



PRESIDENTIAL *News*

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Legislative News



The Florida Legislature is at the half way point of its 60 day session and the news for UWF is positive. Late last week both the House and Senate released their first draft budgets. It is evident from their proposals that they understand the value of higher education to the State of Florida.

- The \$300 million non-recurring reduction from the SUS last year is fully restored. UWF's portion of that cut was \$11.9m. As you recall we funded this cut from our carry forward funds last year. These are not new funds to UWF, but would have been a permanent cut if not restored.
- Senate proposes 3% pay increase for all employees. House proposes a \$1,400 pay increase for all employees.
- Health insurance premiums remain the same, and funding for the Affordable Health Care Act is included in both budgets.
- The State Employee Retirement Unfunded Actuarial Liability of \$64.7 million is included in both budgets. The House proposes closing the defined benefit plan to new employees after July 1, 2013; the Senate proposes that employees entering the defined benefit plan (FRS) would pay in 3% to their retirement while employees entering the ORP plan would pay in 2%.
- Recurring funding for the Doctorate in Physical

Therapy and Doctorate in Nurse Practitioner (in partnership with University of South Florida and University of Florida, respectively) are included in the Senate budget. \$1 million for each program

- The Adult Degree Completion program is included at \$4 million in the House and \$5 million in the Senate.
- The House proposes a 6% tuition increase for in-state undergraduate students. Another \$65M is included by the House for performance funding based on specific metrics like cost for degree, student debt ratio and employment after graduation.
- The Senate also includes \$7 million for the Florida Small Business Development Center Statewide Network and \$1 million for a Haas Center study on economic security.
- IT Performance Funding is included in the Senate budget. This is a competitive process, and UWF received \$3.75m last year. The Senate also included IT performance funding for cloud virtualization.
- The third year of the Regional Economic Development funds is included in both the House and Senate, totaling \$10 million.
- PECO is funded at \$6.3 million CITF (Capital Improvement Trust Funds) and \$8.4 million for College of Business Phase 3 in the House and \$1.1 million CITF funds in the Senate.

Please understand we are only half way through the legislative session and things will evolve as we go through the negotiation phases. Next, the House and Senate will work to pass their respective budgets and then they enter into conference negotiations to resolve any differences. The legislative session ends May 3 and the Governor typically signs the budget and imposes his vetoes around Memorial Day. We will know our final outcome at that time.

I am truly encouraged by these numbers and wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the legislature for recognizing and investing in higher education. Also, Janice Gilley our Assistant VP for Government and Community Relations is doing an amazing job keeping our issues forefront in Tallahassee. She is also keeping the legislative website current, so you can see the side-by-side comparison of the budget on the web at: <http://uwf.edu/govrelations>.

You will not want to miss my annual Budget Town Hall meeting on April 25, 2013 at 10am in the Commons

Auditorium. We have something very special planned to express our gratitude for the hard work of our legislature. Don't miss it!

UWF Prepares for Reaffirmation of Regional (SACSCOC) Accreditation

UWF is now preparing for its reaffirmation of regional accreditation by the SACS Commission on Colleges. This reaffirmation is critical to everything we strive to do at UWF – for our students, faculty, staff, and community partners.

Although the SACS Commission's site visit is not scheduled until the spring of 2015, we have much to do between now and then. We are currently in the pre-certification phase and 16 teams have been launched to assess our readiness. In fall 2013 we will enter the certification phase and begin to draft documents to demonstrate our compliance with the SACS Commission's *Principles*.



Many of you are stepping up to participate on one or more Compliance Certification Teams, thank you for your important efforts. I also encourage everyone to participate in the University-wide effort to identify potential topics for UWF's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

The QEP will provide us with an opportunity to focus on a research-based endeavor that WE (as a campus community) identify as being vital to the long-term improvement of student learning at UWF. I encourage you to visit theuwf.edu/sacscoc website for links to more information about our preparation for reaffirmation.

Campus Master Plan Progresses



We are making great strides toward realizing our ambitious campus master plan.

Here are some of our most recent developments:

- We will break ground on our East Campus Complex in June. Initial concept plans for building a hotel, conference center, student housing, and restaurants at our East entrance have been approved and are progressing appropriately. These facilities will be built and funded by private investors. UWF's BEI will receive a percent of revenue.
- On Friday of this week we will send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for building University Park in the heart of our campus and a Retirement Active Living Village on West Campus. The proposals from the RFP are due on May 31. As you may know we received seven team proposals from national firms, (who had local design and construction firms as part of their team) during the Request for Qualifications phase of this project. Three firms were ranked as being most qualified and these firms will now participate in the RFP phase. The first building in University Park will likely be mixed use academic, retail, and student housing, with planned opening in Fall of 2015.

It is truly an exciting and transformational time at UWF. Stay tuned as we work together to

create spaces that our students deserve.

SPARA Process in Full Swing

When I was first appointed President in 2008, I committed that we would work together to define an open and transparent budgeting process and that our budget would follow our Strategic Plan. Since then we have worked to develop and pilot a process to accomplish that goal. This is the first year that the full process is being implemented. SPARA, or Strategic Planning and Resource Alignment, for the 2013/14 budget year is now in Phases Three and Four.



In Phase One, units developed SPARA requests for submission and in Phase Two, each division implemented a process and appropriate rubrics to assess alignment with UWF's Strategic Priorities and the criticality/benefit represented by the requests. This phase ended on March 15 and the SPARA office received 89 requests. All of the requests are available for review and are located online at <http://uwf.edu/spara>.

While I am certain we will not have funds for all of the requests, I believe this process is of strategic importance as we annually take the time to review our priorities, plans, and opportunities. The process helps us focus on what is most important to UWF.

We are now in Phases Three and Four, which are running simultaneously. A university-wide team is reviewing each of the proposals for alignment to the Strategic Plan and with the 2013/14 highlighted activities and related Strategic Priorities, which include the following:

1. Quality Enhancement Plan. (Strategic Priority 1.1)
2. Improved Student Retention (Strategic Priority 1.3)
3. Faculty Compensation and Professional Development (Strategic Priority 2.2)
4. UWF's Application for Carnegie's Community Engagement Classification (Strategic Priority 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
5. Staff Compensation and Professional Development (Strategic Priority 4.2)
6. SACS/COC Accreditation Reaffirmation (e.g., infrastructural needs; staffing needs; consulting needs; implementation of specific, supportive activities) (Strategic Priority 4.3)

Phase Four is conducted by each of the divisional vice presidents. They, too, are reviewing the requests from their respective divisions to assess alignment with the UWF's Strategic Priorities and the criticality/benefit represented by the requests. This work will conclude by April 15.

Finally, in Phase Five, all of this input will be considered as I work together with the Vice Presidents in preparing a proposed budget for FY2013/14. I hope you will take the time to review the SPARA website and keep abreast of our new budgeting process.

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PRESIDENTIAL NEWS

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