

**University of Florida
Board of Trustees
Government Relations Committee Minutes
December 1, 2005**

Present: Carlos Alfonso, Chairman
David Brown
Courtney Cunningham
Joe Goldberg
Joelen Merkel
Dianna Morgan
Cynthia O'Connell
Kim Tanzer

- I. Chairman Carlos Alfonso called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.
 - II. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.
 - III. Discussion Items
 - Vice President Jane Adams recapped our 2006 legislative agenda, which includes numerous public policy issues as well as budget requests. The committee discussed the following University priorities:
 - Bright Scholars
 - DSO Bonding
 - Emerging Pathogens
 - Graduate Student Health Insurance
 - Matching Gifts
 - PECO
 - Physician Upper Payment Limit
 - Salary Increases
 - Tuition Devolution
- There will be special session of the Florida Legislature on Medicaid reform during the week of December 5-9. Two major issues affecting UF include the continuation of the Physician Upper Pay Limit program and the level of funding under the Hospital Low Income Programs for Shands.
- The committee discussed the status of university governance, including tuition devolution, and the pending lawsuit on the authority of the Board of Governors. The parties are in mediation, which is expected to conclude in the next 90 days.

- The University of Florida has selected the firm of Barbour Griffith and Rogers to represent it in Washington, D.C. Firm principal Dan Murphy and his associate, Bill Viney were present to introduce themselves and give a brief presentation. Under the new contract, the firm will be responsible for:
 - Developing a strategic plan
 - Maximizing UF's Federal support
 - Representing UF on public policy issues
 - Enhance UF's visibility in Washington, D.C.

IV. Old Business

- The University of Florida has received to date approximately \$20 million in federal appropriations to support research, including agriculture, engineering and medical projects.
- The UF Government Relations Advisory Committee met on campus on November 3 to receive a briefing on the Emerging Pathogens initiative and other legislative priorities for the 2006 session. Carlos LaCasa, former Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee has been appointed chairman of the committee and Randy Roberts, of Publix, has been named co-chairman.

V. Meeting Adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jane Adams
Vice President, University Relations