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Mark Walsh
Assistant VP & Director of Government Relations for the USF System

LEGISLATIVE ACTION UPDATE: Construction Underway on USF St. Petersburg Student Center

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Earlier this month, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on campus for its new Multipurpose Student Center. Construction is now underway on the $20 million project that is scheduled to open in time for the fall 2012 semester. e 81,000 square-foot facility will include dining services, a ballroom, meeting spaces and a six-story residence hall that will add nearly 200 new student residents to downtown St. Petersburg. e building will also add a source of revenue through rentals for community organizations, businesses and the public.

“ e Multipurpose Student Center will be transformational for USF St. Petersburg,” said Debbie Sembler, a member of the USF Board of Trustees and Chair of the USFSP Campus Board. “ is building was made possible by a tremendous e ort throughout the university, especially among the student leaders who worked tirelessly on behalf of their peers.”

Part of the funding for the facility was the result of student advocacy e orts. During the 2010 Legislative Session, the USF System worked alongside USFSP’s Student Government to seek authority to construct the center and the revenue to support its use through a special increase in USFSP student fees. is increased fee revenue—authorized by the passage of House Bill 5201 (2010)—will help support the operations of the center and the students who utilize it. With the students’ support, a portion of their increased activity and services fee will also be allocated toward meeting the requirement for LEED certi cation from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED certi cation embodies the gold standard in energy e ciency for new buildings. ough LEED-certi ed buildings often may cost more to construct, they save money in energy costs over the lifespan of the building.

e student center will be the latest addition to the corridor known as Harborwalk at USFSP. Recent construction along the Harborwalk includes the LEED-certi ed Science and Technology Building, which opened in January 2010, and the Debbie and Brent Sembler Family Fountain, which was dedicated in October 2009.

e student center’s residence hall will be the second residential facility for USF St. Petersburg. e rst hall, Residence Hall One, opened in 2006 and accommodates 351 residents in a seven-story apartment-st-mneCuaill be the secrnt Seduu cerJ0 -seU(d ,fEercx(lnt-stpc)H)6(all O)6(r)-18(y aparse thpU(d ,fo.d ,fo.d ,foF Aencestpv thCuaiJsctmnoJn-seU(dJeal)12seor)-18vicdes or USF S edu residentialulnccomueter,n eplnodes andgueosts whlhe cntribi-

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Locate contact information for your local Florida State Senator and Representative using your home address at:

flsenate.gov/Senators/Find

BUDGET CONFORMING BILLS

(SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill)

B 2150 B NA B D CO : O CONDA D CA ON ND N

: SB 2150 is the Senate’s postsecondary education budget conforming bill. e bill makes proposed changes to Florida Laws in order to enact the budget decisions made in the Senate’s proposed state budget for scal year 2011-2012. e proposed changes contained in the bill include: 1) temporarily suspending the state’s matching gift programs for private donations to state universities and community colleges; 2) creating additional bonding capacity for the state to construct school facilities through the PECO program; 3) increasing the surcharge the state charges on top of tuition for students who take certain “excess hours” beyond the number of hours required to complete a degree program; 4) allowing state universities to implement a program in which a cohort of students would attend the university only in spring and summer terms; and 5) creating a new scholarship program for students with nancial need who are majoring in certain Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) degree programs.

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N O B 2150: http://capwiz.com/usfalumni/issues/alert/?alertid=41255686

B 5201 B O D CA ON A O A ON BCO : O CONDA D CA ON ND N

: HB 5201 is the House’s postsecondary education budget conforming bill. e bill makes proposed changes to Florida Laws in order to enact the budget decisions made in the House’s proposed state budget for scal year 2011-2012. e proposed changes contained in the bill include: 1) allowing state university boards of trustees the exibility to use certain fee revenues to o set budget reductions in the next scal year; 2) instituting a cap on the amount of state funds that may be used to pay for certain state university and Florida College System administrators’ salaries; 3) increasing the surcharge the state charges on top of tuition for students who take certain “excess hours” beyond the number of hours required to complete a degree program; and 4) signi cantly increasing the minimum standards required for students to meet to become eligible to receive a Bright Futures scholarship award.

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