

If you are having trouble reading this email, you may [view the online version](#)

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

The Crier

News and Information about FMU

News

About FMU

Events

Job Listings

Admissions

Athletics



JULY

FMU trustees approve \$48.5 million budget

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees adopted a \$48.5 million operating budget for the university's 2009-2010 fiscal year during its quarterly meeting Friday (June 19) that included a tuition increase of 3.6 percent per semester. This is the lowest increase the university has had in 10 years.

University officials constrained the increase to no more than the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), an inflationary gauge widely used by higher education institutions. The tuition increase will yield \$924,000 in new revenues.

"We have made every effort to keep our tuition as low as possible given the current economic climate," said FMU President Fred Carter.

In 1998-99, 42 percent of FMU's budget came from tuition and 56 percent from state appropriations. In 2008-09, 64 percent came from tuition and 34 percent from state appropriations.

FMU's \$48.5 million projected budget includes a base state appropriation of \$14.7 million, \$29.1 million in student fees, \$2.1 million in other revenue, and \$2.6 million in non-recurring stimulus revenue. The largest part of the budget goes for personnel costs of \$34.7 million and \$11.2 million for operating expenses. Planned stimulus projects are estimated at \$2.6 million.

In other business, the trustees approved a resolution naming university facilities in

honor of faculty, staff and community members. A dedication ceremony was held for the honorees following the meeting.

The names of Roger W. Allen Jr., Alice B. Beaty, Marian Cusac, Dorothy King and Neal D. Thigpen are displayed on the five buildings in the Forest Villas Apartment Complex, while the community center bears the name of Joseph E. Heyward.

The Garden Courtyard project of the FMU Performing Arts Center will be named for Beverly Hazelwood and Starr Ward, both of whom have made considerable contributions to the arts in Florence.

In addition, the PAC's amphitheater will be named the BB&T Amphitheater in appreciation of the corporate gift of \$325,000 to fund this outdoor space.

It was decided at the meeting that FMU will become a smoke-free campus as of Aug. 1 to help reduce the health and safety risks associated with smoking and ensure a healthier environment for faculty, staff and students.

The university will implement a new smoke-free policy that will affect all grounds, buildings and vehicles owned or controlled by FMU, and follows a series of university steps to curb smoking on campus.

In an effort to assist and encourage smokers to kick the habit, FMU continues to offer faculty and staff free behavioral sessions and selected over-the-counter smoking cessation products. University Student Health Services also offers behavioral counseling and discounts on smoking cessation aids for students.

Trustees also approved a resolution establishing the specialist in school psychology degree.

A slate of new officers for next year was also approved. They are William W. Coleman of Florence as chairman; Patricia C. Hartung of Greenwood as vice chairman; and Carolyn Shortt of Laurens as secretary.

FMTC's Strategic Plan wins award in South Carolina and Georgia

The Francis Marion Trail Commission (FMTC) has received The Honor Award from the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (SCASLA) and one from the Georgia Chapter (GASLA) for its strategic plan.

The FMTC's Strategic Plan was recognized in both states as an outstanding project in the planning and analysis category which evaluates projects based on the following factors: (1) quality of analysis and planning; (2) functionality; (3) relationship to context; (4) environmental responsibilities; (5) opportunities for landscape architecture to have a significant impact on the environment and environmental decision-making; and (6) overall relevance to landscape architecture, the public and the environment.

"We are pleased and honored to receive recognition in South Carolina and Georgia as a leader in planning the preservation of Francis Marion's Trail," said Robert C. Barrett, executive director of the Francis Marion Trail Commission. "It offers an excellent

example of how historical preservation can contribute to the quality of life of our entire community.”

Six awards were given for an array of planning and design projects across the state this month at the Society’s Annual Meeting in Aiken. The Honor Award from the Georgia Chapter will be given at the Annual Conference and Awards Banquet on July 18.

The Jaeger Company, a landscape architecture and planning firm with offices in Gainesville and Athens, Georgia, assisted in creating the strategic plan, which is intended to guide the efforts of FMTC in bringing the history of General Francis Marion to life for the citizens as well as visitors to the Francis Marion Trail region.

Comprised of 10 counties in southeastern South Carolina, the FMT region includes approximately 95 sites associated with Marion, which were documented as part of the strategic plan.

The FMTC is guided by a board of directors, including: Mark Buyck III, chairman of the commission; Fred Carter, president of Francis Marion University; George Estes, director of the Heritage Tourism Development at the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; Kitty Mescher from Berkeley County; Duane Shuler from Williamsburg County; and Col. (Ret.) George Summers from Clarendon County. Bob Barrett serves as executive director, providing support to the FMTC and several working committees of citizens throughout the region, all of which were involved in the development of the strategic plan.

The plan, which also included economic and marketing elements, accomplished the following:

- Created a list of priority sites associated with Francis Marion based on interpretive potential and importance
- Developed design concepts for priority sites and regional and local interpretive centers
- Developed a strategy for interpreting priority sites and a strategy for linking the sites to each other

The plan envisions four regional interpretive centers at gateway locations into the region – Florence, Manning, Georgetown and Moncks Corner – and a system of local interpretive centers, dispersed throughout the region. Centers will provide educational offerings such as interpretive exhibits and displays as well as passive recreational amenities in the form of nature trails, picnic areas and amphitheaters.

A system of linkages (to include designated scenic byways along existing roadways, bikeways, pedestrian networks, and canoe routes) was identified in the plan to connect regional and local interpretive centers and the Marion sites to one another. The plan also proposes a phased implementation approach based on costing data.

Recent FMU News

[FMU Alumni Association names five new members to board](#)

The Francis Marion University Alumni Association has named five new members to its Alumni Board of Directors. New members, all of Florence, are Darrell Conner, Mari Kaye Haney, Matthew Reich, William R. Turner and Richard Warrin.

The board's new slate of officers is: Paul Seward, vice president of commercial lending at BB&T (president); James Harrell, division vice president and general manager of Sonoco's North American Paper Division (vice president); LaTasha Brand, assistant dean of students at FMU (secretary). ([MORE](#))

France-Kelly Scholarship established at FMU

A scholarship has been established at Francis Marion University in honor of the 5th anniversary of the "Walking For Wanda" Multiple Sclerosis Walking Team to provide financial assistance and recognize the scholastic merits of a deserving student who has been accepted into the Teacher Education Program for Early Childhood Education. The founding of the scholarship was initiated by her son, Whit France-Kelly who recently graduated from FMU. ([MORE](#))

Other news

Florence Regional Worksite screening to be held

The Florence Regional Worksite screening registration form has been posted on the Prevention Partners website.

Check here: http://www.eip.sc.gov/publications/July_2009_Florence.pdf and follow the instructions to register for the screening to be held at our Education Foundation Building on Thursday, July 16.

Please remember that you may participate in only one worksite screening per calendar year. If you participated in the FMU Worksite Screening this past April, you are not eligible to participate in the regional screening in July. Please read all information on the registration form carefully and completely.

Surcharge to be added to health insurance premiums of smokers

Effective January 1, 2010, a surcharge will be added to the health insurance premiums of tobacco users covered by the Employee Insurance Program (EIP). **PLEASE NOTE: [All subscribers must submit certification concerning their tobacco use to EIP as soon as possible.](#)**

If you — or anyone you cover under your health plan — smokes or uses tobacco, you will pay the surcharge of \$25 per month. *You will be automatically charged the tobacco-user premium, unless you certify no one covered under your health insurance uses tobacco and no one has used tobacco within the past six months.*

As a non-tobacco user, you have two ways to apply for the lower premium:

- Log onto [MyBenefits](#) (go to EIP's Web site, www.eip.sc.gov, and click the MyBenefits button on the left of the home page) and certify you and your dependents do not use tobacco. This method is quick and easy. *Be sure to print a copy of the completed certification for your records.*
- Complete and return the [Certification Regarding Tobacco Use](#) form to EIP.

The South Carolina Budget and Control Board approved this surcharge because of the high cost of tobacco use to all EIP health plans — an estimated \$75 million a year for tobacco-related illnesses.

***The Crier** keeps the campus community, business and community leaders and friends of FMU informed about the university. The Crier is published monthly and distributed on paydays. Submit copy to the editor by July 27 for the August 1 edition. Contact the editor, Angela Crosland, at acrosland@fmarion.edu or at ext. 1227.*

Francis Marion University | PO Box 100547 | Florence, SC 29502 | US
[Unsubscribe](#) from future marketing messages from Francis Marion University