

**Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 20, 2009**

SUBJECT: 2009 Legislative Priorities

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve legislative priorities for the 2009 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 2009 Legislative Session.

Supporting Documentation Included: FGCU 2009 Legislative Priorities

Prepared by: Director of Government Relations Jennifer Goen

Legal Review by: N/A

Submitted by: President Wilson G. Bradshaw

FGCU Legislative Agenda 2009

1. Enrollment Growth

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) continues to experience rapid growth in enrollment. In just eleven short years, FGCU has grown to over 10,000 students and are currently serving 10,217 students. This represents a 9% increase over last year's enrollment. Due to the decline in state's revenue, our FTE (Full Time Equivalents) level remains at 5373 FTEs with no increase over last year's funding level.

2. Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Funding

As FGCU continues to exceed expectations for enrollment growth the demand for classroom, laboratories and office space on campus has dramatically increased. In addition to those demands, the need for infrastructure has sharply increased and created a critical shortage in this area. Therefore, our 09-10 PECO request is:

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| • Roads/Parking/Infrastructure | \$ 7,000,000 |
| • Academic VIII Classroom Building | \$12,500,000 |

3. Courtelis Matching Funds

Once again, due to the generosity of our Southwest Florida community and the dedication of the FGCU Foundation we will submit a request in the amount of \$1,000,000 to be matched by the State of Florida from the Courtelis Matching gift program. The matching funds will be used to assist with construction of our green building project on campus.

Green Building	\$1,000,000
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4. Major Gifts Matching Funds

In addition to the Courtelis request, FGCU has been able to establish 17 major gifts totaling \$4,542,918 million for submission to the State as matching funds.

5. Board of Governor's approved Legislative Budget Requests

At the August meeting of the Board of Governors, the board approved an additional budget request in the amount \$1.5 million specifically for FGCU. This targeted funding will be used to hire necessary new faculty to meet our enrollment needs. In 2007, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million in non-recurring funds to FGCU for this issue.

Faculty for Student Access	\$1,500,000
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6. Tuition Flexibility

The Governor has introduced a proposal to provide stability to the state university system by clarifying university governance at the local and state level, giving university boards of trustees authority over day-to-day operations and personnel while giving the Board of Governors power over longer-range planning. Under the proposal, the boards of trustees at each university would have the option to establish, with Board of Governors approval, a differential tuition higher than the base rate charged to in-state undergraduates. The differential cannot exceed 15 percent each year. This proposal will need the approval of the Legislature during the upcoming 2009 Session, which convenes on March 3, 2009.

7. FGCU/ESC Educational Opportunities Partnership

According to the 2007 Wadley-Donovan Report, Charlotte County lags behind the rest of the state and the nation in residents with associate, bachelors and graduate degrees. Increasing the number of residents who obtain a college degree will attract more advanced, knowledge based employers to the region, diversify the local economy and provide many other benefits to the region. In seeking to address this important issue, Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University have created a unique partnership to provide Charlotte County with new educational opportunities through an innovative alliance. This partnership would allow both institutions the opportunity to jointly utilize the Edison State College campus and provide a seamless educational pathway for students in Charlotte County and the surrounding area.

On this site will be:

- **Edison Collegiate High School** providing an honors level high school curriculum aimed at preparing high school students for the demands of higher education
- **Edison State College** which will offer the traditional AA and AS programs, but also as a state college will provide increased and affordable access to bachelor's degrees in high-demand fields such education and management

- **Florida Gulf Coast University** initially offering unduplicated education related baccalaureate degree programs, but expanding over the next few years to offer a broader range of degree programs such as Psychology, Communication, and Legal Studies. Beginning on or about 2011 FGCU will offer graduate level degrees.

12/5/08