State-wide budget cuts may lead to tuition increase

MARIELLA ROQUE
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The Florida legislature recently released its State University System budget for the 2012-2013 school year. The $70 billion budget included a $300 million cut to the 11 state universities. “FIU ended up with approximately $24.3 million in reductions which we have been told are nonrecurring,” said Kenneth Jessell, chief financial officer at the University. “The hope would be that next year the legislature would restore the $300 million to the SUS budget.”

This potential restoration will “be dependent upon the level of revenue that the state has for the next school year.” The model that was used to decide how much each university would be cut individually was divided into three parts. Half of the cuts were based on carry-forward fund balances that go into critical investments such as classroom upgrades, one-third were based on the base budget of each university and the last one-sixth “on the level of tuition that each institution would generate under the House and Senate-approved tuition plan.”

The legislature also authorized a 15 percent tuition increase for undergraduates and an 8 percent tuition increase for graduate and out-of-state students, although FIU “will not exercise the full eight percent for graduate and out-of-state [students],” according to Jessell.

“We’ve really out-priced ourselves relative to other states in respect to out-of-state tuition,” Jessell said. “We’re probably going to be looking at a tuition increase that would approximate a couple hundred dollars a semester for undergraduate students.”

“As a result of the budget cuts, there are going to be tuition hikes,” said Patrick O’Keefe, Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique Campus, during the deliberations. O’Keefe was originally against the A&S fee increase.

The most contentious debate was over providing additional funds to Homecoming, with a motion by Patrick O’Keefe to fund it an additional $200,000. “Now that we have the increase, let’s look at this as securing our investments,” said Udhanani. “This is something that directly impacts students one way or the next.”

Emilio Collyet, SGC-BBC vice president, argued that if more than $87,500 were added to Homecoming, BBC organizations and activities would not have enough money to cover their expenses. “As vice president of organizations and facilities, I see students who are not able to come to events.”

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University observatory construction underway

AARON PABON
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Building a campus observatory has been a dream of James R. Webb, a University physics professor, for almost 20 years. With a groundbreaking event on Feb. 21 and construction beginning in late March or early April of this year, the idea will become a reality through the creation of the Stocker AstroScience Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Webb, who is also the director of the South-eastern Association for Research in Astronomy at Kim Peak National Observatory, said the project has been in the works for a while.

“I don’t know why it took over 15 years of effort to reach this goal,” said Webb. “It is a mystery to me.”

The physics professor has been the main supporter for the construction of an observatory on campus. “I have lobbied the administration, raised money for it on my own, eventually securing a $800,000 private donation that was matched eventually by $160,000 from State PICO funds, to build the observatory,” he said.

With Webb’s own design being used, he worked with both architechts and the facility management at FIU to make sure the facility meets the needs of the astronomy students and the community.

The observatory is to be three stories tall with an astronomy lab, a lecture hall, faculty offices, a library, an observation platform on the roof and a 12 to 24 inch telescope. It is also designed to be used in spite of the interference of light pollution. Light pollution is excessive or obtrusive artificial light which dramatically reduces the visibility of stars, and is a major concern for both professional astronomers and amateur observers.

“Light pollution is a very serious problem in America, Miami, Kendall and all across the world,” said Webb.

Since the observatory is not a research observatory, it does not need a completely dark sky and is designed to work in a light-polluted area.

The observing pad and the dome are to be constructed above the Chemistry and Physics building and Osa Ehan. This is to give an unob-
LOCAL

Side entrances to Ft. Lauderdale airport to close

Getting into Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport will be a little more difficult as construction of a new runway begins.

Officials say the side entrances to the airport will close starting Wednesday.

Until the new runway opens in 2014, the only way into the airport will be from U.S. 1.

The closures along Perimeter Road will allow crews to build the bridge structure of the runway, which will be elevated 60 feet so trains and trucks can pass in tunnels underneath.

NATIONAL

Santorum wins Ala., Miss.; Romney takes Hawaii

A resurgent Rick Santorum swept primaries in Alabama and Mississippi Tuesday night, upending the race for the Republican presidential nomination yet again and nudging Newt Gingrich to the sidelines.

Mitt Romney finished third in both states, but he salvaged a win in the Hawaii caucuses and won the support of all nine delegates at GOP caucuses in American Samoa.

“We did it again,” Santorum told cheering relatives of the 28 people killed when a bus carrying them to the airport to close

SSo families identify Swiss bus crash victims

Relative of the 28 people killed when a bus crashed inside a Swiss tunnel faced a heartbreaking task Thursday: identifying the bodies ahead of their repatriation. Most of the dead were children.

Family members, some sobbing, were driven from a hotel in the southern Swiss town of Sion to the nearby morgue, where the bodies of some of the 22 schoolchildren and six adults killed in Tuesday’s crash were being kept.

Where possible, the bodies will be shown to the families,” police spokesman Jean-Marie Boret told The Associated Press. “In some cases this is not possible because the bodies are too badly injured.”

— Compiled by Melhor Leonor

Tuition, Page 1

said Anthony Manero, a junior in political science. “That’s the unfortunate truth.

Of the 15 percent, 30 percent will go to financial aid, as the full 15 percent is considered to be differential tuition, the practice of charging some students more than others based on their financial status.

Jessel explained that the net increase in tuition would be about 10 percent.

“People are going to be looking at the plan over the next several weeks, we anticipate that about $12 million will come in for tuition based upon our estimates,” Jessell said.

This, however, leaves the University with a remaining $12 million deficit that it must make up.

In order to account for this, certain strategic investments will be cut back on and the University may have to use its statutory reserves.

Stars, Page 1

structured view of the night sky, compared to stargazing at the ground level.

It is also said to closely resemble the bridge of the USS Enterprise from the popular science fiction franchise Star Trek.

The great thing about it, is that it will have the feel of being in a ‘ship’, but it won’t be a Hollywood set, it will be an optimized, fully functional telescope control room,” said Webb.

“This room will be as close as you can get to exploring the stars.”

Other professors on campus

have also been involved in the project, among them, Dr. Walter Van Harme, professor and chairperson of the Physics Department and Dr. Caroline Simpson, associate professor of physics.

The Observatory will be open to students, both science and non-science majors.

“Our frequent star parties and events will allow every FIU student the chance to look through the telescopes,” said Webb.

The FIU Astronomy Club has a dedicated space to hold meetings.
The club is currently looking for funding for a 24-inch lens telescope for the main dome.

Construction is expected to last through December for the 2013-2014 school year.

Homecoming allotted extra $150,000

Denise Halpin, Student Government Council president at the Biscayne Bay Campus, added that the SGA finance committee has funds to allocate toward Honors College conferences.

“The Honors College is an academic center that is a leader in not only being part of activities and services,” said Halpin, who mentioned that she would be meeting the University provost of academic affairs to see where the college can get other sources of funding.

The Black Student Union was allocated an additional $9,000 with a motion from SGA vice president, Dr. Iman simpson, student government council vice president, who praised the success the organization has had in having well attended events and bringing students to the SGA.

“They’ve produced a high caliber level of programming and have great turnouts,” said Udhani. “A lot of students rely on them.”

The Beacon and The Beacon also received an additional $5,600 and $3,545 respectively.

With $96,555 left of campus specific budget, the committee voted to kick the amount back to the University Wide Council, which will reconvene once more for further deliberation of these funds.

Furthermore, amounts allocated to the various organizations are preliminary amounts and will be reviewed pending approval by the SGA Senate at both campuses, the Vice President of Student Affairs Rosy Jones and University President Mark Rosenberg.

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Student activities not affected by cuts

Although the Florida legislature has announced the cuts to nonemergency, it is unsure as to what the state budget will be for the 2013-2014 school year.

“I know that as a student you worry about being able to make your tuition payments and we don’t lose sight of that,” Jessell said. “The tuition increase is relatively minor in terms of the cost of going to school.”

The areas of the University that will be cut, reduced, or embargoed will be decided upon this upcoming June at a Board of Trustees meeting.

“FIU is very lucky, but I can’t say anyone is lucky at this point,” said Patrick O’Keefe, Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Among the hardest hit by the cuts was Florida State University, receiving a $56.8 million cut.
FSU, along with the University of Florida, recently received the approval of the Florida House regarding a bill allowing the two universities to raise tuition above the 15 percent cap.

There is a possibility that the bill will be vetoed by Governor Scott.

O’Keefe explained student activities and organizations would not be impacted because the Activity and Service fee is separate from tuition and state cuts. The A&S fee committee voted for a 3.5 percent fee increase.

“The budget cuts are not going to affect any student programming, in fact [the programming] is going to increase.”

“There will be increased programming, you will probably see better and better programming because the increase… is sheltered,” O’Keefe said. “[The budget cuts are] not going to affect any student programming, in fact [the programming] is going to increase.”

Facility to open by next spring

“The Stocker Astrocience Center will be completed of observing pad and dome.

“By spring of next year, we should be in the facility and using it for classes,” said Webb.

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Panthers crush Hatters in first round of WNIT

Scouts impressed by Hilton's speed at pro day

BRANDON WISE
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In his last chance to show pro scouts what he was made of, T.Y. Hilton was forced to play with an injured quadriiceps that did not allow him to play at his highest level. Today he finally got his second chance. And he did not disappoint.

On his first run of the 40-yard dash, Hilton ran a blazing 4.36, which would have tied for the best time if it had been run at the NFL Combine. Hilton noted that the scouts were impressed by his performance.

"Coming from an injury in the bowl game, they said I did really well," Hilton said. "They said they could see me playing in the National Football League.

When it came time for Hilton to catch passes from his quarterback, Wesley Carroll, he only dropped one pass. On what would be his final catch of the day, Hilton caught the pass but began to wince. Then, he spiked the ball as hard as he could against the wall in agony.

"I started cramping in that area. The coaches told me to just shut it down," said Hilton.

Not only did all the scouts take notice, but so did his dad, Tyrone Hilton, who was excited to see him back in action.

"It's very interesting because he's been hurt since the bowl game and to see him out here running full speed for the first time since then," Tyrone said. "To run a 4.3 (40), that's pretty good."

Before the day got started, the elder Hilton gave his son some fatherly advice.

"I just told him to play within yourself," Tyrone said. "All the people that are out here, all the teams out here, don't worry. Just be within yourself.

Hilton did just that, performing as he did the past four seasons at FIU, to the max. His father wishes that his son could end up on his favorite team, the Oakland Raiders, but he knows that he has no control over it.

"My team is the Raiders," Tyrone said with a chuckle. "But whatever team he goes to, I know he's going to bring some quality, some explosiveness to the slot receiver position."

Hilton now begins his opportunity to visit with the different teams around the country. He will be heading the New England, Kansas City, and Oakland in the coming weeks.

T.Y. Hilton will have individual workouts for New England, Kansas City, and Oakland in the coming weeks.

Fanni Hutlassa (above) scored 13 points in FIU's 75-47 victory over Stetson on Mar 15.

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Head trauma becoming more prevalent in other sports

Brandon Wise
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The violence involved in a typical football play is the same kind of trauma that many people claim to experience in a head-on collision with a semi-truck.

Director of Athletic Training Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo believes that this is a problem not only for football, but for any sport that has physical contact.

“The focus has been on football primarily for years. The focus has to change,” Doherty-Restrepo said. “Things just have to shift. Unfortunately, sometimes it takes someone getting injured, some kind of big bad injury, for people to stand up and take notice.”

Now that it has become such a big topic of discussion nationwide, many athletes are aware of the symptoms of concussion.

Knowing what they are, many try to hide the fact that they have sustained a concussion from trainers. Doherty-Restrepo says this is the worst thing they can do.

“Athletes are more aware of what the signs and symptoms are and more aware that if they display those signs and symptoms that they may be pulled out,” Doherty-Restrepo said. “So unfortunately, not that it’s a smart decision, some athletes don’t want to report those signs.”

Athletes think that if they hide those symptoms, it will benefit them in some way. But, most of the time, as Doherty-Restrepo says, it’s not just the kids who think it is the right thing to do.

“I’ve seen cases where it’s been pressure from the outside,” Doherty-Restrepo said. “Whether it’s coaches, peers, parents, there’s that pressure to compete, to win and to not be viewed as weak. Those pressures are out there because it’s really competitive.”

Doherty-Restrepo says that those symptoms can range from ringing in the ears to memory loss and confusion. More severe cases could result in loss of consciousness. Rick Burkholder, the Head Athletic Trainer for the Philadelphia Eagles, has been around football and football-related injuries in the National Football League for over 13 years.

He believes that football is not as dangerous as everyone thinks it is. “I don’t think it’s a terribly dangerous game because our commissioner Roger Goodell has done a great job to try to make it safer.”

“The standard of equipment is unbelievable,” Burkholder said. “The game could be way more dangerous than it is. I think it’s a little violent, but that’s the draw to America. America likes that.”

As a group, the NFL is trying its best to make a very physical, somewhat violent game safer.

The sport as a whole is built around the quarterback position and Burkholder, as well as the NFL, realizes that they need to be protected.

“We need to protect our marquee players. Our product is not any good if the Peyton Manning’s, Tom Brady’s, Michael Vick’s, those type of players, are down,” Burkholder said. “It doesn’t help our game, it doesn’t help our product.”

We are in the entertainment business and if the stars aren’t playing then our product’s not as good. It’s like going to see a concert and the lead singer is not there; it’s not the same.”

Not only has football recently seen a growth in concussions, but lacrosse as well.

“Lacrosse is the big one right now because they just did a study with the high schools and the numbers went up; they thought whether it was because of recognition,” Burkholder said. “Then, they added lacrosse into the study, and it sent the numbers through the roof. Men’s lacrosse is getting it from athlete to athlete contact and girls are getting it from equipment.”

Panthers earn first postseason win since 2005

Women’s, Page 3

guard also committed six turnovers against the stingy defense of the Panthers. Russo commends her defense for forcing McGowan into difficult situations.

“We tried to deny the ball as much as possible to push them out,” Russo said. “They have spots they like to catch the ball and penetrate to shoot, so we got her way out of what we call our B area so it was much more difficult for her to penetrate. We had some help coming inside so the game was really denying the ball.”

This marks the 10th time this season that the Panthers have reached at least 70 points. In those 10 games, the Panthers are 9-1 with their only loss coming way back on Nov. 14 to Florida Gulf Coast, who Stetson lost to Atlantic Sun Championship this year.

That home crowd advantage led to the Panthers stifling the Hatter’s offense, as they shot just 26 percent from the field on the night as well as committing 11 turnovers.

With both teams coming into the game with very similar statistics, it was going to come down to who wanted more and Miloglav knew that her team was going to be just that.

“They had almost the same record as us so we didn’t take them easy. I think we just wanted it much more,” Miloglav said. “I’m just grateful that a lot of people came, which is not what usually happens.”


A presentation by Sam Sifton National Editor, The New York Times

Wednesday, March 21, 2012
3 – 4 PM
Modesto Maidique Campus, Graham Center (GC) 140

Thursday, March 22, 2012
2 – 3 PM
Biscayne Bay Campus, The Mary Ann Wolf Theater

Brought to you by Student Government, Academic Affairs and Global Learning

F I U Florida International University
Academic Affairs

F I U Florida International University
Global Learning

The New York Times in College
Radiate FM offers unique sounds on airwaves

KRISTY SHORE
Contributing Writer
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WRGP Radiate FM; Music & News

Hector Mojena, also known as DJ Count Goldblum, knows what makes the University’s radio station so unique and distinct to the community.

“We offer a wide array of shows covering a multitude of genres that certainly puts our station in a unique position in terms of reaching as many audiences as possible,” said Mojena.

WRGP Radiate FM is a student-run radio station which airs from the second floor of the Graham Center.

As a commercial-free station funded by students’ Activity & Service fees, Radiate FM not only offers a wide variety of music but it also airs Panther Sports Talk, which gives live feedback of different games along with commentary, and Panther Wire, which focuses on University, local, state and national news.

“It’s important to have a unique variety of music that represents various aspects of our local culture,” said music director Krista Lopez.

FIU, however, is not the only local university with a radio station; there is also University of Miami’s WUVU The Voice.

“It’s friendly competition. They have a great slate of programming, and I think both stations challenge each other to constantly innovate,” said Mojena.

“I think we’re lucky to live in a city with two underground outlets for music that isn’t chosen by record executives and Clear Channel,” Lopez added.

Radiate FM staff has a variety of music they have to offer to their listeners.

“One on any given Monday, you can tune in to hear one of our rotation shows playing the best in new music, hear a sampling of old-school disco and other dance music on ‘Supernature,’ and end the night with a selection of dream pop and chill wave with ‘The Dreamers’ and metal on ‘The Midnight Metal Maelstrom,’” said Mojena.

Music heard on Radiate FM includes hip-hop, electronic, rock and much more. With over 70 on air staff members, Radiate definitely has a variation of different music selections to offer as well as news and other student media shows.

“We truly believe in the power of the DJ, so we have quite a few,” said Lopez. “I think our station is unique in its dedication to eclectic tastes and keeping true to the college radio ideologies of the 90’s: underground music that is at the forefront of trends and talent.”

Not only does Radiate FM offer music and news, they also have interviews on the air. Recently, on Mojena’s show, “Wall of Sound,” he interviewed a German noise rock group called Grabbel and the Final Cut as well as Gainesville outfit, Avokitio.

“Wall of Sound” airs Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to midnight. Mojena and his cohorts, DJ Torgo, play a mix of shoegaze, scintillating psychedelic, and caterwauling noise rock on their weekly program; however, there are many different types of shows broadcasted by various DJs.

DJ Michelle G’s rotation show embraces a variety of new releases of independent music along with some of her own taste as well to make her show something interesting and fresh to listen to.

Radiate FM can be heard on 88.1 in the Homestead and Kendall area, 95.3 near the University’s campuses, and 96.9 in North Miami; the station can also be streamed online worldwide and can be heard at any day at any time on FIUSM.com. Students are encouraged to request songs at 305-FIU-3575.

SPRING BREAK

Students giving back over Spring Break

BROOKE WERTMAN
Staff Writer
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A beach full of liquor, loud music and half naked adolescents is the generally accepted, MTV version of spring break. After toiling away at the books all semester, or at least touting about doing so, students often use the time to relax and vacation. But for some students, spring break offers an opportunity to engage in a reforesting project for a rain forest that once was the home for a number of endangered species, among which were the jaguar, harpy eagle and scarlet macaw.

Meanwhile, a third group of students spent their spring breaks in California, working alongside AIDS Project Los Angeles, an organization whose goal is to improve the lives of people affected by HIV.

Once they arrive the group works in conjunction with local non-profit organizations to complete the project.

The University has a long history of being involved with Alternative Breaks, opening its own chapter just a year after the organization began in 1994. The University’s program now ranks second in the nation.

This spring break a group of students traveled to Nicaragua to help build a kitchen for a local elementary school. The kitchen will be used to feed close to 150 underfed children. Nicaragua is a country highly affected by malnutrition, especially for young children, as many there live on less than $1 a day.

Other FIU students went to Costa Rica to engage in a reforesting project for a rain forest that once was the home for a number of endangered species, among which were the jaguar, harpy eagle and scarlet macaw.

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KONY 2012 impedes progress in Uganda

Remember when it was cool to try to “save Darfur”? Wait, where? It’s that place in Africa, the one that everyone wore the green bracelet for and felt better about our leaders not really doing anything to confront 21st century genocide.

Shortly, we will experience a similar collective amnesia in regard to what Zelebel.com referred to as the “Meme Da Jeur,” Kony2012.

The 30-minute video from Invisible Children, the organization that created the campaign to make Joseph Kony, Ugandan war monger and leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army, infamous, is heartbreaking.

But what is even more heartbreaking is the notion that people are donating money to an organization whose mission is at best short-sighted and at worst ineffective.

Kony2012 experienced an incredible social media success; awareness has officially been raised. “Change the world, watch this video!” was said by at least one person on your Facebook feed, everywhere. Maybe you even have your action kit purchased on Kony2012’s website.

Now what?

This type of pseudo-activism is not just ineffective, it actually impedes progress from occurring. By directing our attention to this organization, we remain oblivious to other organizations that actually cultivate real change.

It should be noted that this organization and the West’s response is aligned with the ideology that Africa has to be saved. This is a falsehood; overall, and particularly untrue in regard to Kony.

Kony is a horrific person who has committed vile atrocities. But putting him at the forefront of the entire issue oversimplifies an incredibly complex problem.

Furthermore, it’s really questionable whether the catchphrase and intent of “making Kony infamous” is truly the best tactic to take.

According to Alajazeera, the LRA has not even operated in Uganda for at least five years. Additionally, the video in Uganda has angered citizens.

The GlobalPost quoted Pius Bigirimana, the permanent Secretary of Uganda’s Prime Minister, saying, “Kony is of no consequence. He is a peripheral issue. It’s some of these people from outside who get excited over these things.”

And we did get excited. However, a problem arises when everyone gets excited and feels like they are doing something productive – when in actuality they have accomplished nothing – and then a total failure ensues.

Kony might be dead, he is probably not in Uganda, and if “they” (but who?) do capture and kill him, does military intervention is not the authority on this.

Indeed, initiatives that address the systemic roots of war-torn Uganda and the child-soldier epidemic are much needed, but a western organization who supports military intervention is not the way.

Now that Kony has been made infamous, perhaps we can shift our support towards campaigns that more accurately reflect Ugandan politics and society.

The founder of Invisible Children has admitted people are probably confused about what the organization does and does not do.

Forbes reported of the overall budget going directly towards central African-related programs, the founder said, “We are not an aid organization, and we don’t intend to be. I think people think we’re over there delivering shoes or food. But we are an advocacy and awareness organization.”

Advocacy and awareness is important. But if the entire effort ends with everyone being aware for 35 minutes or so and then going back to their lives, it is not just an insufficient cause, but detrimental to organizations whose efforts continue on long after YouTube clicks off.

New state university drains funds from Florida schools

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Sometimes I worry people in charge don’t know what they are doing.

The state legislature is currently in the working stages of making the University of South Florida’s Polytechnic campus its own University.

This would make USF Polytechnic the 12th state university in the State University System, which is managed by the SUS Board of Governors.

USF Polytechnic is the Lakeland campus of USF. Polytechnic focuses on working stages of making the University of Florida and its higher-education customers – eventual students and parents – are more aware of its work.

Florida, let alone the entire country, is still reeling from the effects of the recession. Public funding has and is still on the decline. Let’s take our own university for example.

This fiscal year, 2011-2012, the University received $157 million from the state compared to last year’s number of $228 million.

That number is down by $71 million – about 33 percent. And FIU isn’t high on the legislature’s list of state universities to receive funding. So imagine what a possible new university to the SUS would receive in funding.

The legislature hasn’t shown any signs of possibly providing more funding, causing FIU and other public state universities to seek alternate sources of revenue.

The main one being students. Compare the $157 million FIU received from the state to the $174 million students paid in tuition to FIU. In 2007, tuition was $106 million.

So again, imagine what the tuition would be for the students of a new state university. Or even if Polytechnic starts with low tuition and raises it every year, I don’t think that plus its unique nature would appeal to students more than the established state universities.

This also creates smaller pieces from an already shrinking pie for the current state universities.

All the universities in the state system are seeing cuts in their state funding, some more than others. So adding another university could mean deeper cuts from year to year. The state could even divert more money to the new university that would desperately need it. Understandable, but not in the best interest of the entire SUS.

While the pie is getting smaller, student money is being used to somewhat fill the hole left by the decreasing state money, an understandable concept, but I disagree.

But I really don’t want to be a student when it becomes readily apparent state money is disappearing much faster than tuition increases.

And thanks this also has political undertones as the timing of the release of the proposal was not too long after Gov. Rick Scott made comments about the state not graduating enough students with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees and too many students with anthropology degrees.

“Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists?” Scott said. “I don’t think so.”

There will be a 12th state university as the legislature hasn’t shown any signs of wavering on their position – they’ve shown by this ignoring the complaints of USF Polytechnic’s students, faculty and staff.

Thankfully, my heart will beat easier as USF Polytechnic will have several benchmarks to achieve over the next five years to completely achieve independent status. The benchmarks are available for viewing on the Bog’s website.

I just hope that by the time USF Polytechnic reaches its benchmarks, if it does, Florida and its higher-education customers – eventual students and parents – are more capable of supporting another university.

And the people in charge will know how to use that support.

This type of pseudo-activism is not just ineffective, it actually impedes progress. By directing our attention to this organization, we remain oblivious to other organizations that are actually cultivating real change.
Elections Board rules against its own codes

By Jonathan Szydlo

The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Election Board met on March 7 to hear, in light of a recent Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus Supreme Court decision relating to the March 7 Election Board meeting, the request of Pablo Haspel, a presidential candidate, to be a registered candidate for the SGC-BBC. Haspel is demanding that the SGC-BBC allow him to run for President of SGC-BBC.

Haspel originally submitted a writ on March 9 with the SGC-Biscayne Bay Campus Supreme Court that the SGC-BBC President deny Haspel to run for a fair election. Haspel is demanding that the SGC-BBC allow him to run for President of SGC-BBBC.

In light of a recent Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus Supreme Court decision, presidential candidate Pablo Haspel filed a writ of certiorari on March 14 with the SGC-BBC. Haspel’s request has filed an application for a certain office, he or she may not change to any other office unless the original application is withdrawn and the application period is still open.

The date for applications was on Feb. 29 at 5 p.m.

The SGC-BBC Elections Board unanimously voted in favor of allowing Adegoyinka to switch her candidacy from SGC-BBC vice president to president. Adegoyinka’s running mate, Chief Justice Octavio Melo, stated that he would not rule partially upon this issue presented.

Haspel submitted a writ on March 9 with the SGC-Biscayne Bay Campus Supreme Court that the SGC-BBC President deny Haspel to run for a fair election. Haspel is demanding that the SGC-BBC allow him to run for President of SGC-BBBC.

The writ contests the legality of the SGC-BBC Election Board’s decision at the March 7 meeting to allow Oluwatimoleon to switch from running for SGC-BBC vice president to president. Haspel proceeded to hear the matter of Oluwatimoleon’s candidacy at the March 7 meeting to allow him to run as a presidential candidate.

According to the SGC-BBC’s Elections Code 703.06 Subsection VII and 703.6 Subsection XI, Haspel is demanding that his application be considered. Regardless of the MMC court decision, Haspel is moving forward in attempting to rectify the violations that he has witnessed within SGC-BBBC.

The SGC-MMC Supreme Court denied Haspel’s request to rectify his writ. “To hear this case would be unconstitutional,” said SGC-MMC Supreme Court Chief Justice Octavio Melo in a written response to Haspel. “I’d like to emphasize that our vote to deny this case was not based on the merits of the claim, but on the jurisdictional issue presented.”

Regardless of the MMC court’s decision, Haspel is moving forward in attempting to rectify the violations that he has witnessed within SGC-BBBC.

“The SGC-BBBC election board decision is a disgrace to SGA and a clear violation to its own constitution,” said Haspel. “I hope that that SGC-BBBC judicially uphold its responsibility of being impartial and that they continue to be unbiased, regardless of outside influences.”

At time of press, no response was received from SGC-BBBC Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Ochoa regarding whether or not the BBC court will hear the case.