Colleagues:

Hope the semester is going well for you. There are four quick items that I wanted to bring to your attention today.

**UBOT-UFF Reach an Agreement on Salary**: You may have heard that UBOT and UFF have reached an agreement on re-openers for this year. In addition to the 3.6% and promotional increases distributed in August 2005, the University will distribute 0.9% for national benchmarking, 0.2% for compression/inversion, and 0.3% for excellence at the discretion of the administration. This raise will be given only after the UFF and the UBOT ratify the agreement in March and will be retroactive to August 7, 2005. Below is the link in case you wish to see the full text of the release.

http://usfweb2.usf.edu/HR/collectivebargaining/UFF_PressRelease2.htm

**Governor’s Budget and USF**: Last week, Governor Bush released his budget for Year 2006-2007. Here are the highlights:

- Last year, SUS universities produced 7,619 new FTEs (Full Time Equivalent students), which according to the agreed upon funding formula, produces over $160 million for the universities (a large portion for USF because we added new FTEs). The Board of Governors requested the Legislature to provide 50% of this amount (or $80 million) to cover the cost. Governor’s budget recommends $33.5 million to be funded from state funds. This is only 21% of the formula-generated funding!
- Governor recommends a 5% tuition increase for undergraduate resident students and 7.5% for all others. The funds generated from the increase are supposed to make up the gap left in the first bullet.
- Governor’s recommended budget does **not** include any salary increase for faculty and staff.
- $40 million is provided to match private gifts.
- $200 million is provided for two programs: World Class Scholars and Centers for Excellence—there are no details on these programs yet.
- $346 million is provided for construction or renovation of facilities (our Music Building is now fully funded in two years!).

Please remember that this is only the **Governor’s Recommended Budget**. The House and the Senate will take these recommendations into consideration and come up with their own separate budgets. Our budget will become final only after the two chambers meet in a
conference and resolve their differences. We will keep you informed as the budget moves through the legislature. A more detailed text is available at the following link: http://usfweb2.usf.edu/univsvcweb/2006_2007Budget/0607GovBudgetRecom.pdf

Research Opportunities: Specially For You: Did you know that our Government Relations Lobbying Office in Washington, DC, sends out a bi-monthly briefing of federal funding opportunities? These are based on our strengths in all areas ranging from bio-technology to music. The e-mail briefings are sent to the deans by Ms. Kathy Betancourt; but the Office of Research will begin posting them on their Home Page as well. I hope you will use whatever mechanism suits you to stay informed of these opportunities and pursue them individually or jointly. In times of rising research costs and declining federal dollars, it is a great service to have.

Departmental Governance: The Faculty Senate and my office are encouraging you to develop and/or revise your departmental governance document this semester. The document, if designed and used properly, can guide you with vision, help manage conflicts, and build collegiality and ownership. I will appreciate your attention to these discussions when they are conducted in your department.

Thank you for your hard work. Enjoy the last few weeks of Florida winter…the hot summer will soon be here.