Governor Scott Visits FAU

On Thursday, February 12, Gov. Rick Scott held a press conference at the bookstore on FAU’s Boca Raton campus. The governor discussed his proposals to eliminate the sales tax on college textbooks and expand the use of Bright Futures scholarships into the summer semester. By eliminating the sales tax on textbooks, a full time student would save roughly $60 a year and total statewide savings would equate to $41 million per year. Gov. Scott was joined at the podium by President Kelly, Student Body President Michael Cepeda and Boca Raton Campus Governor Kathryn Edmunds. You can watch a clip from the press conference here.

GOING FORWARD

There is one interim committee week remaining before the beginning of the 2015 Legislative Session. The 60-day regular session begins on Tuesday, March 3, and coincides with Palm Beach County Days, which will take place March 3-4 in Tallahassee. Prior to the start of session, the Palm Beach County Economic Council will hold their regular board meeting on FAU’s Boca campus on Monday, February 23.

BILLS IN BRIEF

HB 63 / SB 824 – Public Private Partnerships (Steube / Evers)

The measure formally extends the use of P3s to state universities and incorporates many of the recommendations contained in the task force report.

Last Action: HB 63 was reported favorably with a Committee Substitute out of the Government Operations Subcommittee.

Next Stop: HB 63 is awaiting consideration by the Local Government Affairs Subcommittee. SB 824 was filed on 2/11/15.
Gov. Scott and Senator Maria Sachs address the media

Trustee Daniel Cane, Board of Trustees Chairman Anthony Barbar, Gov. Rick Scott, President John Kelly, Trustee Jeffrey Feingold, Trustee Mary Beth McDonald and Trustee Tom Workman

FAU Day at the Capitol

On Tuesday, February 10, a group of over 40 members (students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees and board members) of the university community were in Tallahassee for FAU Day at the Capitol. FAU Day participants took part in lectures, toured the House and Senate chambers and met with over 30 members of FAU’s legislative delegation. The event allowed the University to share its successes, engage lawmakers, and increase awareness and understanding of the University’s legislative priorities. FAU Day was chronicled in photographs and through social media.

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 Criminal Justice Subcommittee on 1/20/15. SB 176 has been referred to several Senate committees.

Next Stop: HB 4005 is awaiting consideration by the Higher Education and Workforce Subcommittee. SB 176 is awaiting consideration by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee.

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For the latest updates from FAU’s Office of Government Relations please follow us on Twitter @FAUOwlAdvocates.
FAU Day participants in the House Chamber

President Kelly leads a discussion about the University's legislative priorities

SUS Chancellor Marshall Criser addresses the group during lunch
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Dennis Hanisak Appears Before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee

On Tuesday, February 10, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Researcher Dennis Hanisak testified before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. Dr. Hanisak gave a presentation on the use of new technology to determine nutrient baselines and observe changes in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). In 2014, the Florida Legislature allocated $2 million to HBOI’s Indian River Lagoon Observatory (IRLO) program. The funding was used to purchase and maintain an advanced water quality monitoring network of Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatories (LOBOs). Researchers at HBOI are in the process of purchasing and deploying LOBO units throughout the St. Lucie Estuary (SLE) that will provide real time water quality monitoring data. This information will help resource and planning managers make informed decisions for the good of the IRL & SLE. Dr. Hanisak appeared before the committee at the request of Ft. Pierce Representative Larry Lee. To
watch Dr. Hanisak's presentation, please click [here](https://example.com). In addition, the slides from the presentation can be found in the committee meeting packet below.

President Kelly Testifies on SUS Performance Funding

On Wednesday, January 9, President Kelly appeared before the House Education Appropriations Subcommittee to discuss the impacts of performance funding on FAU. The committee chairman asked representatives from each educational level (early learning, K-12, the college system, State University System and workforce education) in the state to provide the committee members with an overview of how their area of performance funding is structured and the impact it has had within their system.

Chancellor Criser provided the SUS system overview to the committee and President Kelly provided the practitioners point of view. SUS performance funding has been covered in great detail in earlier Legislative Updates, which can be found on our [website](https://example.com). To watch President Kelly’s testimony please click [here](https://example.com). Chancellor Criser’s presentation can be found in the committee meeting packet below.

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Please Contact the University Relations staff with any questions and/or comments:

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