

Sentinel Bulletin
Negro Weekly 15,000
Tampa

APR-6 -71

FAMU PRESIDENT CALLS STATE FUNDS INADEQUATE

Dr. Benjamin Perry, in announcing a school campaign for private funds recently, charged that Florida A&M University is not receiving its fair share of funds from the State Board of Education and his charges have gotten support from Attorney General Bob Shevin.

Shevin, in a letter to Commissioner of Education Floyd Christian, cited the, "disturbing allegations that Florida A&M University has been the victim of discrimination in distribution of funds appropriated for the State University System."

Famu began a ten-year drive for \$12 million in private donations late in March and Dr. Perry said then, "Although Florida A&M is a private university, we must destroy the myth of its being supported by public funds. 'Assisted' would be better substituted for 'supported'."

Enrollment at Famu is listed at 4,500, representing 6.2 of the State University System's total enrollment. But the school only receives \$7,222,000 in state funds. This figure represents 3.1 percent of the budgetary allocation from the Board of Regents and the State Legislature.

A brochure prepared for use

during the campaign states, "although the legislature announced an allowance per student as \$2,319, the Famu allotment is only \$1,604."

Shevin said in his letter to Christian, "Perfectly good valid arguments can be made that the needs of enrollees and prospective enrollees in the 'predominantly black' university are such that the per student expenditure should actually be larger than those of the other universities."

Shevin has recommended that the state board of regents reply to the charges of discrimination and that a report be made to the cabinet board, "as soon as possible." Copies of his letter were sent to Governor Reuben Askew, cabinet members Richard Stone, Fred O. Dickinson, Thomas D. O'Malley, Doyle Conner and Chancellor Robert B. Mautz, Board of Regents Chairman D. Burke Kibler and Dr. Perry.