Health fee increase to add staff, programs

GABRIEL ARRAÑAS
MAUREEN NINO
Beacon Staff

With the tentative proposal to increase the Student Health Fee at the University, students at Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus shared their separate concerns, but disagree on the final decision.

The five percent increase, according to the University Health Fee committee, will provide students with better and more efficient services along with more programs.

“We are really looking to meet the demand and have the resources to deliver to students the services they have asked for,” said Amanda Niguidula, director of the Disability Resource Center. “We can continue to stay at the same rate with the same budget from four years ago, or we can move forward and deliver something dynamic and exciting to students.”

The request for $500,000 would fund new positions, online records and more programs, according to Oscar Loynaz, interim director of University Health Services.

Loynaz is especially optimistic about the possible new position of case manager.

“The case manager will be the one position for both campuses,” Loynaz said. “The position will help students have a greater understanding on how to maneuver the health care system and get the help they need. We want students to become educated consumers.”

The health fee, which has not been increased in four years, is one of three different fees that students pay in their tuition, along with the Athletics and Activities and Services fee.

“Last time we received a health fee increase was in 2006,” Loynaz said.

According to William Beesting, the associate dean of Undergraduate Education, FIU ranks tenth out of 11 Florida state universities, the lowest as far as a health fee is concerned.

“Unlike what some of you may have read about the Athletics fee which is right at the top, the health fee is right at the bottom.” Beesting said, referring to a March 20 article from The Miami Herald which states that FIU students shoulder some of the highest athletic fees in the nation.

“Even with the increase we will still be $20 below the average of other state universities,” he added.

The University, once a year, can take a five percent increase in one of three categories: Athletics, Activities and Services and Health Services. All three categories typically alternate getting increases, with Athletics receiving an increase once every year, Activities and Services the next and Health Services the year after next.

The health fee also works much differently than the Athletics and Activi-
Many of rescue workers who worked in the vicinity of Ground Zero did not smoke, 13 percent scored below average on these breathing tests. The effect on rescue workers cannot be separated from the economic situation that also moved him to support the economic fund.

Mujica said students will be “very receptive” because of how much “going green” is the media.

“it’s the big hype right now,” Mujica said.

He admitted that the economic situation is not the best in town but said because the fund won’t be more than $15 per full-time enrollment that students would be accepting of it.

“I think students will be receptive to seeing it as a contribution they’re making to the University,” Mujica said.

He added that the clinic is “involved with policy advocacy to address some of the recurring problems in the education system such as students with special needs who end up suspended or expelled from school.”

“We are trying to make systemic changes with these cases, one success in a particular case can impact a large number of parents with special needs children,” Pinkney said.

Clinic gives at-risk children chance to further education

The Education Advocacy Clinic is one of six clinical programs offered at the College of Law and has been under the direction of Professor Laverne Pinkney since 2008.

“We have served many parents who would not otherwise have received any relief for the children, therefore we are happy to help them free of charge,” Pinkney said.

The clinical program is offered once a year for six academic credits and around eight or nine students are accepted in the clinic who are usually second or third-year law students, according to Pinkney.

They have the opportunity, representing children in the Miami-Dade County school system, to learn how to advocate for children both at the school level and at due process hearings,” said Professor Peggy Maisel, who oversees all the clinical programs at the College of Law.

Pinkney values this specific clinic because she feels without their assistance and without the help of the Legal Services of Greater Miami these children will end up with a criminal record.

“We often receive cases from the delinquency system and attempt to get the record for these kids with special needs. They are often placed into disciplinary school where they may not receive the proper education and for their specific disability,” Pinkney said.

The clinic allows law students to foster skills that will help them in and out of the court room such as interviewing, problem solving and presenting cases at administrative hearings, according to Maisel. She added that this clinic allows students to reach out to the community.

“One of the students, Stephanie Cohen, who recently was accepted into the clinic, spoke about how much of an impact the cases have had on her,” Cohen said.

“When a parent is so involved in the process and really trying everything they can think of to help their child receive the education services that they not only need but are entitled to, it is an eye opening experience,” Cohen said.

She also added, “You get to know the parent(s) and child in a manner that most people will never get to really see the humanity in people and you see both the good and bad of the school system.”

Pinkney explained the majority of cases the clinic sees come from parents “who have not been able to make any progress in terms of education for their children.”

Requirements for the program are that parents meet the poverty guidelines, if not they are referred to the Florida Bar Association.

“We have a goal of working with the school district not against them, for the majority of our cases we are able to settle, there have been very few cases where we have to have a due process hearing,” Pinkney said.

Maisel added that the clinic is “also involved with policy advocacy to address some of the recurring problems in the education system such as students with special needs who end up suspended or expelled from school.”

“We are trying to make systemic changes with these cases, one success in a particular case can impact a large number of parents with special needs children,” Pinkney said.
I’ve changed jobs every four or five years, changed beats, changed locations. It has kept me fresh. I learn something everyday on this beat and I didn’t want to go back to covering something that I had already covered.

Beacon: What has been your most rewarding experience in covering the environmental beat?

Broder: I would have to say the week we spent in Copenhagen [Denmark covering the Copenhagen Climate conference] in December [2009]. By the time I got there, it quickly became clear that this meeting was developing into a wretched mess.

They finally they put together a very modest, three-page agreement known as the Copenhagen Accords and we were the first news organization to report that.

We had details from inside the meeting rooms that nobody else had. I didn’t get much sleep for eight days and the food was horrible, but journalism it was very satisfying.

Beacon: What are some of the major challenges you have faced covering this beat? Are they similar to covering politics?

Broder: They are different some ways. In covering politics it’s mostly a question of reliable sources and out-thinking your competition.

In covering the environment, to a large extent it’s more of a scientific beat and I am technically and scientifically illiterate; it’s why I became a reporter and not a software engineer.

Beacon: It seems as if the general public is nonchalant when it comes to the environment. In your opinion, why should we be more aware?

Broder: I don’t like to second-guess the public. I couldn’t tell my unemployed neighbor that he should be worrying about global warming. He’s worried about putting food on the table.

But, I think that as a citizen of the globe we have an obligation to be aware of the impact of one’s actions.

Driving a gas-guzzling SUV is not only burning unnecessary oil in gasoline, but contributing unnecessary emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Now again, my unemployed neighbor bought this truck four years ago and he had a job; far be it from me to tell him “You should trade it in.”

But, when the times come, it’s his in his own interests to do so. That is what the bottom line is. It’s just like turning off the light when you leave a room.

Beacon: Journalism has undergone major changes in the face of technological advances and the popularity of social media. How do you think those changes affect the quality of journalism and are they detrimental to the industry?

Broder: I don’t think it’s improved the quality of journalism. On any given day or with any given story, I am required to file multiple deadlines on multiple platforms.

On a breaking story they want a web story immediately, they need a story by 1 p.m. for The International Herald Tribune, they need a Web site story review by mid to late afternoon, and they need a complete new version in time for the morning paper.

When I started at The New York Times, I wrote one story, I didn’t write four. I would guess that those four stories are probably not as good as the one story I would have written a decade ago.

Beacon: What advice would you offer to those interested in pursuing a career in journalism today?

Broder: Read as many newspapers as you can everyday. Learn basic economics, political science, and law — I don’t mean “Go to law school,” but at least know the Constitution. Read good writing wherever you can find it, fiction or nonfiction.

Get involved with your school newspaper; try to get some clips, something published that you can show your potential employer. Take journalism classes, and, if you’re not writing for a newspaper or a school paper, write for yourself.

After attending a lecture or seeing an incident, ask yourself, “What just happened? What’s the ‘lede’ here?” One of the things journalism professors like to say is, “Tell it to me like you would tell it to your mom.”

For the full interview with John Broder, please visit FIUSM.com.
Palin’s new incendiary comments a low blow

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

Since the 219-212 vote passing of the House’s landmark health care reform bill, many outspoken politicians have come out on both sides of the argument.

None however, have been more enter- taining than Sarah Palin’s sweetheart herself. Sarah Palin.

Palin began by urging her Facebook followers to “RELOAD,” targeting the 20 House Democrats who voted for health care reform and are up for reelection across America.

In the days following her “call to arms,” The Associated Press reported that windows were shattered at four Democratic offices in New York, Arizona and Kansas and at least 10 members of Congress have reported some sort of threat.

Palin’s followers should realize how badly this makes them look.

Not only is her rhetoric encouraging violence, but it is actually empowering her enemies.

Many House Democrats under Palin’s crosshairs in turn have used her attacks at disparaging them into a reason to rake-in campaign money.

Rep. Stephanie Kosmas (D-FL), running for reelection in Florida’s 24th congressional district, e-mailed supporters the following under the title, “Help Send Sarah Palin a Message.”

Several right-wing politicians have come out to defend Palin’s coded rhetoric, including her former running mate John McCain, who went on NBC’s “Today Show” to justify what host Ann Curry referred to as “incendiary language.”

“Any threat of violence is terrible, but to say that there is a targeted district or that we ‘reload’ or go back in to the fight again, please. Those are fine. They’re used all the time,” McCain said.

To clarify, Palin said this on her Face- book: “The crossfire is intense, so penetrate through enemy territory by bombing through the press, and use your strong weapons — your Big Guns — to drive to the hole. Shoot with accuracy; aim high and remember it takes blood, sweat and tears to win.”

Sounds like something McCain’s commanding officers would say him before a bombing run during the Vietnam War.

Seriously, am I the only one who wants to go play Modern Warfare after reading that quote?

Recently, Palin decided to go back to her “journalistic” roots by joining FOX News as a guest commentator, and host of FOX News’ newest show, “Sarah Palin’s Real American Stories.”

What many expected to be terrible merely turned out to be incredibly boring.

The special, which debuted last Thursday night in Greta Van Susteren’s “On the Record” time slot, drew 2,073 million total viewers.

TVNewer notes that Palin’s special was down 10 percent in total viewers and 28 percent in the demo compared to Greta’s previous Thursday episode.

Not only was the show lackluster, it carried an air of controversial laziness with it.

Two of the featured interviews on Palin’s show were recorded in 2008, and were conducted by a FOX producer.

LL Cool J, one of the people being inter- viewed in the old recordings, eventually expressed his outrage to the point that FOX decided not to air the interview.

Toby Keith, also interviewed in 2008, told TVNewer, “I have no idea what interview it’s taken from. They’re promoting this like it’s a brand new interview.”

Palin drove McCain’s campaign into the ground, quit as governor of Alaska with 18 months left on her term, got crummy ratings on a show where she couldn’t even be both- ered to do her own interviews, and has fanned the flames of violence since health care reform passed; quite the impressive résumé.

Sarah Palin is bad for you America, much like the new “Double-Down” chicken sand- witch from KFC.

I understand people can’t turn away from a train wreck, which is why little Miss Wasilla should stick to reality television, where she can do the one thing she is very good at: making us laugh.

No Child Left Behind continues to bring reform

Common sense solutions have finally arrived to the Northeast.

On Feb. 23, a New York Times article detailed how the school board in Central Falls, R.I. dismissed the entire faculty and staff of a local high school whose graduation rate had dropped to 48 percent.

The decision is one of the remnants of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, a formidable piece of legislation, and a foun- dation upon which the future of education reform will be built.

Under President George W. Bush’s administration, NCLBA sought to close the achievement gap through a variety of means.

Measures include state and school report cards informing communities about progress, major administrative changes for underperforming schools, flex- ibility in appropriating federal funds relative to needs.

The legislation also outlines federal funding for research to discover programs that cultivate academic achievement, and the option to transfer their children to better schools in the event that the school that does not meet prescribed standards.

In a press release by the U.S. Department of Education on Feb. 6, 2006, federal funding for the execution of NCLBA’s affirma- tions have increased from $42.2 billion in 2001 to $54.4 billion in 2007.

This budget increases give the high school in the aforementioned article several avenues and opportunities to explore in order to amend its current situation.

In Florida, former Gov. Jeb Bush’s A++ Plan for Education precedes and augments NCLBA, as well as sets rigorous academic standards for Florida’s elemen- tary, junior and senior school students.

Shortly after the enactment of Bush’s A++ Plan for Educa- tion, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research published “High School Graduation Rate Rises in the United States” in November 2001, which details that Florida’s graduation rate, at 59 percent, was among the lowest in the nation.

A Sun Sentinel article published on Nov. 21, 2002 maintained that only half of Florida high school students earned a high school diploma, while the national average was at 69 percent.

The Florida Department of Education detailed that Jeb’s A++ Plan grades schools based on student test scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assess- ment Test and grants vouchers to parents to send their children to charter and private schools when their respective schools fail to meet standards.

Enacting stricter academic standards and offering to recruit better qualified and higher paid teaching professionals to low performing schools, filling many vacancies in math and science, were also among the plan’s priorities.

As a result of Bush’s A++ Plan, Florida’s graduation rate now sits at 71.9 percent.

In addition, a record number of Florida students taking the ACT and SAT has increased, more of Florida’s high school students are taking AP exams, up to 125 percent.

“A schools in Florida have also gone up to 500 percent.

A study conducted by the National Assessment of Educa- tional Progress in 2005, assessed that Florida’s fourth graders surpass national reading and math levels.

While it is not the primary responsibility of the government, but rather, the collective respon- sibility of parents, students and educational professionals, the need to provide quality educa- tion to America’s future is made better with NCLBA and Florida’s A++ Plan.

These are fine examples of taxpayer dollars effectively utilized in successful education reform.

FRAUD FOR DUMMIES

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS
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WINNERLOSER

Steve Jobs. As he so often says, “There’s only one Steve.”

MIA City Attorney Julie Bul is expecting a $500,000 pay cut. This most highly paid person in the city pay-roll, the mayor makes just $40,000 a year. Her cut comes as the city continues through budget cuts. Who cut more, Bos or the taxpayers?

QUOTATIONATION
“We are not protecting our customers by keeping quiet. The time to hide on this one is over.”

Irvin Miller, Toyota Group VP on accelerator issues
ARTISTIC HAND
Honors students reach out to Sweetwater

JAMES RADZIEWICZ
Asst. Life Editor

The idea that art and music know no age came alive when the FIU Honors College collaborated with the city of Sweetwater and Sweetwater Elementary School on April 7 for an evening exhibiting works from both schools.

This artistic joint effort has been in the making for the past six months. The Honors College and local leaders sought to offer students an avenue to contribute to FIU’s neighboring community of Sweetwater, as well as learn life and leadership skills.

Wednesday’s event, held at the Jorge Mas Canosa Youth Center, featured the works and musical performances from both Cecile Houry’s leadership class at the Honors College and artists of art and music classes at nearby Sweetwater Elementary.

However, the harmony goes beyond the musical pieces that attendees witnessed.

This event has been a collaboration in every sense of the word, from Honors College and Sweetwater Elementary faculty to students from both institutions.

Last year, the Honors College expressed an interest in expanding its works with the city of Sweetwater, as well as learn life and leadership skills.

To date, FIU Honors College students perform various services in the area, including after-school tutoring and athletic programs. Wednesday evening was the largest joint effort between the two schools.

The Artistic Evening event began as an idea between Honors College professor Cecile Houry and Sweetwater Elementary principal, Janet Olivera.

Houry then presented the concept as a semester project to the students of her leadership class. However, according to Houry, the students proved themselves to be examples of leadership in action. With Houry’s coordination and guidance, the students put their efforts into action.

“The students really helped build this,” Houry said.

The Honors College professor takes great pride in the initiatives her students took to help create, coordinate and advertise for this event.

Various pieces of student art were submitted to be on display, as well as musical performances ranging from guitar and drums to classical violin.

Students also approached local businesses to help spread the word for this project, as well as set up various fundraisers to make this idea a reality.

FIU students have already been involved in various activities around the community, including computer training for seniors, citizenship classes for immigrants and various programs at Sweetwater Elementary.

However, as Houry acknowledged, this evening event is on a much bigger scale, and would not have been as cohesive without the students’ efforts.

Tatiana Martinez-Panamá, sophomore theater major, was one of the students who helped to create and coordinate the event.

“Many of us have been involved in various community events, but this was really something special,” Martinez-Panamá said.

WHERE: Mary Anne Wolfe Theater, BCC
WHERE: GC 340
WHERE: Pantheon Garage, located between nature preserve and Bearkath Stadium

HONORS, page 6

FISTFULS OF TECH!
Apple’s iPad is not the answer for a dying print industry

Media professionals have heralded the iPad as the latest step in the print journalism’s business model. But, in an effort to monetize news, newspapers and media outlets are killing the Internet.

The iPad, though average in design, has loads of potential as a content consumption device. However, most of the iPad reviews share one common point. It will not save print journalism.

Apple’s philosophy for content distribution is one that has made a lot of industries rich, such as music, but I don’t think that this particular model is one that will benefit old media in the same way.

“What we’re seeing is a desperate wish — the last gasp of desperation,” said the ever-inventive and professor at City University of New York’s Graduate School of Journalism, in an interview with the non-newspaper Huffing- ton Post.

“Editors, publishers and advertisers want to regain control of the media experience that the Internet took away from them. In their minds, this iPad is the magic pill that will make all of this Internet crap go away. Surely, it won’t,” Jarvis said.

Newspapers like The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times are clinging to the iPad like Dicaprio holding on to the door at the end of Titanic: designing apps and setting up subscription plans. But the iPad is like Kate Winslet, she loves you, sure — but she’ll let you drown.

The app interface for consuming content is such a step back from the robustness of a Web site. It’s narrow and it builds walls around the Internet. The full-fledged Web site is the best because it offers so much more than the app and it can be anything and everything.

“Apps are more closed, contained, controlling. That, again, is why media companies like them,” Jarvis said on Buzzmachine.

Apps run contrary to the flow of things on the Internet and allow providers a lot more control over you, the user.

What kind of control, you ask? Well, if you are a big fan of The Wall Street Journal, get ready to pay a full $5 more than the print subscription to get the journal on your iPad.

I’ve seen the WSJ on the iPad and I am telling you right now, it’s not worth $5 a month extra. Subscribe to the print version and invest the $5 you save on some waterless hand sanitizer for the office sinks.

News Corp. CEO Rupert Murdoch, who owns the WSJ, complained about Google everyday, saying that they are stealing his content and he is going to pull out of Google. BoingBoing.net’s co-editor and journalist, Cory Doctorow, puts it best.

“Rupert Murdoch can rattle his saber all he likes about taking his content out of Google, but I say do it, Rupert. We’ll miss your fraction of a fraction of a fraction of a percent of the Web so little that we’ll hardly notice it, and we’ll have no trouble finding material to fill the void.”

Look, you are talking to a guy who loves print journalism. I hope and pray nightly to any deity that is willing to listen that I am wrong.

But, a $500 to $800 device with overpriced apps, the store average being $549, now, it’s not worth $5 a month extra. Subscribe to the print version and invest the $5 you save on some waterless hand sanitizer for the office sinks.

Fifigals of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.
Installation art centers on ‘waste’ theme

ART, SPACE, page 1

Kristina Rodriguez works on building a frame for her installation. The exhibition will showcase mixed media, performance and video works.

Kristina Rodriguez works on building a frame for her installation. The exhibition will showcase mixed media, performance and video works.

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Younger, Carroll shine in scrimmage

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

Throughout the Spring, it seemed like senior quarterback Wayne Younger was emerging as the Golden Panthers starting quarterback for 2010.

But after the Blue/Gold Spring Game on April 7, junior quarterback Jonathan Ramos said he wants to be the starter as well.

Carroll completed 8-of-11 passes for 90 yards along with a touchdown.

Carroll got the action started in the first when he threw an interception in the first quarter

The scoring was calculated based on points awarded differently for plays. The offense was given six points per touchdown and three points for passing

The defense was hande seven points for a touchdown and three points for turnovers, among other stats.

Carroll got the action started early with a touchdown pass to Jonathan Faucher to put the offense up 8-3, before Brown’s interception closed the score to 8-6.

Jeremiah Harden, a transfer from Syracuse who will be eligible this Fall, had the best play of the day with a long run down the sideline for a touchdown. Harden finished with 12 touches for 96 yards on the day.

Cristobal was pleased with the performance of the team.

“We think we can be a real explosive offense as long as we fix some offensive line issues, which we are,” he said. “Defensively we held back a lot today and they were upset they wanted to get after the offense, but overall pretty pleased with the effort and performance on both sides.”

Players were not made available to the media. The team will resume full practice in the Fall.

OFFENSE TRIUMPHS

FOOTBALL: BLUE/GOLD GAME

Younger, Carroll shine in scrimmage

BASEBALL: FGCU 10, FIU 7

Golden Panthers lose; split season series vs. FGCU

SOFTBALL

Panthers split with Eagles; Gniadek rips grand slam

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (18-11) were able to snag a victory from a talented Florida Gulf Coast University team.

The team will resume full practice in the Fall.
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