

# VALENCIA COLLEGE

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## 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

APRIL 22, 2015

### Current Funding Positions: Senate and House Appropriations Bills

#### ▶ Florida College System

- **Senate:** Provides for additional system funding of \$65,461,887 (+5.82%)
  - Includes \$60 million in Performance Funding, half from existing budgets.
- **House:** Provides for additional system funding of \$28,548,681 (+2.54%)
  - Includes \$20 million in Performance Funding.

*Note: As state appropriations comprise only about half of the funding for the Florida College System, these stated proposed percentage increases should be halved to more accurately represent the potential percentage increases to the System's state appropriations.*

#### ▶ Valencia College (estimated increase based on current System proposals)

- **Senate: (\$7.7 million)** Provides for estimated additional Valencia College funding of \$4,720,986, plus a portion of Performance Funding, estimated at \$3 million.
- **House: (\$3.8 million)** Provides for additional Valencia College funding of \$1,846,966, plus a portion of the Performance Funding, estimated at \$3 million.

#### ▶ Poinciana Campus, Building 1 Capital Funding

- **Senate:** The Senate has not released its Fixed Capital Outlay budget as of yet, proposed funding level is not yet specified.
- **House:** The House has included in its proposed appropriations bill \$11,950,867 for Building 1 – Poinciana Campus for FY 15-16.

## **Substantive Legislation Update**

### **▶ Florida College System Baccalaureate Degrees**

- Issues regarding FCS colleges' ability to deliver bachelor's degree programs have been a recent focus of legislative attention. Along with ensuring the immediate termination of the baccalaureate degree approval process moratorium that has been in effect since last year, other principles as agreed to by the FCS Council of Presidents and the amendment sponsor have been included in amendments to SB 948. Among the principles included in the latest version of the bill:
  - No college will have to change its name.
  - The Florida College System will be renamed the Florida Community College System.
  - Colleges with 10 percent or more of total enrollment in bachelor's programs (based on 2014-15 FTE 3 report) may grow up to five percent. Those colleges below 10 percent may grow an additional seven percent. These caps will sunset and no longer apply on June 30, 2018.
  - The required Notice of Intent for proposals to establish a new bachelor's degree program to the state is extended from 100 days to 120 days. The State University System and Independent Colleges and Universities will have 90 days to review proposals.
  - Colleges will be required to have one, third-party review of the need for a new bachelor's program. (needs clarification in current bill draft)
  - Moves the description of college baccalaureate programs to a section of law that covers secondary roles for the colleges. This is where the baccalaureate authorization was originally located when enacted years ago.

### **▶ Campus Carry Gun Bill**

- The proposal to allow concealed weapons on college and university campuses (HB 4005/SB 176) has stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **▶ Textbook Affordability**

- Several bills address issues regarding textbook affordability and are moving along in the process. SB 938 and SB 948 both have language that promote the reduction of costs associated with postsecondary textbooks and tuition and fees, and require a state level evaluation of policies to improve college and textbook affordability. Additionally, SB 938 establishes a new sales tax exemption for textbooks required for courses offered by Florida College System institutions, state universities, and independent colleges and universities. (HB 1317 also addresses only the sales tax exemption, but has not moved). SB 938 has been stalled without action since March 31. HB 7125 contains the textbook sales tax exemption language and has passed the House, now in messages for the Senate to take up. SB 948 is still in committee in the Senate.