extremely important bargaining survey. If you haven't already completed the survey, please do so by Friday and encourage all your colleagues to do so as well, as all faculty members are invited to participate whether you are a member of UFF or not. Please look for emails from me from last week or President Lata's email from Monday. Or I can give it to you if you want to see me afterwards. The next UFF-FSU luncheon will be held Wednesday of next week at 11:30 in 203 Student Services building. Jeff Wright, the Public Policy Director of the Florida Education Association will discuss the upcoming legislative agenda. I think President Lata's email today said he was supposed to talk about the crazy people at the legislature. So that should be interesting. It's always very interesting. There are still seats available, so please contact Matthew if you'd like to attend. He sent a reminder out earlier today. As you heard, I'm going to repeat it again, the bill that would allow people with conceal-carry permits to carry firearms on campus has passed four committees in the House and is ready to go to the House floor. As Faculty Senate we anticipate that the House will hear it and vote on it early in session. It's a priority since it blew through the House. Again, session starts January twelfth. The bill has passed two committees in the Senate and has two more to go. As you know, this bill is opposed by a wide range of voices, including the United Faculty of Florida, faculty senates across the State, student government associations across the State, tons of police, university and college presidents, the Board of Governors, the Association of Florida Colleges, and 73% of Floridians according to an October USF Sunshine State survey. Let me just let that sink in. [Inaudible]. Our only hope at this point is the Senate but I also encourage you to let the House representatives know how you feel about guns on campus as well as the Senate. As Kathleen said, please use personal email addresses and your personal phones. Phone calls are, in my understanding, always better, and you should use their home phones to do that. We have a few bills we are

watching very carefully. There are bills involving our health care plans as was presented last year in the House. We are waiting to see if that comes back up again. And unfortunately we hear that retirement is going to be back on the agenda. This was reported last week in, I think, the Palm Beach Post and some other news outlets. So we will be watching that. We are also monitoring textbook affordability bills and tuition issues. We do not anticipate that the secrecy bill will return. If you remember from last year, that was the bill that came up last session [inaudible]. Faculty, president, provost, and dean searches are exempt from public records. We don't anticipate but I'll have to ask Kathleen if he heard anything about it, but we don't anticipate that bill returning but we are watching out for that as well. Especially because the senator who had sponsored it in the spring, we found out later was planning to apply for the Lake-Sumter State College president position. In September he was passed. Apparently two hundred people applied and he was 51<sup>st</sup>. So he was cut from consideration. I thought that was very interesting. They may bring it back up, but we hope not. On behalf of the United Faculty of Florida FSU chapter I wish everyone a non-stressful and successful conclusion to the semester and a restful and productive holiday break. I am happy to take any questions if you have any. Thanks. And congratulations to Provost Sally McRorie. I haven't gotten a chance to say that publically yet.

**X. Announcements by Deans and Other Administrative Officers**

There were no announcements by deans and other administrative officers.

**XI. Announcements by Interim Provost McRorie**


Provost McRorie was not in attendance.

**XII. Announcements by President Thrasher**

President Thrasher was not in attendance.

**XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Melissa Crawford  
Faculty Senate Coordinator



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

## 2016 Legislative Priorities

Each year, Florida State University administrators identify legislative priorities that are vital to the operation of the university. Below are the top legislative priorities for 2016.

### 1. Increase Preeminence • \$10 million

The legislature established criteria for state universities to meet in order to achieve preeminent status. FSU meets all 12 of the 12 metrics required for preeminence, which supplements the university's annual base budget with \$25 million in preeminence funding. This enhancement has, to date, allowed Florida State to hire 57 new faculty members in STEM fields and other disciplines, and take on 8 campus-based entrepreneurs, who teach students how to turn their ideas and innovations into practical enterprises. Boosting preeminence funding by an additional \$10 million will allow FSU to stay nationally competitive in its efforts to attract top-tier faculty, particularly in STEM fields, and move into the Top 25 among public universities.

In addition, **performance-based funding** is allocated to state universities that exceed Board of Governors benchmarks and FSU anticipates again surpassing these standards, making performance-based funding an ongoing priority for 2016.

### 2. Florida State University Facilities

A number of factors have negatively impacted state revenue sources dedicated to the construction, renovation and expansion of educational facilities. As such, facility priorities at Florida State include:

- A. **Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science (EOAS) Building** – This complex, which has been partially funded for construction, is designed to create an environment where earth-science disciplines can interact in a collaborative and interdisciplinary manner to provide instruction, conduct research, and expand public service. The EOAS facility will include classroom space, teaching labs, study space, research laboratories, and administrative and academic-support services. Also, by placing these three major divisions under one roof, Florida State will be able to eliminate three antiquated buildings (saving significant maintenance dollars), provide instructional innovation, increase research potential, and grow the number of STEM degrees. **Construction completion request: \$35 million**
- B. **Interdisciplinary Research and Commercialization Building (IRCB)** – STEM faculty in the physical sciences and engineering typically share core facilities, such as research labs, since these arrangements facilitate collaborations across departments that can lead to unanticipated discoveries. Through construction of the IRCB, Florida State will take a significant step toward this new model of cooperative space that is open and flexible, and

has the ability to grow and adapt to change. Additionally, the IRCB will provide incubator space for the development of startup companies based on university inventions and discoveries, and the commercialization of its intellectual property.

**Construction phase request: \$36 million**

- C. **College of Business** – The development of a new complex for the FSU College of Business will provide significant and necessary increases to the instructional, technology and collaborative-learning spaces required for robust commerce-focused and research-based instruction to future business leaders. This facility will house seven departments, including the Dedman School of Hospitality, along with entrepreneurial space to accommodate advanced networking and career development opportunities.

**Planning phase request: \$2.5 million**

- D. **Deferred maintenance/renewal of facilities** – To keep timeworn classrooms and labs functional and supportive of the university's mission, Florida State requires substantial investments in capital maintenance/renewal projects *just to address the existing backlog*. According to the 2015 Sightlines Report, these investments will significantly reduce day-to-day repair and maintenance costs, provide greater reliability and efficiencies, and extend the life of existing buildings, systems and equipment.

**Current backlog: \$30.7 million**

### **3. Courtelis Facilities Matching Gift Program • \$10.5 million**

In 2011, the Courtelis Matching Gift program was suspended and, consequently, no gifts from that point forward qualified for a state match. However, Florida State still had more than \$10.5 million in prior gifts waiting to be matched before the suspension. These donations are critical to facilities construction and Florida State requests this program be reinstated and the prior-gift backlog be fully funded.

### **4. College of Law Scholarships/Faculty • \$1 million**

FSU requests that last year's \$1 million non-recurring allocation be made recurring. This revenue will be divided between student scholarships (approximately \$600,000) and two additional faculty hires (approximately \$400,000) to enhance the Law School's ability to attract and retain high-achieving students, improve its student-faculty ratio, and maintain the FSU College of Law's Top 25 national standing among public law schools.

### **5. FAMU-FSU College of Engineering • \$6.6 million**

To improve the academic quality, research rigor, efficiency and efficacy of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, critical investments are required. These funds will allow for the hiring of five additional faculty members in areas of strategic need, and address the cost of equipment, technology, labs, and other research essentials for all newly hired engineering faculty. Benefits to the state include marked increases in degree-holders in core engineering fields, levels of external-grant funding, number of patents filed, startup companies launched, and the commercialization of research products.

## **Office of Governmental Relations Lobbying Policy**

Employees asked to follow university's legislative guidelines

The Florida Legislature will be in session next year beginning **Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. All faculty and staff members should take note of Florida State University's policies concerning the session.

- Associate Vice President for Governmental Relations Kathleen Daly is the chief registered lobbyist for Florida State University. Ms. Laura Brock, Director of External Relations at the College of Medicine is also registered to lobby.
- The Legislature periodically requests faculty and/or staff to attend committee meetings or to formally respond to questions about certain issues. FSU employees who are asked to appear before committee must notify Daly at (850) 644-4453 and submit a legislative contact form prior to making an appearance.

The form can be found on the Governmental Relations website at <http://govrel.fsu.edu/>. If you have trouble accessing this form please contact Governmental Relations at (850) 644-4453 for a hard copy.