Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
September 20, 2011

SUBJECT: 2012 Legislative Agenda

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve legislative priorities for the 2012 Legislative Session.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

These items have been reviewed and proposed by President Bradshaw and his Cabinet, and now need approval by the FGCU Board of Trustees prior to the 2012 Legislative Session.

Supporting Documentation Included: FGCU 2012 Legislative Agenda

Prepared by: Director of Government Relations Jennifer Goen

Legal Review by: N/A

Submitted by: President Wilson Bradshaw
1. State Supported Funding

FGCU was created to provide an institution of higher learning to a previously underserved area of Florida. FGCU admitted its first student in 1997 and as a result of the university's ability to provide competitive and affordable access to further educational opportunities in southwest Florida; enrollment has grown to approximately 13,000 students. It is clear that FGCU is well suited to meet the demands for higher education in southwest Florida. As FGCU continues to attract a diverse student population and provide access to education, the need for state support will continue to be significant. FGCU’s funding request will be an increase of $13,000,000. This additional funding will appropriately fund our substantial growth as a regional university and provide the essential resources to continue to comprehensively develop, strategically expand, and timely offer courses to streamline degree progression and provide sufficient student services that will increase the proportion of and pace by which students graduate from FGCU with a Bachelor’s degree.

- Recurring General Revenue Request $13,000,000

2. Public Capital Outlay (PECO) Funding

In response to FGCU’s rapid growth, the demand to provide adequate classrooms, laboratories and office space will continue to be one of the university’s priorities. As we strive to offer a world class education, buildings and infrastructure are necessary to meet the needs of our expanding student population as well as continue to attract talented and qualified faculty. In addition, FGCU remains highly effective with space utilization in our current buildings, and this will continue with the addition of any new space.

Therefore, FGCU’s PECO request for 2012-2013 will be:

- Utilities/Infrastructure/Capital Renewal/Roofs $3,200,000
- Classrooms/Offices/Labs Academic 8 (E) (Replacement Funding) $4,500,000
- Innovation Hub Research Building (P,C) $12,500,000
- Central Energy Plant Expansion (P,C,E) $9,000,000
- Classrooms/Labs Academic 9 (P) $2,607,590

3. Courtelis Matching Funds and Major Matching Gifts

During the 2011 Legislative Session, SB 2150 passed, which suspends the Courtelis Matching program and Major Matching Gifts program. Legislative language allows the programs to resume after the $200 million backlog of the State University System is funded. As of June 30, 2011, FGCU’s backlog is:

- Courtelis Matching Funds $1,631,000
- Major Matching Gifts $11,752,281