

**Board of Trustees
Government Relations Committee Meeting
Minutes of March 4, 2004 Meeting**

1. Overview by Carlos Alfonso

Carlos Alfonso opened the meeting with an overview for the future. He stated a need for the Trustees to improve and continue their outreach with the members of the Gator Caucus – furthering our outreach at the state and federal levels. Carlos mentioned the reception for Representative Marco Rubio that was held recently at the home of Courtney Cunningham in Miami and a recent meeting between President Machen and Congressman Jim Davis as examples of how to become engaged in outreach.

Mr. Alfonso also discussed there needed to be a concerted effort to refine what is done in the State of Florida in regard to public relations. The University of Florida needs to “beef up” publicity in the local papers throughout the state highlighting UF accomplishments. He also suggested that there should be more editorial board visits.

2. Legislative Update:

State:

Dr. Bucciarelli presented an update on where the University of Florida projects stood in comparison with the budgets of the Governor, the House and the Senate. These included GR Budget Reductions, Salary and Health Insurance Increases, Technology Fee, Enrollment Growth, Major Gifts Challenge Grants, Alec Courtelis Matching Challenge Grants, Tuition, PECO, FCO-Non Recurring GR and the National High Field Lab.

Dr. Bucciarelli announced that April 15th has been designated as Gator Day and Alachua County Day in the legislature. The University of Florida’s special VIP Guest will be Danny Wuerffle. He encouraged the members of the Trustees to attend these events that would showcase the University of Florida and its many programs.

Federal:

Dr. Bucciarelli announced that in the FY 2004 Omnibus Budget Act there was total earmark funding of \$28.85M for the University of Florida.

The FY 2005 Federal Budget Requests by the University of Florida total \$35.8M in the areas of Labor-HHS, Agriculture, Energy & Water, Defense, and VA-HUD.

3. Government Relations Overview

Dr. Bucciarelli gave his recommendation to the Committee on how the UF lobbying team and the Trustees could work together to affect the outcome of the legislative session.

- Re-establish key contacts with legislators and governor
- Utilize background information of UF legislative priorities and talking points
- Activate the grassroots network

Dr. Bucciarelli also assured the Committee that Representative Jerry Paul was still the Chairman of the Gator Caucus and serve in that capacity until his appointment at the Federal level was official

Dr. Bucciarelli reiterated the UF legislative priorities for 2004

- Continued devolution of authority to the universities and the University BOT
- Preserve general revenue base funding
- Increased salary and benefits for UF faculty and staff
- Funding for enrollment growth
- Full funding for Major Gifts and Alec Courtelis Matching Challenge Grants
- Funding for the National High Field Magnet Lab
- Additional funding for capital improvements
- Fair and reasonable tuition policy

Having no other business, the meeting was concluded.