Dear members of the university community:

This week the Florida House and Senate passed their respective budgets. The House budget is about $2.7 billion less than the Senate budget primarily because of Senate revenue assumptions that have not been finalized.

The next two weeks or so will be spent working out differences so that we may have a final budget by the end of session, which is scheduled for April 30, 2010. Little has changed since I last reported to you; much is still undecided. Our team in Tallahassee continues to work to make sure FIU has access to the funds we need to continue to be worlds ahead.

We are keeping a close watch on proposals you may have read about in the media that would adversely impact the salaries and benefits of university employees. Some of these extreme cost-cutting measures have received little support, but we are monitoring the situation. In general it seems as if the universities will avoid severe damage during this budget cycle.

Thank you for your interest in the future of our institution. Please note that our first budget forum is scheduled for 10 a.m. on April 12, 2010 in the Graham Center Ballrooms.
I look forward to seeing you there.

Mark B. Rosenberg
President