Less money and more students led to dilemma

NICOLE CASTRO Staff Writer

Outrage turned to relief at the end of last week when students under the Federal Work Study program were informed they were getting their money in full. In an interview with Student Media, Francisco Valines, director of financial aid, clarified it was not a miscalculation by the department, like many students had assumed, but rather the combination of a less-than-expected amount of money from the federal government and the more than usual students in work study. In any given year there are about 400 students on work study at the University, Valines said, but there are 600 students on the program this year. The money to pay these students was almost half the expected amount — $135,000 when the University gets between $300,000 and $750,000. These two factors led to the University’s decision to cap the half the amount of awards work study students would receive. This also meant the number of hours students would work was reduced. When they reached their number of hours work study students would not be able to continue working. The week started with a wave of outrage disseminating across the University when work study students received an email stating their awards were reduced to half the amount they agreed to under their FWS contracts. On Tuesday afternoon, a Facebook group titled “FIU has reduced my federal work study grant” was created to discuss individual concerns and devise a plan that would help the student body reach out to administrators. “This situation is related to federal funds and FIU Financial Aid’s Office management of these funds, and how they realized and communicated the shortcoming in funds. For once it does not appear that the state was the one to directly cause this,” said senior William-Jose Velez, biomedical engineering.

A pass to T.Y. Hilton (left) on a fourth down late in the game falls incomplete to seal team’s fate.

Golden Panthers drop second straight

JACKSON WOLEK Staff Writer

In a night where FIU had a record-breaking crowd of 22,682 and a 10-point lead, the Duke Blue Devils spoiled homecoming night in the final six minutes of the game. The Golden Panthers lost 31-27 in a game that saw both offenses get off to a fast start and then eventually cooled down afterwards. Quarterback Wesley Carroll had a season-high 25 completions on 39 attempts with 348 passing yards and three touchdowns, but it wasn’t enough for FIU on this night. “We didn’t play well enough to win. We made too many errors especially in the redzone,” said Carroll. “Penalties hurt us, they killed momentum, but all in all we got better at some things, we still made mistakes and hats off to Duke. They’re a great ball club.”

The loss brings the Golden Panthers to 3-2 on the season and has shown once again they still need to work on their pass defense.

UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Mel Alvarez Contributing Writer

Students and alumni are on high alert after receiving a letter from the University informing them their personal information may have been compromised due to a security breach. The standardized testing database which contains names, grade point averages, test scores, birthdays and social security numbers of some 19,000 current and former students was discovered to be insecure in August.

Officials for the Center for Academic Success noticed someone had inserted a smiley face emoticon on the database’s internal website and immediately informed Robert Grillo, vice president information technology and chief information officer for University Technology Services. (Public access was cut off) as a precautionary measure for our students and employees to make them aware,” said Grillo of the actions being taken to restore security. Because there is no evidence anyone actually downloaded or used the data, the University is taking preventative actions as of press time. Similar security scares have transpired at the University in the past, the most recent of which occurred in May 2010. In that instance, nearly 20,000 student and faculty personal information was publicly accessible for a short period of time.

When Student Media asked what steps are being taken to insure such situations aren’t recurring, Grillo said “A training component and awareness to educate [employees] to deal with and handle sensitive information. The infrastructure is already in place to house sensitive data but training is most important.”

Many of the students who received the University’s courtesy letter regarding the current security breach have already taken steps recommended by the school to insure protection against possible fraud and identity theft. “I took preemptive measures and by following the instructions provided in the letter I placed a fraud alert on one of the Credit Bureaus,” said Santiago Diaz, an international relations & Marketing.

He added, “It goes without saying that a security breach of confidential information is unacceptable and [University administration] should do what is necessary in order to strengthen security measures to protect such sensitive information, not only now, but also going forward.”

The University is advising these students, who received the letter regarding the incident or anyone who took a test at Center for Academic Success between 2005 and 2010, to contact the three credit bureaus and place a fraud alert on their accounts.

There were 250,654 identity theft complaints in the U.S. during 2010 according to the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC’s report, released earlier this year, also indicated Florida ranks as the state with the highest per capita rate of reported identity theft complaints.

“We are living in a world of technology and many people put their trust and personal information in computer systems, unaware that situations like this one can occur,” said senior and advertising major Adriana Bittar.

Smiley face emoticons cause problems for University
**UNIVERSITY POLICE**

**Fight involving man, minor occurred during concert**

**PATRICK SIMMONS**

**Staff Writer**

Several altercations with police officers occurred last Sunday, Sept. 25, at the Homecoming concert featuring Lupe Fiasco and Tinie Tempah in the FIU Stadium.

Twenty-one year-old University student Gregory Anthony Montes, along with two others, was also involved in a separate, unrelated incident involving a battery.

A fight occurred in the center front stage during the concert, in which Officer Angelo Barrios responded. When Barrios arrived, he noticed a juvenile, whose identity cannot be disclosed because he is a minor, and Ramon Lorenzo Fundora, 36, fighting. Barrios later identified the juvenile as Montes’ brother. All three were later taken into custody.

Both parties admitted that “it was a mutual situation, and there was pushing and fighting involved,” Barrios’ narrative stated. They each agreed not to press charges and were then removed from the concert.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue arrived at the scene, treated and released all persons involved in the incident.

These few altercations with the University Police Department made little impact on the homecoming concert, however, and was still a success.

After the end of the concert, Lupe Fiasco tweeted, “Thank You Miami!!! Had an awesome time...”

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**WORK STUDY, page 1**

Anais Melo, a freshmen nursing major, was one of the many students who on Wednesday morning, which can range acknowledging the flexibility the work study program offers, began to envision herself applying for another job.

Melo explained how she “just [didn’t] see how they can have [students] accept a certain amount, and then just cut it half way through the semester without warning....”

“I work in the Green Library and I’m going from 17 hours a week to seven, possibly even more. And in less than a month I’ll be stuck without a job, and plenty of bills to pay,” Melo said before warning....

Financial Aid came up with a new plan.

By Friday morning, the old plan had been quickly overturned and students were notified via email that “all Federal Work Study awards [had been] restored to the maximum amount.”

“We got feedback from students and departments and heard this was not a good idea,” Valines said.

According to the department’s new plan, all work study students are receiving their awards in full — about $1.5 million for the Fall and Spring semesters.

Financial Aid is providing 36 percent of that and the departments are required to provide 18 percent.

Normally, when the federal government gives money for work study, universities’ hiring departments are required to match 25 percent of what the students are paid.

“So if you make $1,000 from [FWS] the hiring department has to give $250,” Valines said.

But FIU is a Title 2 and Title 5 institution, meaning it is a developing and Hispanic-serving institution, respectively. Therefore it’s eligible for a waiver which it has used for the last five years. So its departments haven’t had to put up the 25 percent match. The 18 percent is meant to somewhat meet that requirement.

“We’re asking the departments to match some of the work study amount, not quite the 25 percent match, but close to it,” Valines said.

Many questioned why the department would disburse more money than they have, but Valines explained that universities usually respond in this manner.

“You have to do that,” said Valines, “otherwise you have to give money back, and you don’t want to do that.” Others like Victor Rodriguez, freshmen international relations major, sent a letter to University President Mark Rosenberg explaining how he was told, “figure out how you are going to pay and pay it... If not enroll at a time where you can afford the charges.”

The solution Financial Aid implemented is only for the Fall and Spring of this academic year.

“We haven’t yet decided on what to do for next year,” said Valines.

Additional reporting by Philippe Buteau.

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**FEELING THE BLUES**

Kedrick Rhodes [above] reacts after the Golden Panthers dropped their second loss of the season to close three-game homestand.

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**FOOTBALL**

FIU blows late lead in loss to Blue Devils

**FOOTBALL, page 1**

“They are a good passing offense and we wanted to mix it up on them,” head coach Mario Cristobal said. “I don’t think it was up until the end of the first half we finally forced them into a punt.”

Penalties were a disadvantage for FIU, as they got flagged eight times for a total of 85 yards compared to Duke being called on just two penalties for 25 yards.

“It hurt us a lot moving the ball then being hit with a penalty and then moving the ball again and being hit with another penalty,” Hilton said. “The refs did their job when they saw something they called holding.

Penalties were a disadvantage for FIU, as they got flagged eight times for a total of 85 yards compared to Duke being called on just two penalties for 25 yards.

Hilton said. “The refs did their job when they saw something they called holding. Whatever they called, it was a great job by them and we just got to do better blocking downfield.”

It was an exciting start to the game in the first quarter of play as both teams went back and forth scoring and providing very little defense. The Blue Devils opened up with a 27-yard field goal by Will Snyderwine on their first drive to make it 3-0. It was all touchdowns for the quarter after that.

On the very next possession, the Golden Panthers found the key to their offense that has been missing over the past two weeks: the Wesley Carroll to T.Y. Hilton connection. The first play of the drive, Carroll found Hilton deep for a 63-yard touchdown pass that left him wide open after safety Matt Daniels went for the play action fake.

However, their defense could not contain Duke’s passing offense, and quarterback Sean Renfree, who threw for 335 yards on 28 of 43 completions and two touchdowns, began a string of scores when he ran a play action and found wide receiver Conner Vernon open in the endzone to make the score 10-7.

The barn-burner began, and FIU answered back right after, as Carroll found his tight end Jonathan Faucher for a leaping catch in the endzone for his first touchdown catch of the season.

There was no stopping the Duke passing game, however, and for the third straight time in the first quarter Renfree passed his way to a score, this time finding Cooper Hellter for a 22-yard touchdown catch in the endzone to make the score 17-14 at the end of the quarter.

Both defenses regained their composure for the next two quarters and held each other in check with only two scores being allowed, 36- and 33-yard field goals from Jake Griffin that put FIU up 20-17 going into the fourth quarter.

FIU was hoping to regain the spark that they had in earlier in the game and found one on the first play in the fourth quarter. Receiver Jacob Younger got a chance to throw the ball on a flea flicker play and found Dominique Rhymes for a big gain to put FIU in a position to score.

“He’s got a good arm. He played quarterback in high school and we wanted to try it and used it and Dominique caught a good ball,” said Cristobal.

The play resulted in a 44-yard gain that set up a 34-yard touchdown pass from Carroll to Wayne Times to put the Golden Panthers ahead 27-17 with 13:30 left in the game.

Duke came back with seven points of their own a minute and a half later off a six-yard rush from running back Jwan Thompson that made it a three-point game again.

Things went from bad to worse when Carroll got stripped of the ball by Jeffery Liggins and Pace Duke deep into Panther territory. The Blue Devils quickly turned FIU’s lone turnover of the game into the game-winning rushing touchdown from Thompson, putting them up 31-27 with less than seven minutes to go.

“Penetrated,” said Carroll. “I got to get the ball out sooner. I put that on me. It’s just something we have to get back in the film room and make sure that doesn’t happen again.”

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**VOLLEYBALL**

Western Kentucky snaps FIU win streak

**VOLLEYBALL, page 4**

Head Coach Danjela Tonic had repeated over and over that their seven-game win streak was not important. She believed it only served one purpose:

“It sets us up for disappoint-, said Tomic earlier in the week.

The disappointment struck Sept. 30, as the Panthers were dominatedly swept in their home court (25-17, 25-22, 25-19) by Western Kentucky (16-1, 3-0 SBC). The Panthers first loss in almost a month, snapped their season-high seven-game win streak. WKU extended theirs to 13 games.

It was a night where all the bad breaks seemed to land on the Panthers’ side of the net and where small mistakes piled up and collapsed on top of them. Junior Jovana Bjelica was the only Panther to reach double-digit kills with 12, as the offense could not get any momentum going. FIU (10-4, 2-4 SBC) had a paltry .134 hitting percentage, their third lowest mark of the season.

Though setter Renee Felede led the team with 16 assists, she abruptly left the game after half time, benched by Tomic.

“She needed to use more hitters. We didn’t use Una’s [Tikulja] ability,” said Tomic. “I wasn’t happy with her decision making.”

The Lady Toppers jumped out to a 5-4 lead on sophomore Una Tikulja’s error to open the first set. WKU held on to the lead with a tight grip. The Panthers committed seven errors this set. The majority of them came at crucial moments of the game where they had yet scored a point, freezing any spark that could get the team going.

On the heels of a 10-3 run, WKU extended their lead to 22-13. Fittingly enough, an error by middle blocker Andreja Lakovic ended the set and gave the win to the Lady Toppers.

As the second set opened, FIU was able to maintain an extremely slim lead over WKU for almost the entire set. After taking an 11-10 lead on a WKU error, the Panthers slipped down any momentum the opposition had.

Two errors and a kill later, however, the game was all tied up. FIU had lost the lead they pains-takingly tried to hold. WKU, the number one team in the conference, stormed back and showed why they were ranked 29th in the country. After two more errors, FIU had surrendered the lead and left the door wide open for WKU to take the set. After a kill by junior Lindsay Williams, the Lady Toppers were up 2-0.

Communication, or the lack thereof, was fatal to the team and was a big cause of their downward spiral. After a ball landed between three Panthers, an all too common occurrence in Friday’s game, they would stare at each other with blank faces, wondering who was
had her jersey retired on Sept. 30, following the Golden Panther match against Western Kentucky.

With all due respect to the amazing players that have played or are still playing for FIU, it is the best player to wear the blue and gold.

Rosa arrived to FIU with the reputation of a great volleyball player who started at an early age. She played in the Olympic qualifying tournament for the Puerto Rico national team in 2003 at the age of 15, the youngest player in the tournament.

Rosa was named captain of the Puerto Rico U-18 team during the NORCECA Continental Championships in July 2004 and had a strong performance during the 2004 ARS盆地 Volleyball Club.

Given her track record up to her debut as a Golden Panther, Rosa had a high level of expectations. She did not live up to those expectations, but she also exceeded them to a point that they may never be surpassed.

Although Rosa will be the eighth athlete to have her jersey retired at FIU, she is the first in volleyball, no other player is as accomplished as the Puerto Rico native. To go along with her four-time All-Sun Belt Conference team honors, Rosa has been honored with the SBC Fresher Player of the Year award, most valuable SBC Player of the Year awards as a junior and senior, and four-time honors as an All-American.

No other player has done what Rosa has accomplished in any sport or her respective field of play as Rosa has. The awards are a result of the magnificent play Rosa demonstrated on the hardwood.

When Rosa stepped off the court for the final time as a Golden Panther, she took with her a number of school records with her, 2,280 career kills and a .506 hitting percentage, both ranked first all-time in history. These are quite unmatchable records. Three of the four individual seasons for kills are owned by Rosa.

Junior Sabrina Gonzalez, who has been honored as an All-American for every year they played at the University.

Now Rosa showed such dominance in her or her respective field of play as Rosa has.

As FIU carried a three-game winning streak into play against Troy University on Friday night at home, the Golden Panthers looked to remain unbeaten in conference play.

“We wanted to come out strong and hard against this team,” Levia said. “I wanted to put one [in the net] in the first 15 minutes.”

Levia would continue to make dynamic play after another and no Troy defender was able to stop her ball-handling skills. This would be a continuing trend but FIU was not only dominant. Defensively, the Panthers forced Troy to take long distant shots, making them no threat to goalkeeper Kaityl Savage.

“We had some good combination play. We felt like we really limited their opportunities,” Chestnutt said.

The Golden Panthers would then strike again in the 35th minute when forward Deanna Rossi, who came in as a substitute, took a pass from Kelly Ann Hutchinson, which resulted in Rossi delivering a soft strike to the left side of the goal post. That goal happened to be the senior’s first goal of the young season. The half would then conclude with the Panthers up 2-0, but they weren’t done yet.

Once half time finished and both teams took to the pitch, the story continued as FIU kept up their dominance.

FIU continually put pressure on the Trojan defense. Rossi, with 10 goals this season, had the final blow in the 87th minute. Co-captain April Perry took a pass from Carlin Jones, who was marked by her defender, leading to her dribbling to the left and finishing with the decisive lead.

With a 10-point lead, the Golden Panthers just needed to pick up a few more points, possibly get another touchdown and head off the field with the victory. However, for the first time this season, Wesley Carroll made a huge mistake. He has still not thrown an interception all season, but a huge strip sack by Jordan DeWalt-Onjou made the difference. They will now have to lose a hole that they can not get out of.

The Golden Panthers need to be able to jump out to leads and sustain them if they have any hopes of winning the conference.

“Having to play in a shoot-out type game can be draining on both sides of the ball. The defense is in a situation where they are seeing passes fly all over the place, leaving them looking for a way to come up with a stop. That can be a tall task when they are barely getting five minutes of rest in between.

The offense is then forced to answer the call and score themselves. Otherwise, they will fall behind into a hole that they can not get out of.

The Golden Panthers need to find a way to slow the game down and be able to play at their own pace because this kind of game is the ones that define a season.
Drama: “Pan Am”  
ABC, Sundays  
10 p.m.

Incorporating good ol’ Frank’s “Around the World” and “Come Fly with Me” places viewers right in the 1960’s, when glamorous jet traveling was an unbelievable reality. “Pan Am” is an everlasting dream full of perfect bobs, girdles, mile-high club flings and even sticky CIA entanglements.

The show follows four Pan Am stewardesses: Maggie, an urban city girl who likes to bend the rules (like ditching the girdle, oh no!); Kate, who took up the CIA gig on the side; Laura, Kate’s sister and runaway bride and Colette, a French lady who realizes that she’s part of a love triangle - her lover, his wife and herself. C’est la vie!

The show was so enjoyable; it was almost unreal that someone could get so plugged into a pilot. The drama was intriguing, the plot was mature and the tunes were classic. Nearly every scene felt like a reminiscent daze.

The suspense left me with my jaw dropped, but it wasn’t overdone - a tendency that many pilots resort to. The usual motive is to fill the pilot with all the juice possible to convince viewers to tune in. Quite frankly, it usually backfires because it’s too extreme. “Pan Am” had just the right amount of emotional climaxes to set up the joyride foundation for a much anticipated show.

Oct. 9th’s episode features a flight of journalists flying Pan Am to cover President Kennedy’s speech in Berlin. Maggie, the


The Beacon – Monday, October 3, 2011

Architecture students stand out

VANESSA PAREDES
Staff Writer

At the College of Architecture, the Arts has been receiving a lot of praise lately thanks to a handful of students that recently blew away the competition with their award-winning ideas in the field of landscape architecture. Three University students were awarded for their submissions to the Florida chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (FASLA) competition, and an additional student received recognition for her work from the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) competition.

Landscape architecture mainly focuses on comprehensively considering and analyzing, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation of natural surroundings. It’s a way to construct and create an environment useful to construct and create ideas in the field of landscape architecture, explains his vision as the following: “My project proposed a context-based linear intervention along a six-mile-long former railroad corridor that creates a hierarchical bike-walk-sit design that reacts to the changing surroundings.”

The third winner, Chris Alvarez, a graduate student majoring in landscape architecture, explained that the following: “My project proposed a context-based linear intervention along a six-mile-long former railroad corridor that creates a hierarchical bike-walk-sit design that reacts to the changing surroundings.”

Also, students who need a paid job usually do not have the time for unpaid internships in their field of study. Employers and graduate schools often look for all of the above when considering possible candidates. Students who spend their free time working may worry that they will not stack up next to classmates who have the time to diversify their resumes.

If working while going to school causes so many extra grievances, some may wonder why students continue to put themselves in such a position. The answer is that many students cannot afford not to work. Tuition has been steadily rising by 10 to 15 percent at the University for the past three years.

Bright Futures scholarship program has been whittling away at benefits for the last few years, to the extent that students who once had 100 percent of their tuition and fees covered now have less than 60 percent of tuition costs paid for.

“Balancing school and work is tricky. I have to go to school full-time in order to graduate and work almost full-time to make ends meet. Every semester I have to compromise my school schedule as much as possible to leave time for work. It is incredibly stressful and tiring,” said senior Karina Ruiz, sociology major, who works in Downtown Miami and tutors children as well.

Future students interested in studying at the University may have an even tougher time coming up with the funds for an education, as there is talk among state legislators to put a complete end to Bright Futures and the Florida Prepaid College Plan sometime in the near future.


Brooke Wetmore
Contributing Writer

After finishing classes for the day, most students would probably like to unwrind before beginning their long list of assignments. Unfortunately for many college students, that is not an option because the end of a school day means it is time to go to work.

In high school, it is not uncommon to hear from instructors that college is a full-time job and therefore time spent in the classroom as well, then at least three hours studying outside of class for the day is a full-time job — one that college is a full-time job — one that college is a full-time job.

Joseph Faín, marketing major, who works at the Green Library. In addition to losing out on time that might otherwise be allotted to doing homework, students who hold jobs also have less leisure time to spend with friends and family. This also means less time for extracurricular activities, like joining clubs, volunteering and participating in school spirit events.

Also, students who need a paid job usually do not have the time for unpaid internships in their field of study. Employers and graduate schools often look for all of the above when considering possible candidates. Students who spend their free time working may worry that they will not stack up next to classmates who have the time to diversify their resumes.

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Girls need to be properly educated to break the cycle of poverty - they have the ability to thrive, they just need the opportunity.

Investing in the education of young girls pivotal

“Investing in a girl stops poverty before it starts.” That is the premise of the powerful initiative called The Girl Effect, a movement created by the Nike Foundation and driven by girls around the globe.

Girls need to be properly educated to break the cycle of poverty - they have the ability to thrive, they just need the opportunity. With over 250 million girls living in poverty, more time and money needs to be spent on providing the necessary tools to educate girls, which will lead to a prosperous global economy.

According to the National Academic Press, approximately 25 percent of girls in developing countries are not in school. This needs to change. With educated girls, developing countries will grow financially and common issues will diminish. When a girl in the developing world receives seven years of education, she marries four years later, and has 2.2 fewer children. If girls are properly educated, issues of child brides and early pregnancies will decrease, naturally opening up more opportunities.

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More opportunities need to be available for young girls in order for a positive change to occur. World Bank economists David Dollar and Roberta Gatti have studied the effect of girls’ education on economies. Dollar and Gatti conclude that economies “that have a preference for not investing in girls pay a price for it in terms of slower growth and reduced income.”

Essentially, uneducated young girls are the root problem of poverty; it becomes a vicious cycle. Uneducated girls do not know about sexually transmitted diseases and different forms of protection. Educated girls can understand and appreciate the undesired outcomes of unwanted pregnancies.

The benefits of providing education are apparent. Eric A. Hanushek, an expert on educational policy currently working at Stanford University, explains, “A variety of positive health outcomes for women and their families are known to flow from investing in girls education. The benefits of providing education are apparent. Eric A. Hanushek, an expert on educational policy currently working at Stanford University, explains, “A variety of positive health outcomes for women and their families are known to flow from investing in girls education. The benefits of investing in girls education are widely recognized. The lack of education being of young girls is affecting their future, affecting their health and hindering the global economy.

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Facebook induces loneliness, anxiety among users

Among all distinctions, such as television, relationships and work, Facebook is a major cause of procrastination for students. However, in addition to the negative affects the website has on student academics and sleep cycles, it causes us to feel sad and lonely.

Misery has more company than you think. According to a study conducted at Stanford University by three professors and a doctoral student, many college students find themselves underestimating their own happiness while overestimating the happiness of others.

“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.” -Nicholas Kristof

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Roary’s birthday to be celebrated for the first time

BRANDON WRIGHT  Contributing Writer

From time to time, Roary makes guest appearances at events to get Golden Panthers to show their pride. Yet, for the past 24 years of his existence, no member of Roary’s pride has celebrated his birth, until this year.

On Oct. 5, 1987, Roary was born as the official mascot of the Golden Panthers. For the first time in history, a birthday party for Roary will take place at Biscayne Bay Campus meetings.

Out of the $550,000 budget for the WUC, the theater was given about $109,000 for its upgrades.

From this budget, the proposed upgrades have been broken down as such: $7,500 for stage flooring; $9,300 devoted to the installation and resurfacing of the floor; $33,000 for carpeting; $45,000 for the purchase and installation of new seats; and $15,000 for draperies for the stage.

More expensive endeavors, like lighting and sound systems may not be presently feasible because of budget constraints.

“We are trying to incorporate this project with the overall vision and master plan of the WUC,” said Greg Olson, director of the WUC, who has been working closely with students and the hired architectural firm to develop and consolidate a plan for the center. “We need to first consult for scope and color coordination.”

The firm dealing with the renovations, MC Harry Associates, which has worked with the University previously at the Modesto Maidique Campus and on the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management renovations project at BBC, have met with SGC-BBC representatives recently to map out a master plan for the WUC as a whole.

In the next few weeks, SGC-BBC members and student focus groups will meet with representatives from MC Harry to voice their opinions and help them realize a satisfactory design scheme, which the University has asked they complete by January. Once the master design plan has been approved, Olson hopes to begin renovations within the fiscal year, and finish “what we can afford for now.”

But ensuring student approval is a top priority before anything is set in stone.

“We’re a long way away from [completion] and we want to do this right,” says Olson. “We don’t want to push the envelope until the students are heard.”

KATIE LAWRENCE  Staff Writer

As part of Student Government Association-approved allocations for Wolfe University Center renovations, the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre will be seeing a face-lift this fiscal year.

The 300 seat theatre, which last saw renovations about seven years ago, currently hosts University and community events from jazz concerts to guest speakers, and was put up for discussion by students in this year’s Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus meetings.

The event is being held in collaboration with the Student Programming Council, Student Alumni Association, Panther Power and Student Government Association, with the Student Programming Council, and everything regarding the mascot.

Along with the history of the University’s past and current mascots will be told.

“We noticed that a lot of our students don’t know the history of FIU, and a lot of people think that Roary has always been our mascot, and it hasn’t,” Arbabi-Aski said. “We thought it was important to not only educate our students, but to also have an event to celebrate this important date.”

There will be a birthday cake as well as free food. Roary will also be present during the celebration.

“We’re hoping that students walk out of the event knowing more about FIU, learning more about its history, its past, and to take more pride in FIU, and being a Golden Panther,” said Arbabi-Aski. “I’m hoping it will really be a great event, we’re expecting a lot of students to show up, and take advantage of this opportunity, with the great activities that we’ve planned for them.”

Along with making an appearance at his birthday party, Roary will also be stepping by the newly renovated ballrooms on the second floor of WUC for a brief ribbon cutting ceremony.

“Along with dancing to ‘The Cha-Cha Slide’ and doing the Macarena, Roary is also looking to catch some tail,” said Franco.

With an objective to not only encourage students to have fun and celebrate Roary, the organizations behind the event also intend to educate students about Roary, and everything regarding the mascot.

During the party the history of the University’s past and current mascots will be told.

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Additional reporting by Jonathan Szydlo.