

**Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 20, 2015**

SUBJECT: FGCU 2015 Legislative Agenda

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the legislative priorities for the 2015 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 2015 Legislative Session.

Supporting Documentation Included: FGCU 2015 Legislative Agenda

Prepared by: Director of Government Relations Jennifer Goen

Legal Review by: N/A

Submitted by: President Wilson G. Bradshaw

Florida Gulf Coast University 2015 Legislative Agenda

Performance Based Funding

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) strongly supports the request of the Board of Governors (BOG) for \$100 million in new recurring funding for the State University System's Performance-Based Funding Model, to be distributed among the State Universities using the performance metrics and funding allocation formula adopted by the BOG.

The performance-based funding model is designed to promote excellent outcomes for our students by tying funding of education to measurable performance. Last year, FGCU ranked fifth among the eleven state institutions. FGCU is committed to students earning degrees that will lead to high-wage jobs and careers in our region and beyond. FGCU will accomplish these goals by: (1) providing early guidance to students regarding their degree and career decisions, (2) implementing initiatives that engage students and keep them on track for on-time graduation, (3) hiring faculty in targeted Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related disciplines, (4) providing students with more "real world" experiences through expanded internship and co-op opportunities; and (5) collaborating with other institutions/organizations to develop programs emphasizing marketable skills that give students a competitive edge in the workforce. By providing these necessary resources through performance-based funding, FGCU will continue to enhance student success.

Academic and Career Attainment Funding

As FGCU continues its focus on student success, both at the academic and career levels, the university has identified three key initiatives included in our work plan: (1) return on investment; (2) the effort to leverage existing and new resources to improve graduation rates; and (3) to further enhance post-graduation employment success. FGCU plans to move forward with a fully integrated and multi-faceted approach. Efforts will be directed toward the development of a comprehensive and integrated **student academic life-cycle model**, beginning with the high school to university transition period and culminating with an enhanced and customized career placement system.

FGCU is committed to continually reviewing programs and offerings in order to be maximally responsive to the critical needs and high demand areas of our region, as well as providing students with the necessary information and tools to make successful transitions at each phase of their academic career. By developing an integrated **student academic life-cycle**, FGCU will increase student retention and keep students on track for timely graduation while enhancing real world career skills and identifying post-graduation opportunities. This new and innovative approach will include: comprehensive student academic mapping; focused advising and program offerings; creation of an

enhanced internship capacity designed to create more and better matches between local businesses and our students; and the implementation of a new program, 'Co-op 6', which will provide for a full semester of a working co-op experience with a local business.

Finally, to complete the **student academic life-cycle** with timely job entry, FGCU will pilot an enhanced, individualized, web-based tutorial and mentor style job placement service that will expand upon our current Career Services Center. With our **student academic life-cycle** approach, FGCU plans to build a talent based workforce that moves Florida's economy forward.

FGCU's Recurring Funding Request for 2015-2016:

Academic and Career Attainment Funding.....\$4,178,500

Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Funding

In order to achieve FGCU's goals to enhance student learning outcomes, provide a first-class learning environment and be a leader in the fields of STEM, PECO funding is required. These funds are necessary for critical infrastructure, such as a south road access, central energy plant, and the construction of the STEM Lab Building, Academic 9.

The construction of the South Access Road is critical for the increased safety of FGCU students, faculty, and staff. FGCU's South Road Access will provide an additional campus evacuation route, increase the entry access points to campus for emergency first-responders and provide direct access to a high concentration of on-campus student housing, where 2,271 students reside. This project will provide additional utility services for more stable University operations by allowing for additional infrastructure redundancy for power (FPL), water and sewer (Lee County Utilities), fire protection (Estero Fire Rescue), and data connectivity.

FGCU's central energy plant is at maximum capacity. The expansion will house a chilled water system for efficient cooling and reduced energy costs. This will allow FGCU to most efficiently provide the necessary cooling capacity to meet current building needs and support future campus facilities.

FGCU requests PECO funding for the construction of the STEM Lab Building, Academic 9, to ease the current deficit of STEM labs and classroom space on campus. The STEM Lab Building will meet current demands while promoting STEM, critical emphasis area enrollments, and degree production. Over the past several years, FGCU has increased its percentage of baccalaureate degrees in programs of strategic emphasis from 31% to 44% as compared to all baccalaureate degrees. This facility will meet the growing demand for degrees in STEM programs and provide an educated workforce that drives economic development. The STEM labs will create stronger connections between the

world of work and our STEM disciplines, while equipping students with the general and technical skills in greatest demand by corporate and business leaders. By creating more classroom space for STEM related courses, FGCU will be able to obtain American Chemical Society (ACS) accreditation in chemistry and maintain Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accreditation in engineering.

FGCU's PECO request for 2015-2016 includes the following:

South Road Access.....	\$4,000,000
Central Energy Plant Phase 3.....	\$9,000,000
STEM Lab Building Academic 9 (Planning and Design).....	\$3,852,065

Non-Recurring Student Initiative Capital Project

FGCU is requesting \$9,800,000 of non-recurring funding for the construction and completion of a student-supported initiative, the Student Health/Fitness Center. The 50,000 square foot building will provide facilities to improve and maintain the health and wellness of our current student population of 14,500 students. The existing campus fitness facility was constructed to accommodate approximately 4,000 students. The total cost of the project is \$15,000,000, with \$5,200,000 of the funding provided by revenues generated from student fees designated for the Capital Improvement Trust Fund. This facility will provide students and our FGCU community with a healthy outlet and environment to increase their productivity and focus, as well as improve student life which will lead to increased student retention. The Student Health/Fitness Center will allow students to improve their academic career while supporting our ongoing efforts to achieve goals set by our BOT and BOG to continue to improve student success.

FGCU's Non-recurring funding request for 2015-2016:

Student Health/Fitness Center.....	\$9,800,000
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Courtelis Matching Funds and Major Matching Gifts

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the passage of Senate Bill 2150 suspended state matches for the Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, and the Major Gifts Trust Fund. The statute allows the program to resume after the \$286,828,780 backlog for projects for the State University System is funded. FGCU encourages resumption of state funding for these valuable matching programs that leverage private sector investment in support of critical state needs.