



FYIFAS Week 5, February 13, 2020-

It's Hump Week! We're halfway there...

Wednesday marked the midpoint of this legislative session and with just four weeks left, the heat is on for all involved to secure passage of priority legislation, defeat legislation they oppose and most importantly, pass a budget.

Thursday, the House positioned its proposed \$91.37 billion budget for a final vote, as did the Senate with a \$92.83 billion proposal. The current year budget is \$90.98 billion.

With a nearly \$1.5 billion gap between the two budget bills, the budget conferees will have a significant challenge to work out the numerous issues.

Among key issues during negotiations will be the House's proposal to reprioritize affordable housing money in the budget; how much money for Florida Forever land-preservation program; differences on pay raises for state employees; and the tourism-marketing agency- Visit Florida.

Both Chambers had the opportunity on the floor to ask questions of the appropriations sub-committee chairs followed by lengthy debate of the budgets.

Now that both houses have passed their proposed budgets, the appropriations chairs and legislative leadership will begin the process of appointing a conference committee to work through differences in the budgets. It is almost like starting over. Just as they did before building their respective budget proposals, now the House and Senate have to agree on how much money to provide for each section or silo of the budget. Negotiations over the allocations could drag out over the next two weeks or be out as early as next week. Shortly before or after allocations are determined, the conference committee will be appointed.

On Tuesday, February 18, we are looking forward to having various students, deans, trustees, researchers, faculty and staff in town for Gator Day. If you find yourself in [Tallahassee for Gator Day](#), come see and taste the future of Florida citrus with UF/IFAS on the plaza level of the capitol 9am-3pm! If you can't join us in person, be sure to wear your orange and blue and engage with us on social media with #GatorDay.

Twitter- @IFASgovaffairs @gatoradvocates

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UFIFASGovernmentalAffairs/> and <https://www.facebook.com/GatorsforHigherEd/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Ann Hooks'.

Mary Ann Hooks, UF/IFAS Director Governmental Affairs