

Dear Friend of USF,

As we near the halfway point of the 2013 Legislative Session, the budget proposals for the House and Senate are beginning to take shape and it appears to be positive news for the State University System and for the USF System. Senate Education Appropriations Chairman Bill Galvano (Bradenton) released his Chairman's Proposed Budget for the State University System this past week and it includes the full restoration of the \$300 million cut sustained by the State University System last year. This restoration will return approximately \$45 million to the USF System in much-needed operational support. Chair Galvano's budget proposal also includes nearly \$50 million in new incentive funding to reward state universities for their performance in graduating students who earn degrees in certain high-wage, high-demand occupations.

If you get a moment, please send Chair Galvano a note of thanks for his support for the USF System and for state university funding in general. (To contact Chair Galvano: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S26>)

The House is expected to release its initial budget draft this week. However, under the leadership of Speaker Will Weatherford (Wesley Chapel) and Appropriations Chairman Seth McKeel (Lakeland), the House has already made a very public commitment to restore the \$300 million reduction from last year. The House is also working hard on significant proposals to boost funding for university construction and maintenance projects.

We will keep you posted on the House and Senate budget proposals as session progresses and may on occasion ask for your assistance and advocacy on behalf of the USF System.

Thanks for all your support.

Mark Walsh

Assistant VP for Government Relations for the USF System



USF President, **Dr. Judy Genshaft**, Regional Chancellor, **Arthur Guilford**, Student Body President, **Brian Goff** and other students are welcomed to the House Floor by Speaker of the House, **Will Weatherford** (center) of Wesley Chapel.

USF Day at the Capitol

Bulls "Stampede" Tallahassee for USF Day at the Capitol

On February 19, 2013, dozens of USF students from across the USF System made the four-hour trip north to Tallahassee in order to advocate and lobby for their university at the official "USF Day at the Capitol." The USF Alumni Association and USF Foundation joined Student Government in sponsoring this student led initiative to help make this vision for a day of advocacy at the Capitol a reality.

The goal of the day was to provide students an opportunity to participate in the political process by meeting with individual legislators and advocating on their own behalf for the issues they felt most passionate about. Some of the "legislative asks" the students advocated for ranged from the "Aim Higher" initiative – which asks for a restoration of \$300 million in base funding throughout the State University System and an investment of \$118 million to allow universities to forgo a tuition increase next year – to the passage of SB 260 and HB 539, which would allow veterans of the U.S. Armed Services to pay in-state tuition rates.

Representatives from Student Government and the student body from all three USF institutions, the USF Foundation, the Alumni Association and USF Athletics joined President Genshaft and Regional Chancellors Guilford and Hogarth in conducting meetings with more than 30 legislators to advocate for the USF System. These meetings included one-on-one time with USF alumni legislators Senator John Legg and Representative Ross Spano, Speaker of the House Will Weatherford, Senate President Don Gaetz and other members of the Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation.

USF Day at the Capitol also included a daylong showcase in the Rotunda of the Capitol to highlight some points of pride for the university and concluded with a Legislative Reception at the Governor's Club where legislators, alumni and friends of USF were welcomed to candidly interact with students.

The day was a great success and enjoyed by all participants.



(L to R) USF Student Government Rep, **Janine Kiray**; Vice Provost for Student Success, **Dr. Paul Dosal**; Student Body President, **Brian Goff**; Head Softball Coach, **Ken Eriksen**; State Rep, **Dana Young** of Tampa; Head Football Coach, **Willie Taggart**; USF System President, **Dr. Judy Genshaft**; Director of Athletics, **Doug Woolard**; USF Student Government Advisor on Governmental Affairs, **Lindsay Lewis**; and USF Foundation Government Relations Committee Chair, **Stephanie Holmquist-Johnson**.

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<http://usfalumni.org/advocate>

BILLS IN BRIEF

(SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill)

SB 260 BY SENATOR LATVALA AND HB 539

Summary: Provides that a veteran of the U.S. Armed Services or its reserves is automatically classified as a resident for tuition purposes if they physically attend a Florida higher education institution or physically reside in the state and enroll in an online course offered by a Florida higher education institution.

LATEST ACTION: Senate Bill - Passed first Committee stop unanimously. House Bill - Incorporated into an omnibus House Bill on residency issues.

<http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/issues/alert/?alertid=62331626>

HB 85 BY REPRESENTATIVE STEUBE AND SB 84 BY SENATOR DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA

Summary: These bills all create a lawful system for certain public entities to contract for the construction or improvement by private entities of facilities used predominantly for a public purpose. State universities are included under the proposed definition of a "responsible public entity" eligible to participate in these public-private partnerships for construction projects.

LATEST ACTION: Senate Bill - Passed first two Committees. House Bill - Passed first Committee.

<http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/issues/alert/?alertid=62331651>

CONTACT YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE

Click here (<http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/directory/statedir.tt?state=FL&lvl=state>) to locate contact information for your local Florida State Senator and Representative, using your home address.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

To send us your feedback or ideas, email: govrelations@usf.edu