OUTREACH
FAU’s Jupiter Campus Hosts The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

Last weekend, FAU’s John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter hosted the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. The Travelling Wall is a 60 percent scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. Like the original, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall chronologically lists the names of more than 58,000 Americans known to have died or who were declared missing during the conflict in Southeast Asia.

The traveling memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships and to allow people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

Vietnam Wall

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Appropriations Update

Earlier this month, the House and Senate each voted to pass their respective budget proposals. The House is recommending a total budget allocation of $76.2 billion, while the Senate’s budget total is $80.4 billion.

As stated in previous updates, the primary reason for the roughly $4.2

GOING FORWARD

There are now two weeks left in 2015 Legislative Session. House and Senate policy committees continue to wrap up their work and hold their final committee meetings. However, it remains unclear whether the two chambers will meet in conference and resolve their budget differences prior to the scheduled end of the Session on May 1, 2015.

The FAU Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 on the Davie campus. The meeting notice, agenda and materials are available here.

BILLS IN BRIEF

HB 35 / SB 7028 - Educational Opportunities for Veterans (Stark / PCB)
The measure expands in-state tuition rates to children and spouses of veterans and service members. The bill also brings Florida into compliance with federal legislation.

Last Action: HB 35 was reported favorably by the Education Committee on 4/1/15. SB 7028 was...
billion budget gap is the way the two chambers are addressing health care. The Senate proposal includes $2.8 billion in federal funding to expand Medicaid health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), a position the House adamantly opposes. The Senate is also including a $2.2 billion Low Income Pool (LIP) replacement program that helps hospitals treat uninsured, under-insured and Medicaid patients. The House believes that LIP and Medicaid expansion are two separate issues and should be addressed accordingly. However, the federal government recently indicated that the issues are linked and would have to be resolved at the same time. The House would like to see the LIP program, or some version of it, extended without having to expand Medicaid.

The leadership in both chambers have been unable to reach an agreement about how to address Florida’s health care funding system. As a result, the House and Senate remain unwilling to begin the budget conference process. In addition to health care funding, Governor Scott’s proposed tax cuts, providing the highest level of per student K-12 funding in Florida's history, the implementation of Amendment 1 and the acquisition of land for conservation purposes are some of the other significant issues that need to be resolved before the state budget can be finalized.

-SB 2500 Senate Budget Proposal
-HB 5001 House Budget Proposal

Florida College System Baccalaureate Degrees

Last year, the Legislature passed a moratorium on the granting of new baccalaureate degrees from Florida College System institutions. Several Senators discussed what they perceived as a duplication of efforts and “mission creep” by the College System. This year, the baccalaureate moratorium is set to expire and the Senate asked the Legislature’s Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to research the issue. Earlier this year, the Senate Higher Education Committee held a workshop discussion on baccalaureate degrees granted by FCS institutions, which provided OPPAGA with an opportunity to present their research and gave committee members the opportunity to hear from the FCS. Proponents of bachelor degrees at the state colleges cite access, age of student, cost, approval process and workforce needs as reasons why the program in its current form is functioning properly and should be allowed to continue.

In anticipation of the moratorium expiring, SB 1252 was introduced. The measure realigns the mission and roles of Florida’s public postsecondary systems and institutions in meeting Florida’s labor market demands and community and regional needs. Specifically, the bill:
• Clarifies the mission of state universities, Florida College System (FCS) institutions, career centers, and charter technical career centers regarding state expectations.
• Renames the FCS as the Florida Community College System (FCCS).
• Clarifies Florida’s “2+2” system of articulation and guaranteed transfer of credit hours earned through acceleration mechanisms, CAPE industry certifications, and courses at FCCS institutions.
• Clarifies expectations and state oversight of baccalaureate degree
programs offered by FCCS institutions. The bill eliminates the one-year moratorium on the State Board of Education’s approval of new baccalaureate degree program offerings by FCCS institutions and aligns the baccalaureate degree approval process for St. Petersburg College with the approval process for other FCCS institutions.

- Prohibits the establishment of an enrollment cap in the collegiate high school program contract and requires school districts and colleges to report student enrollment information to the Florida Department of Education.
- Adds the Chancellor of Career and Adult Education as a member of the Higher Education Coordinating Council.
- Requires career education program standards and benchmarks to reflect the quality components of career and technical education.

-SB 1252

FAU Board of Trustees Appointments

On Wednesday, April 15, the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee considered a large group of appointments, including Chairman Anthony Barbar and Trustee Robert Rubin. The entire group was taken up as a block and recommended favorably by the Committee. The appointments next move to the full Senate for final approval. The Committee packet and confirmation materials can be found below.

-Senate Ethics and Elections Committee Meeting Packet 4.15.15

for certain graduate students.

Last Action: Both bills have been referred to several committees in their respective chambers.

Next Stop: The bills have yet to be placed on a committee agenda.

HB 4005 / SB 176 - Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms (Steube / Evers)
The measure would allow an individual to carry a concealed weapon or firearm into a university or college facility.

Last Action: HB 4005 was reported favorably by the House Judiciary Committee on 4/2/15. SB 176 was reported favorably by the Senate Higher Education Committee on 3/16/15.

Next Stop: HB 4005 was placed on the House Calendar, 2nd reading. SB 176 is awaiting consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 7125 / SB 938 – Postsecondary Access and Affordability (PCB / Flores)
The measure addresses higher education access and affordability mechanisms by modifying requirements for instructional materials and tuition and fees. The bill also seeks to promote public awareness regarding higher education costs to assist students and their parents in making informed decisions.

Last Action: HB 7125 was reported favorably with a Committee Substitute by the House Education Committee on 4/9/15. SB 938 was reported favorably by the Senate Higher Education Committee on 3/23/15.

Next Stop: HB 7125 was placed on the House Calendar, 2nd reading. SB 938 is awaiting consideration by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

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