

University of Florida  
Board of Trustees  
Governmental Relations Committee Minutes  
June 14, 2005

Committee Members Present:

Courtney Cunningham, Acting Chair  
Joe Goldberg  
Joelen Merkel  
Dianna Morgan  
Cynthia O'Connell  
Kim Tanzer

- I. Trustee Cunningham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Minutes of the March meeting were approved.
- III. Discussion Items:
  - Jane Adams provided committee members with highlights from the legislative session.
    - The legislature passed a \$64.7 billion budget. The education portion of the budget was \$27.6 billion, a 7.7% increase from last year's budget. The state university system and community colleges share of the budget was \$144.8 million.
    - Regarding UF's legislative priorities, the legislature:
      - Provided a salary increase of 3.6% for state university employees.
      - Devolved the power to set tuition for out-of-state, graduate and professional students to the board of trustees.
      - Restored partial funding to the College of Medicine in response to last year's cuts related to the Medicaid Physician Upper Payment Limit programs.
      - Provided \$6.1 million for enrollment growth at state universities. (UF's share is 14%.)
    - The legislature funded educational facilities as follows:
      - Major Gifts \$26.4 million (UF receives one-half of this amount)
      - Courtelis \$2.6 million
      - PECO \$55.6 million
      - Capital Improvement Program (CIP) \$13.7 million
    - IFAS had its most successful session in the last 5 years, although the Governor did veto 2 IFAS items -- Funding for a 4-H training institute and Kids for Fishing for Success Program

- Other key legislation that passed:
    - HB 1001 (state university system governance bill)
    - SB 2264/2236 (tuition devolution)
  - Legislation that did not pass:
    - Baxley Academic Freedom bill
    - Bill devolving the authority to name university buildings to the universities
- Gator Caucus – Jane Adams advised the committee that the Gator Caucus met four times during the legislative session and has 43 members. Gator Day, held on April 6, was successful.
- Fall initiatives – Jane Adams provided an overview as follows:
- The fall initiatives include meetings with key legislators, focusing on the budget, activating the university’s Government Relations Advisory Committee and inviting key legislators to campus.
  - In response to Trustee Cunningham’s request, Jane Adams provided the names of the members of the university’s Governmental Relations Advisory Committee.
- Jane Adams next provided a federal update
- There is currently \$14.7 million in the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee bill and \$3.5 million in the House Defense Appropriations Bill for UF projects.
  - Trustee Cunningham inquired about UF’s representation in Washington and Jane Adams advised him that Mike Hall is representing UF. Trustee Cunningham also inquired about the availability of DOT money for UF and Jane Adams indicated that university monies traditionally come through the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, Health and Human Services and Defense. Trustee Cunningham noted that John Mica is a member of the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Transportation and suggested we seek funding through this subcommittee.
  - Trustee Fernandez complemented Jane Adams for a terrific performance by UF, by far the best, and thanked her. Jane Adams indicated that the UF team is a great team and is working well together.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business – None

VI. Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

VII. Post Adjournment Discussion. The board members, President Machen and the various vice presidents had an informal discussion regarding a variety of issues.

- Just after the committee adjourned, Trustee Cunningham highlighted the importance of South Florida and engaging South Florida lobbyists to represent UF.

- Trustee O'Connell requested Jane Adams' strategic thoughts regarding the federal representation. Jane Adams stated that we can ramp up our efforts by being more engaged in higher education issues and placing more UF faculty on federal boards and commissions. President Machen stated that the university is under represented at the federal level.
- Trustee Morgan noted to the committee that one of the ways to make UF's graduation rate even better is to increase the number of summer session students by making Bright Futures available to those students. As this would be revenue neutral, Trustee Morgan suggested we seek a change in the Florida statutes. Jane Adams agreed to look at this issue and President Machen stated that from an efficiency standpoint it is best to get more students on campus in the summer.
- Trustee Fernandez inquired as to when the board would receive the list of strategies for the summer and specific dates the trustees' presence would be required. Jane Adams indicated she would provide that in 3-4 weeks and also confirmed Gator Day is on April 5 next year.
- Jimmy Cheek commented that IFAS had a great year and said thank you to Jane Adams, President Machen and the board members. He indicated IFAS is trying to build strong coalitions throughout the state. As an example, he offered the Healthy Forest Initiative.