

Dear Friend of USF,

With the redistricting process drawing to a close—at least in the Legislative arena—the Legislature has begun to turn their attention towards crafting a state budget for State Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The House has already released its initial proposed spending plan and intends to debate their version in full House Session later this week.

The House's proposed spending plan for higher education is, in many ways, reflective of the state of Florida's economy in that it is not as robust as we might hope, but it is improving over recent years. Regrettably, continuing the recent trend, the House is proposing another round of reductions of state general revenue funding from our state universities. The total reduction in state funds under the House plan would be approximately \$146 million (about 7.5%). The House also proposes using nearly \$80 million in nonrecurring revenue from the Florida Lottery and other gambling revenue sources to replace recurring base state support in the State University System. The effect of this fund transfer to nonrecurring revenue would be that absent legislative intervention in the spring 2013 Legislative Session, the State University System would automatically lose that \$80 million from their base budgets in future years. It would also require universities to be cognizant during the 2012-2013 school year regarding what they expend those funds on—prioritizing those funds mostly towards one-time items so as not to commit funds that are slated to disappear in future years towards long-term, recurring expenses (such as hiring new faculty).

For the USF System and the other state universities to absorb another year of state funding cuts of the magnitude proposed by the House budget without major interruptions in programs and services to students and faculty unless some additional revenue, such as higher tuition revenue, is provided to offset those cuts.

The Florida Senate has taken a slower approach to crafting their budget proposal. We expect to see the Senate release and begin to workshop their proposed budget this week and we will be sure to keep you updated on the full budget process as it unfolds further.

Many of you have inquired about the future of the USF Polytechnic campus following the Board of Governors' decision in November to put it on a path to becoming an independent institution. We have included a link below to a recent special communication from President Genshaft to the USF Community about that issue. We invite you to read her remarks on that project by clicking on the provided link.

Thanks for your time and support. And please feel free to send us your feedback (govrelations@usf.edu), as we always enjoy hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Mark Walsh

Assistant VP for Government Relations for the USF System

GENSHAFT RELEASES STATEMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF USF POLYTECHNIC

Read the text of President of the State University System of Florida Frank Brogan.

The Tallahassee Internship Program, and USF's other legislative and government internship programs, have been tremendous successes over the years as graduates use the experience they gain in their lives after USF. Some of the graduates also use the experience they gain to go on to work in government. One of the program's recent graduates and USF alumnus, Ryan Metcalf, is currently working as a senior correspondence analyst in the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House.

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