

# THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:**

**MIRIAM LÓPEZ, CHAIR**  
**CLAUDIA PUIG, VICE-CHAIR**  
**SERGIO PINO, VICE-CHAIR**  
**BRUCE HAUPTLI**  
**ALEX PRADO**

*FIU FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN*  
**CARLOS MIGOYA**

*UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT*  
**MODESTO A. MAIDIQUE**

**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

MONDAY, 16 MAY 2005

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

**MEMBERSHIP**

MIRIAM LÓPEZ, *CHAIR*  
CLAUDIA PUIG, *VICE CHAIR*  
SERGIO PINO, *VICE CHAIR*  
BRUCE HAUPTLI, *FACULTY TRUSTEE*  
ALEX PRADO, *STUDENT TRUSTEE*

**AGENDA**

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>I. CALL TO ORDER</b>                         | <b>MIRIAM LÓPEZ</b> |
| <b>II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>                  | <b>MIRIAM LÓPEZ</b> |
| <b>III. CHAIR'S REMARKS</b>                     | <b>MIRIAM LÓPEZ</b> |
| <b>V. REPORTS</b> ( <i>NO ACTION REQUIRED</i> ) |                     |
| <b>1. FIU DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2006</b>           | <b>STEVE SAULS</b>  |
| <b>2. 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT</b> | <b>STEVE SAULS</b>  |
| <b>3. 2005 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES</b>   | <b>STEVE SAULS</b>  |
| <b>VI. OTHER BUSINESS</b> ( <i>IF ANY</i> )     | <b>MIRIAM LÓPEZ</b> |
| <b>VII. ADJOURNMENT</b>                         | <b>MIRIAM LÓPEZ</b> |

**NEXT GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
IS SCHEDULED FOR 31 OCTOBER 2005**

**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

16 MAY 2005

**SUBJECT: GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MINUTES, 31 JANUARY 2005**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Florida International University Board of Trustees' Governmental Relations Committee held on 31 January 2005, attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A," are hereby approved.

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**EXHIBITS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- Exhibit "A": 31 January 2005 BOT Governmental Relations Committee Meeting minutes.

**FACILITATOR/PRESENTER:**

- Chairman Miriam López

DRAFT

THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
31 JANUARY 2005  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL

**I. Call to Order**

The Florida International University Board of Trustees' Governmental Relations Committee meeting was called to order on Monday, 31 January 2005, by Chair Miriam Lopez at 11:01 a.m., via conference call.

The following attendance was recorded:

***Present:***

Miriam López, *Chair*  
Sergio Pino, *Vice-Chair*  
Albert Dotson  
Bruce Hauptli  
Jorge Rosario  
Modesto A. Maidique

***Excused:***

Claudia Puig, *Vice Chair*  
Betsy Atkins  
Patricia Frost  
Adolfo Henriques  
David Parker  
Rosa Sugrañes  
Herbert Wertheim

Cassandra Roache took a silent roll.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Miriam Lopez asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the 4 November 2004, Governmental Relations Committee meeting. Hearing none, the Committee adopted the following:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Governmental Relations Committee held on 4 November 2004, attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A," are hereby approved.

### **III. Chairman's Remarks**

Committee Chair Miriam Lopez welcomed all Trustees and guests to the meeting and noted that they had a challenging legislative season ahead. She encouraged all Trustees to be active in contacting legislators to make the case for adequate funding for FIU and for higher education in Florida.

### **IV. Items for Committee Action**

#### 1. Proposed Federal Priorities, 2005-2006

Steve Sauls reported on the seven Federal priorities submitted for Committee and Board consideration. President Maidique added that the State University Presidents had set up a website to address some of the most significant budget issues facing the state's public universities for the 2005-2006 fiscal year: faculty and staff salaries, enrollment, and the matching gifts program.

After discussion, the Committee recommended that the Board adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLVED that the Florida International University Board of Trustees adopt the Federal Priorities for 2005-2006 as outlined and attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "B."

### **V. Reports to the Committee**

#### 2. *Governor's Budget Request, 2005-2006*

#### 3. *FIU Day at the Capitol - Tallahassee*

Anitere Flores reported that plans were well underway for the second annual FIU Day, on 9 March 2005, in Tallahassee during the 2005 legislative session. She stressed the importance for Trustees to join faculty, staff and students in support of the university in Tallahassee.

### **VI. Other Business**

President Maidique reported that the federal audit of HCET should be concluded in the next couple of days and that a full Board meeting via conference call would be convened to make the announcement. He also reported that the School of Medicine presentation before the BOG went well. Trustee Hauptli congratulated everyone on the Torch Society ceremony.

### **VII. Adjournment**

With no other business, Chair Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

***Trustee Requests***

- 1. Send SUPA website information to all Trustees.*
- 2. Present a short clip of the Torch Society Ceremony at the next full board meeting on March 7.*
- 3. Distribute transcripts of the 27 January 2005 BOG meeting to Trustees.*

*Exhibits: "A" & "B".*

CLR/clr  
01.31.05

**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

16 MAY 2005

**SUBJECT: FIU DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2006**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

None. Discussion Item.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- Steve Sauls will present a report on FIU Day at the Capitol 2005.
- *“Save the Date FIU Day at the Capitol 2006”*: 8 March 2006.

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**EXHIBITS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- SAVE THE DATE 2006

**FACILITATOR/PRESENTER:**

- STEVE SAULS

# **SAVE THE DATE**

**March 8, 2006**

**“FIU Day at the Capitol 2006”**





**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**16 MAY 2005**

**SUBJECT: 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

None. Discussion Item.

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**EXHIBITS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- ATTACHMENT 1 – 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT
- ATTACHMENT 2 – EDUCATION CONFERENCE REPORT
- ATTACHMENT 3 – BILL REPORT FOR THE 2005 SESSION

**FACILITATOR/PRESENTER:**

- STEVE SAULS

## 2005 Legislative Session Report

The 2005 Session came to a close on Friday, May 6, 2005 at 11:49 P.M. After all was said and done, it became clear that Florida International University was one of Miami-Dade County's biggest winners. FIU's advocates in the Miami-Dade Delegation worked hard to bring home the funding for those programs most critical to the university.

Prior to the 2005 Session, the FIU Board of Trustees adopted seven priorities critical to the university. This is how we fared:

1. **Enrollment Growth** – Funded by the Legislature, providing **\$7 million** for 1,525 FTE's at the university using the **new funding formula**.
2. **Parity Funding / Faculty Salaries** – Big Win! FIU's faculty and staff are included in the 3.6 percent pay increase provided for the in-state pay package. That translates into **\$5.8 million** for FIU.
3. **Fixed Capital Outlay** - The Legislature funded the completion of two new buildings at FIU, and provided **\$5 million** in maintenance funds. The funded projects for FIU are: **\$8,418,634** for our Molecular Biology building and **\$13,466,007** for our Social Sciences Building.
4. **Major Gifts Matching Program** – The Legislature fully funded the Matching Gifts program, providing **\$1,540,002** in matches for FIU.
5. **UBOT Tuition and Fee Authority** – Proviso language only – The Legislature has authorized the UBOT'S to set tuition and fees for graduate, graduate professional and non-resident students. Tuition and fees for the graduate, graduate professional and non-resident students may not exceed the average tuition and fees for corresponding programs at public institutions that are members of AAU. If a graduate, graduate professional or non-resident student was enrolled prior to the Fall of 2005, an increase no greater than 5% may be levied on those students. In addition, UBOT **may** increase resident undergraduate tuition **up to 5%**.
6. **Enhancement Funds** - The Florida Legislature funded \$10 million for Nursing grants to address the state's critical needs. The FIU School of Nursing will be submitting several grant applications to compete for a portion of the statewide funds. In addition, the Legislature funded FIU **\$376,554** for Life Sciences, **\$250,000** for Hispanic Crime Initiative, **\$50,000** for Columbian Studies Research and **\$50,000** for our Urban Reading Research Literacy Center. Lastly, the Legislature funded \$500,000 for seven State University Museums to participate in the Cultural Institutions Grant Program to digitize their collections. FIU's Frost and Wolfsonian Museums qualify for this grant program.

7. **Medical School** – FIU received much needed support for a program that will lay the ground work for a medical school at FIU. The Legislature funded an additional **\$1 million** for our current medical partnership between the FIU Honors College and the University of South Florida’s medical school.

As is evident from the above summary, and the attached documents, FIU had an exemplary 2005 Session. This year we have laid the groundwork for the future of FIU’s undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. FIU will be able to reward its faculty and staff with a well-earned pay increase.

FIU’s interests were well represented in Tallahassee this year. The Office of Governmental Relations continues to improve the relationships we have built with numerous legislators, their staff, and staff all around the Capitol.

**2005 Legislature  
Education Conference Report**

10 May 2005

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>CONFERENCE FINAL</b> (in millions of dollars)
Cost to Continue	1.70
Enrollment Growth	7.00
Mix	0
Tuition	5.80
Law	.656
Incidental Fee Adjustment	3.00
Base Tuition Increase	4.20 (+5%)
Salary Increase (+3.6%)	5.80 of \$6.5 annualized
Retirement Rate Adjustment	.294
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>28.45</b>
<b>SPECIALS</b>	
Residency Expansion	1.00
Health & Life Sciences	.376
Columbian Studies	.05
Urban Reading	.05
Nursing*	
University Museum Digitization**	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1.48</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29.93</b>

\* \$5 million split among public and private nursing programs

\*\* \$500,000 split among 7 museums, including Wolfsonian and Frost

<b>NON-OPERATIONAL FUNDS</b>		<i>(in millions of dollars)</i>
PECO		26.8
Courtelis Facilities Matches		3.3
Challenge Grant Matches		1.54
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>31.64</b>
Capital Improvement Fee Projects		12.5
Capital Renewal		<i>2.2 estimate</i>
<b>SESSION TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 76.266 Million</b>
<u>Plus authorizations for:</u>		
EC Classroom Expansion		
Artist Studio		
Community Stadium Renovation and Expansion		
Parking Garage V		
Parking Garage VI		
Lakeview Housing		

## Bill Report for the 2005 Session

### **BILLS WITH LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL**

**CS/HB 193 Hazing** - This bill creates new criminal offenses specific to hazing at the high school or college level. The bill provides that it is a first-degree misdemeanor to commit an act of hazing that creates a substantial risk of physical injury or death. The offense level increases to a third degree felony if the act of hazing actually results in serious bodily injury or death. Effective date is July 1, 2005.

**CS/HB 517 University Campus Master Plans and Campus Development** - This bill clarifies procedures for adoption of university campus master plans and procedures for challenges to the plans. It allows for university master plans to be made available electronically and specifies that the master plan must identify general location of structures rather than the tentative location of structures. CS/HB 517 limits the standing of persons that may challenge the adoption of university campus master plans and the subject matter they may challenge. The bill transfers rule-making authority from the State Board of Education to the university board of trustees of each university. An amendment was added which permits Florida Gulf Coast University to establish a College of Engineering subject to approval by the Board of Governors. Effective date is July 1, 2005.

**HB 1001 Governance of the State University System** - HB1001 defines the constitutional duties of the Board of Governors of the State University System and the Legislature with respect to operation of the State University System. State universities are defined as state agencies for purposes of the delineation of constitutional authority. It preserves, however, university exemptions such as purchasing and procurement from the state agency requirements that predate the bill. The bill expresses Legislative intent to reenact laws relating to the postsecondary education system in accordance with the bill. The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

The Board of Governors responsibilities outlined in the bill include:

- Operating, regulating, controlling and being fully responsible for the management of the SUS;
- Defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university;
- Defining the articulation of each constituent university in conjunction with the Legislature's authority over public schools and community colleges;
- Ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the SUS;
- Avoid wasteful duplication of facilities or programs within the SUS;
- Accounting for expenditure of appropriated funds for the SUS
- Submitting a budget request for legislative appropriations for the institutions under the supervision of the board;
- Adopting strategic plans for the SUS and each constituent university;
- Adopting, reviewing, and terminating SUS degree programs;

Governing admissions to the state universities;  
Serving as the public employer with respect to all public employees of state universities for collective bargaining purposes;  
Establishing a personnel system for all state university employees with certain exceptions  
For statewide programs that administered by DMS;  
Complying with, and enforcing for institutions under the BOG's jurisdiction, all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

HB1001 authorizes the Board of Governors to delegate these responsibilities listed above to a designee.

The legislative responsibilities outlined in HB 1001 include:

Making provisions for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that are determined needed;  
Appropriating all state funds through the General Appropriations Act or other law;  
Establishing tuition and fees;  
Establishing policies related to need-based and merit student financial aid;  
Establishing policies relating to expenditure of, accountability for, and management of funds appropriated by the Legislature or revenues authorized by the Legislature;  
Maintaining the actuarial and fiscal soundness of centrally administered state systems by  
Requiring state universities to continue to participate in programs such as the Florida Retirement System, the state group health insurance programs, the state telecommunications and data network, and the state casualty insurance program;  
Establishing and regulating the use of state powers and protections;  
Establishing policies relating to the health, safety, and welfare of students, employees, and the public while they are present on the campuses of institutions of higher learning.

A lawsuit was filed on December 21, 2004, against the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education seeking a declaratory action, among other things, regarding the Board of Governors powers and duties with respect to the state university system. The results of this lawsuit may have an impact on HB 1001 with respect to state universities.

**CS/CS/SB 2236 Excess Hours and University Tuition Flexibility** - To discourage undergraduates from exceeding the number of credit hours required to complete the students' degree program a student must pay 75 percent over the in-state tuition for any credit hours that the student takes in excess of 120 percent of the number of credit hours required for the degree regardless of whether those hours were taken while enrolled at a community college, a state university, or any private university if the student received state funds while enrolled at the private postsecondary institution. Credit hours earned under the following circumstances are exempted from the excess calculation:

- (a) college credit earned through an accelerated mechanism
- (b) credit hours earned through internship programs
- (c) credit hours required for certification, re-certification, or certificate degrees

- (d) credit hours in courses from which a student must withdraw due to reasons of medical or personal hardship
- (e) credit hours taken by active military personnel
- (f) credit hours taken to achieve a dual major undertaken while pursuing a degree
- (g) remedial and English as a Second Language credit hours
- (h) credit hours earned in military science courses (R.O.T.C.)

Each school must notify students of the excess hour policy at the time of initial enrollment and again at the time the student has earned the credit hours to complete the degree program in which he or she is enrolled.

The excess hour portion of this law applies to freshman enrolled in the fall of 2005 and all freshmen thereafter.

CS/CS/SB 2236 addresses tuition flexibility by permitting each board of trustees to set tuition and fees for graduate, graduate professional and non-resident students unless otherwise provided by law. In addition, the 40 percent cap on fees does not apply to the graduate, graduate professional and non-resident students the boards of trustees are allowed to set tuition and fees for. It applies only to in-state undergraduates in this bill. The 40% cap refers to “the sum of the activity and service, health and athletic fees a student is required to pay to register for a course shall not exceed 40 percent of the tuition established in law or the General Appropriations Act” (1009.24).

Undergraduate tuition and fees for state university resident students are established within proviso in the General Appropriations Act. The tuition and fees for graduate, graduate professional, and nonresident students may not exceed the average full-time tuition and fees for corresponding programs at public members of the Association of American Universities (AAU). The annual percentage increase for students enrolled prior to the fall of 2005 may not exceed the annual percentage increase approved by the legislature for in state undergraduates. At least 20 percent of the tuition increase imposed by the universities boards of trustees must be allocated to each university for need-based financial aid for students.

CS/CS/SB 2236 takes effect July 1, 2005

The lawsuit filed on December 21, 2004 could have an impact on this bill with respect to universities.

### **CS/CS/SB 2264 Instructional Costs for Students, Determination of Residency, Tuition and Fee Flexibility.**

Section 1 of this bill revises the definition of “dependent child” to mean any person, whether living with his or her parent, who is eligible to be claimed by his or her parent as a dependent under the federal income tax code and who receives at least 51% of the true cost-of-living expenses from his or her parent. Additionally, the bill requires each postsecondary institution to



determine whether an applicant who has been granted admission to that institution is a dependent child. The bill revises the residency determination procedure to require that person, or that person's parent if the person is a dependent child, to establish and maintain legal residency for at least 12 consecutive months immediately before initial enrollment (first day of class) in a postsecondary institution. The bill also provides that a student is not eligible for classification as a resident for tuition purposes until he or she has provided evidence related to legal residence and its duration as well as documentation. The bill establishes reclassification requirements.

Section 2 amends s.1009.24, F.S. clarifying that the Legislature has the responsibility to establish tuition and fees and provides that:

Undergraduate tuition and fees for state university resident students are established within proviso in the General Appropriations Act or law, and except as provided by law, each board of trustees shall set university tuition and fees for graduate, graduate professional, and nonresident students under the same terms as are reported in CS/CS/SB 2236. Section 3 revises general requirements for student eligibility for state financial aid regarding residency for those students at private postsecondary institutions in Florida. Finally CS/CS/SB 2264 prohibits a student attending a private postsecondary institution from receiving more than one state tuition assistance grant during a single semester. The effective date is July 1, 2005.

The lawsuit filed on December 21, 2004 may have an impact on this bill with respect to universities

### **MAJOR UNIVERSITY BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE**

1. Academic Freedom for Students and Faculty (HB 837, SB 2126)
2. Revisions to the Major Gift Trust Fund (HB 67 and SB 528)
3. Exemptions to sales tax on research and development, sales tax machinery and equipment and taxes relating to research and development costs (HB 27, HB 81, SB 582, SB 616, SB 2312 SB 1200, SB 2362)
4. Naming Bills for State University Buildings (SB 90, SB 1968, HB 219)
5. Eligibility criteria for students who are not permanent residents of the U.S. for exemption from payment of non-resident tuition. (HB 119)
6. Center of Excellence (HB 131, SB 1444)
7. Community College Baccalaureate Degrees (HB 167, SB 2254)
8. Redirecting state and student fee financial aid from foreign students to need-based aid for in-state students (HB 21, SB 866)
9. Targeted Programs, SUCCEED, Nursing (HB 437, SB 1260, HB 1853)
10. Highway signs for colleges/universities (HB 553, SB 1648)
11. Ticket/Resale for Sporting Events exemptions from 'scalping' prohibitions in certain situations (SB 2472)
12. Florida Independent Collegiate Assistance Program (HB 943 and SB 1256)

2005 Legislature  
Attachment 3 – Bill Report for the 2005 Session  
The Florida International University  
Governmental Relations  
19 May 2005  
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**THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

16 MAY 2005

**SUBJECT: 2005 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT**

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**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION:**

None. Discussion Item.

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**EXHIBITS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

- FEDERAL PRIORITY ISSUES FOR FY '06

**FACILITATOR/PRESENTER:**

- STEVE SAULS

# Florida International University

## 2005 Government Relations Priorities

### Federal Priority Issues for FY '06

1) **Florida Hurricane Alliance (Continuation):** The Florida Hurricane Alliance, led by Florida International University, with eight additional Florida public research universities, is seeking \$7.5 million in support of a third year of continued and expanded hurricane mitigation research.

Already the Alliance has accomplished real-time hurricane track forecasts, and real-time ground-level wind speed data using meteorological towers that recorded the first-ever eye wall of a land-falling hurricane. These data were used by the National Hurricane Center during the multiple hurricanes that struck Florida and elsewhere last year. These and other solutions developed by the Alliance benefits not only Florida, but also every hurricane-vulnerable community in the country and abroad.

The Alliance, which has the single focused goal of reducing the cost of hurricanes to federal, state and local government, as well as to businesses and households, will continue to develop credible data on the effectiveness of various methods and techniques for hurricane damage reduction, and to transfer the knowledge gained to policy-makers, practitioners and the community through programs of education and outreach.

Hurricanes are by far the most devastating and damaging natural hazards impacting the United States, causing an average of \$5 billion in property damage per year. Hurricanes and other natural disasters caused 65 percent of insured losses over the past 50 years. Despite this, hurricane mitigation research has been minimal.

2) **Bio/Nano Electronic Devices and Sensors (Continuation):** Work undertaken by FIU in the area of bio/nano electronic devices and sensors has the ability to significantly improve our nation's warfare technological base and help the U.S. Air Force Office's of Scientific Research build and sustain the Air Force's effectiveness. FIU is seeking \$5 million to continue its efforts in the following areas, employing its new, state-of-the art nano fabrication facility: (a) high-power microwave emitters for U.S. communication purposes and for high-power weapons systems; (b) carbon nanotube sensors, such as environmental sensors, that would enable the Air Force to detect chemicals under war-time conditions at much smaller molecular levels, faster, and with greater efficiency, resulting in faster response times and lives saved; (c) the development of highly fuel flexible fuel cells that the Air Force can use as free-standing devices in the field; and (d) 3-D magnetic recording devices that would enable the Air Force to manage, store, and retrieve information 10 times better than with devices now available.

The research would also lead to significant ancillary benefits in the electronic, healthcare, and environmental pollution sectors.

3) **Western Hemisphere Information Exchange Program (Continuation):** FIU is seeking \$5 million to augment and accelerate its existing agreement between its Western Hemisphere Information Exchange (WHIX) program and the Department of the Army. WHIX now supports the Army's International Activities Plan and NORTHCOM's and SOUTHCOM's security

cooperation goals. These goals include strengthening partnership and alliances, advancing regional security and stability and enhancing environmental sustainability and stewardship. WHIX helps the Army to increase its readiness and military interoperability by encouraging improved capability and willingness on the part of Western Hemisphere allies to operate in coalition with the U.S. military. WHIX is currently developing pilot "in-country" projects in Brazil, Columbia, El Salvador, Mexico and Panama, and is demonstrating and validating innovative technologies for wastewater treatment using bio-remediation and distributed biomass energy production for military facilities. These technologies provide solutions to common issues shared by both the U.S. military and partnered military organizations within the Western Hemisphere.

In 2003, FIU received \$5 million to begin the program, and received earmarks in FY '04 and '05 totaling \$5 million. The new funds will enable the program to include more of the countries of interest to US military needs and to develop agreements and information exchange projects for many of the countries not currently included.

#### **4) National Center for Transportation Needs of Special Populations (TRANSPO) (Continuation):**

FIU's goal is to establish a permanent center for researching, collecting and disseminating information about the unique transportation needs of special populations due to their physical, physiological, language, social-economic and cultural barriers. These populations include seniors, the physically impaired, school-age children, young drivers, immigrants, foreign visitors, and the economically disadvantaged. In FY '04 and FY '05, FIU received a total of \$1 million in earmarks for this research.

Working in partnership with the University of Miami, the universities are seeking \$1.5 million in FY '06 to continue work with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on improving coordination of specialized transportation services, and conducting additional research identified by the FTA, including the evacuation of special populations during hurricanes. Additionally, the Center would continue its research, education, and technology transfer activities in the areas of emergency preparedness, transit accessibility, highway safety, highway design, economic development, emerging technologies, environmental justice and urban planning.

#### **5) Western Hemisphere Energy Cooperation (New):**

In September 2002 FIU submitted an unsolicited proposal to the US Department of Energy to establish a western hemispheric center for energy technology, called the Center for Energy Technology of the Americas (CETA). FIU was awarded \$1.3 million for 5 years to focus on the solution of developing reliable and adequately priced energy supplies to provide economic growth, job creation and national security.

Senator Nelson was successful in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress in getting language included in the comprehensive energy bill establishing a Western Hemisphere Energy Coordination program modeled after CETA. Congress is still considering this legislation, and FIU will continue to seek passage of authorizing language in the new bill, followed by efforts to get congressional appropriators to include funding for the DOE program in its FY '06 Energy and Water appropriation.

FIU will continue to make the case that reliance on supplies of oil from the Middle East and former Soviet Union amplifies the political and economic risks the U.S. faces today. While there is the potential to mitigate these risks through increased energy supplies from countries of the Western Hemisphere, many hurdles must first be overcome, such as inadequate regulatory and tax frameworks, rights of way and permitting, access to capital markets, political and social instability and the obvious, and very relevant, technological challenges. CETA affords DOE with one-stop shopping for energy policy, energy technology and energy-cooperation support.

## **6) GlobalNetBienestar (GlobalNetWellness) (NEW)**

The State of Florida, and especially the South Florida region, is experiencing increased migration of Hispanics and Haitians, many of whom are low-income with minimal education, with other cultural variations that are not accounted for by typical health information literature. FIU, is proposing a partnership with the Miami-Dade school system, and is seeking \$1.5 million to create an innovative web-based information resource that promotes healthy lifestyles, addresses region specific health issues (for example, HIV/AIDS, aging and nutrition, lead poisoning, and obesity), and empowers the population to take control of their personal health as well as the health of their families.

The major goal of the GlobalNetBienestar project will be to create a web-based information resource that will be available in 24/7/365, easily accessible, confidential, anonymous and timely. The project includes: the establishment of an advisory board of health professional and community leaders in Florida; availability of professional staff dedicated to recruit volunteer expert health care professionals who can provide evidence-based information; an interactive questions/answers feature, with questions asked anonymously and responses posted on the website within 72 hours; links to globally available, credible health information links in Spanish and Creole; and dedicated computers for the project at participating schools and neighborhood health centers.