Update from Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor  
January 20, 2010

Here is an update on some activities and issues we have been working on.

**Governor Supports “Closing the Talent Gap” Recommendations**

On January 14, Governor Crist hosted a press conference at the capitol with participants from the Florida Council of 100, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Florida, Florida Department of Education and the Board of Governors. At the event, Governor Crist offered his support for the “Closing the Talent Gap” report, which the Council of 100 formally released that day. This is important for the State University System since the report includes a recommendation to launch the “New Florida” initiative, which positions the State University System as the key driver for building Florida’s knowledge economy by increasing degree production, research capacity, technology commercialization and more. The initiative calls for doubling state support for the SUS by 2015. We will keep you informed as opportunities arise to advance this initiative in the coming weeks.

**Board of Governors / State Board of Education Joint Efforts Update**

Our joint work group has met to continue our efforts to create greater coordination of higher education in the state of Florida. The work group has agreed that there are three major tasks to be accomplished: 1) Formulate a strategic vision for the future of higher education in Florida by identifying the state's economic and employment needs using data-driven research. 2) Create an inventory of postsecondary certificate and degree programs that are currently offered by both public and private institutions in the state. This should also include the annual degree/certificate production of these programs. 3) Revise any policy areas that are critical to improving Florida's educational performance to ensure maximum coordination and adherence to the state's higher education strategic goals. Towards these goals, we will meet in the coming weeks with representatives of the nonprofit and proprietary schools to ensure they are a part of this process. We will identify which outside organizations will be asked to tackle Task 1 as it relates to drawing upon the data resources of organizations such as Workforce Florida, Council of 100, AWI, etc…We will also identify the key staff from the various systems who will handle Task 2. Finally, we will meet with staff from the Articulation Coordinating Council to determine what role the ACC could have regarding Task 3. Regarding timelines, it was determined that
substantial work could be done on all three tasks in time for the next joint meeting of the two boards, which is intended to be in mid-March.

**Differential Tuition**
The passage and implementation of the tuition differential fee over the past year provides each university with a mechanism that we have not had in the past — a source of predictable funding. Being able to plan a long-term budget, built around the predictability of tuition revenue, is necessary for our campuses and our students. We had unprecedented support from the governor, legislature, community members, and, perhaps most importantly, our students while implementing a total tuition increase of 15 percent for this academic year. Now comes the most important part — the expenditure of funds and accountability associated with improving our undergraduate programs. We must ensure that students and student leaders are involved and aware of the decisions being made with the tuition differential revenues. This transparency will be important as institutions begin making tuition decisions for the fall 2010 term. Open and robust dialogue regarding how the potential revenue from these increases will be invested in order to advance the goals of your strategic plan will help ensure the university community is aware of projected outcomes and return on investment. I want to thank each university for their efforts to ensure our students and student leaders are engaged regarding discussions of any possible fee increases for next year.

**System-wide Accountability**
Last week, Sr. Associate Vice Chancellor Dottie Minear made a presentation in front of the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee in which she provided an overview of the SUS accountability effort, including a walk-through of the dashboard indicators that we have been developing in conjunction with university and legislative staff. These accountability efforts are designed to help universities make decisions about where to focus resources to ensure the highest return on investment as we work to transform Florida’s economy for the 21st century. I want to thank UF President Machen and UNF President Delaney for also being present to offer remarks from the university perspective. We look forward to continued cooperation among all members of the SUS as we hone our accountability system to be responsive to the Legislature’s needs and to serve as a vital tool for elevating our universities to the next level.

**Florida Virtual Schools**
We had a tele-meeting last week with Julie Young of the Florida Virtual School who gave us a report regarding their role in state-funded online education. This will be the first of many meetings and discussions to come as the SUS explores how best to position itself as a national leader in high-quality online educational experiences for its students.

**Community Engagement:**
• Florida’s next Senate President and Speaker of the House, Senator Mike
Haridopolos and Representative Dean Cannon respectively, hosted the Florida Jobs Summit last week in Orlando. I participated in two sessions during the event, which offered an opportunity for an exchange of ideas from Florida employers, experts and citizens to help boost investment, economic growth and job creation in the Sunshine State.

• Chair Sheila McDevitt and I hosted a conference call last week focused on creating a more coordinated higher education response to the crisis in Haiti. On the call were representatives from the SUS schools, all Florida public and private medical schools, and representatives of the non-profit and proprietary schools in Florida. Each institution was asked to identify a point person who will serve as a liaison to our office to ensure a more cohesive and orderly relief effort.

• The Council of 100’s hosted a workshop entitled “Transforming Education for the 21st Century Economy” in Tallahassee last week. Gov. Jeb Bush, Senate President Jeff Atwater and Speaker Larry Cretul were among the participants. My remarks to the group focused on the pivotal role the State University System has in transforming Florida’s economy. I underscored our commitment to greater accountability and stressed the importance of predictable and flexible funding for the SUS.

REMINDER: The Next BOG Meeting is January 27-28 at USF in Tampa