

**University of Florida**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Government Relations Committee Minutes**  
**March 21, 2005**

Present: Carlos Alfonso, Chair  
David Brown  
Joelen Merkel  
Dianna Morgan  
Cynthia O'Connell  
Pierre Ramond  
Jamal Sowell  
Jane Adams

- I. Trustee Alfonso called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. He welcomed new committee member Trustee Courtney Cunningham
- II. Minutes of the December meeting were approved
- III. Discussion Items

- Trustee Alfonso provided committee members with the following briefing on University of Florida legislative priorities:
  - Devolution. Rep. Goodlette has introduced hour 1001, which outlines the responsibilities of the legislature and the board of governors. While the bill does not provide the board of trustees the authority to set tuition for out-of-state, graduate and professional tuition, Rep. Goodlette has expressed his support of the concept and will work with us on that goal.
  - Salary increases -- there is support for including faculty and staff in administered funds, which would provide university employees with a 2.5 percent pay raise.
  - PECO -- the legislature is considering the list approved by the board of governors, including utilities, multidisciplinary nanosystems facility, emergency power for the health science center and a life sciences building.
  - Physician upper payment limit -- the government relations team has met with several key leaders to request the restoration of funding cut by the legislature last year. The outcome of this 9.6 million dollar request is uncertain at this point.
  - Matching gifts -- senator king and rep. Domino have introduced legislation aimed to reform this program in an effort to help assure its continuation.
  - Medicaid -- the governor's proposal to reform Medicaid could significantly impact Shands funding. We anticipate the reform effort will continue through the 2006 session.
- Review of Congressional Visits
  - Trustee Alfonso reviewed the recent visits President Machen and Vice President Adams made to Washington to meet with members of congress on UF's priorities.

- Update on Federal Priorities
  - Federal priorities will be finalized before Fall.
  
- Gator Day Presentation
  - Trustee Alfonso reported that Gator Day in the legislature will be April 6 and the honored guest will be Mr. Two bits. The committee discussed logistics for the event, including meetings with legislators and a listing of the top five priorities with background information on each. Trustees O'Connell and Daniels inquired about publicity for the event and made suggestions on public relations.

- III. Old Business – None
- IV. New Business - None
- V. Meeting Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jane Adams  
Vice President, University Relations