Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees  
September 14, 2004  

SUBJECT:  2005 Legislative Priorities  

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION  
None – Item is presented as information only  

BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
Each year, the University must identify its legislative priorities for presentation to the respective Legislative Delegations during their annual meetings and then carry the items forward as the Legislature meets in regular session. The University has identified five issues to present as its priorities for the upcoming Delegation Meetings and is presenting them to the Board of Trustees as an information item at this point. The University recognizes that the list is evolving, so the list may be amended and these priorities will be brought before the Board of Trustees as an action item during the January 2005 meeting to be finalized in time for the Legislative Session.  

Supporting Documentation Included:  2005 Legislative Priorities  

Submitted & Prepared by:  Ms. Mary Dougherty- Slapp  
Director of Government Relations  

Legal Review by:  Ms. Wendy S. Morris, General Counsel
Florida Gulf Coast University  
2005 Legislative Priorities

1. **Enrollment Growth Funding**  
   Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) continues to experience rapid enrollment growth. Our latest projections show our FTE at 3951 in 2005-06 and our headcount at 7432. This FTE is 19% greater than 2003-04, and the headcount is almost 28% higher. As you can see funding to adequately serve the increasing student population and provide quality instruction and educational services must remain the number one priority of Florida Gulf Coast University.

2. **Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Funding**  
   As significant enrollment increases continue to occur at Florida Gulf Coast University, there continues to be a critical shortage of classrooms and office space for new faculty on campus, as well as additional land, infrastructure and programmatic needs.

   - Academic VI Classroom Building (Planning) $687,000
   - Joint Use Facility (Charlotte County) $8,000,000
   - Roads/Parking/Infrastructure $5,000,000
   - Fine Arts Phase II Auditorium (Planning) $763,000
   - Land Acquisition $5,000,000

3. **Courtelis State University System Facility Enhancement Challenge Grant Program**  
   According to a recent report, which sought to identify the academic and programmatic choices Florida Gulf Coast University should make in the next few years that will benefit Southwest Florida in the future, a need for an Engineering Program was clearly identified as crucial for continued economic growth and prosperity for the region. In seeking to fill this void the University quickly went to work and secured matching gift money for a new Engineering School at FGCU.

   Thanks to the generosity of the Southwest Florida Community a pledge of $5 million dollars has been secured to begin this program.

   Additional funding has also been pledged for construction of a Culinary Lab to compliment our Resort and Hospitality Management Program

   Therefore, FGCU is requesting:
   - Engineering School $5,000,000
   - Culinary Lab $500,000

4. **Appropriations**

   FGCU is developing its Engineering School, with a focus on non-traditional areas of engineering that will directly support and help to grow
the State’s initiative in biotechnology and IT. The engineering programs will be cross-disciplinary in every aspect, and integrate across traditional lines represented by the basic sciences, biotechnology, business and engineering. We envision a seamless program that will build on the growing capabilities in biotechnology at FGCU that already encompasses private sector and SUS research and training experience in engineering. FGCU is requesting assistance from the State to ensure the growth of an undergraduate engineering program of national distinction.

- FGCU requests $2.2 M in recurring funds

5. **Matching Gifts Program**
   Once again, due to the generosity of our community, FGCU will request a match from the State of Florida for eleven gifts, totaling:
   - $3,015,785

6. **Specialty Tag Exemption**
   During the 2004 legislative session a new law based on SB 2020 passed which requires that specialty plates be discontinued if less than 1,000 plates are sold for 12 consecutive months. FGCU will work with our delegation to provide an exemption until the FGCU enrollment and graduation numbers reach a critical mass to sustain such a level of continued registration.