Report from Tallahassee on State of Budget

VP Mageria reported findings from the most recent BOG meeting; the Budget sub-committee did not meet as the budget picture is changing almost daily.

PECO funding for new infrastructure looks grim for at least the next two years, with PECO funds being recalled from sister SUS institutions that have not actually committed the funds to the project. Does not affect FGCU, no buildings planned, there is a need, especially an Academic Building to handle enrollment growth, convention center and recreation building. Also, to add buildings at FGCU, will need to expand the chiller plant (currently at capacity) cost for building roughly $12 million.

Large State Issue -- collectively the SUS system institutions have a $1 billion dollar beginning balance, statutory required to have 5% of Operating Budget, but several schools are far above the legislative mandate, not a problem at FGCU, began less than a million over 5% mandate. This is developing and more information to follow.

Other discussion at state level, minimum tuition increases state wide, as noted too early to officially predict what is occurring and the overall impact to higher education and specifically FGCU

At FGCU:

David Vazquez, Director of University Budgets, reported on the current budget and outlined several different budget scenarios and the impact to FGCU for the upcoming fiscal year. Scenarios included state cuts and varying tuition increases. The hypothetical plan was based on the current enrollment plan estimates that are published.

Vazquez also reported on the associated student fee revenues and outlined a forecast based on the current enrollment plan.

David reported at this time, there is no official budget reduction number for FGCU, overall the State House is budgeting $3.8 billion for Higher Education which would be a $250 million reduction, however, within Higher Education, there are several entities including but not limited to the BOG, Financial Aid, SUS, State College System, Work Force Development. In the current budget year, SUS received 49% of the appropriations for Higher Education, but there is no detail how the shortfall of $250 million would be spread throughout the entities of higher education, a best guess would be a $3.7 million deficit for FGCU

There have been no proposals from the Senate
On a positive note for FGCU, recently a few senators visited FGCU, were very complimentary of FGCU, and heard the message of FGCU being underfunded for FTE as compared to other SUS institutions, currently at 66%. Also noted how efficient FGCU functions in terms of managing resources effectively.

VP Mageria discussed some potential areas that FGCU could utilize in the event an education space shortage appears on campus.

- Summitt Church
- Grandezza

**Next Steps:**

1. Continue to look at University Tuition Waivers at all levels
2. Look at Graduate Tuition Waivers
3. Invite IRC committee members to discuss Technology Fee
4. Next meeting will be in February.

The meeting ended at 8:55 AM.