



EPC Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Date of EPC Meeting: February 20, 2008 – SPECIAL MEETING

Subject: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Budget

Consent Agenda _____ **Regular Agenda** X **Public Hearing** _____

Division: Executive Director and Legal Department

Recommendation: Authorize the EPC Chairman to send a letter to the University of Florida President and the Board of Trustees to request that the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences not bear a disproportionate impact due to impending University of Florida budget cuts.

Brief Summary: The tax revenue shortfall that the State of Florida is experiencing is expected to result in budget cuts for State programs. The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has been identified as a program that may endure significant cuts during this process. Should the expected IFAS budget reductions occur, those reductions will have a significant impact on IFAS research centers around the State as well as Cooperative Extension programs, and it may impact the implementation of water quality Best Management Practices on agricultural lands.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

Background: The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), the Land Grant arm of the University of Florida (UF), has been identified as a program that may endure significant cuts during upcoming State budget process. IFAS is a federal, state, and county partnership dedicated to teaching, research, and extension. Many of IFAS' functions serve as a research and development center for Florida's agricultural and natural resources industries that have an estimated \$97.8 billion annual impact on the State of Florida. IFAS is heavily involved in promoting the implementation of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services approved Best Management Plans (BMPs). These BMPs will lead directly to improved environmental conditions.

The EPC requests that the Chairman be authorized to send a letter to UF's President and Board of Trustees requesting that IFAS not bear a disproportionate impact of the budget cuts.

List of Attachments: None