

BUDGET UPDATE

February 24, 2012

Dear FIU Community,

The climate in Tallahassee continues to be one of extreme uncertainty as it relates to the 2012-13 budget. As you probably have read, there is a big difference between the House and the Senate budget proposals which for us would translate into cuts of 22 and 50 million respectively.

Having spent some time in Tallahassee this week, I can tell you that there is also reason for cautious optimism. I believe that the cuts that we ultimately sustain could be closer to the figure put forth by the House. While these cuts would still be significant, they can be ameliorated by a tuition increase.

It is possible that we will get some PECO dollars for needed infrastructure projects such as a new chiller plant. Additionally, indications are that the Wertheim College of Medicine will get the funding it needs to continue to stay on track.

On the other hand, it is likely that reductions will be made to the Optional Retirement Plan, which could have a real impact on our take-home pay.

You may have read also that there is a proposal to grant UF and FSU freedom to set their own tuition. We are strongly supportive of that initiative. As chancellor I supported this idea and continue to do so because it is about competitiveness in higher education. Allowing universities to find unique solutions in providing a high quality education is a positive step for all public universities in Florida.

I will continue working with Vice President Steve Sauls and his team in Governmental Relations to make sure leadership and the South Florida Delegation understand how important FIU is to our community. I will update you again as soon as we get more clarity on our budget and other important issues that will impact us next year. The regular Legislative Session is expected to conclude on the 9th of March.

Thank you for your interest in the future of FIU and all the hard work you put in to make sure our university continues to be Worlds Ahead.



Mark B. Rosenberg
President