Update from Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor
May 28, 2010

Governor Crist unveiled the state's budget for 2010-11, which he has now signed. The final document reflects a significant amount of funding for State University System priorities, including $10 million for the New Florida initiative, which mobilizes our universities to grow Florida’s knowledge-based economy.

While other states are making enormous cuts in higher education, Florida is making an investment. Thanks to Speaker Cretul, Senate President Atwater, members of the Florida Legislature, and Governor Crist, the budget includes nearly $300 million for the construction of much-needed classrooms and laboratories at our universities. These projects create new jobs now - putting many Floridians to work in the construction trade - and help the State University System create more high-wage jobs in the future through the addition of more college graduates and increased research activity.

While a number of important projects ultimately were not funded, the SUS ended up with an overall increase in funding, including $101 million more in PECO dollars than was estimated to be available at the beginning of session. We pledge to continue our advocacy of those important projects that did not survive the budget process this year.

On behalf of Chair Ava L. Parker and the Board of Governors, I want to thank Trustees, Presidents and all members of the university system community who participated in the collaborative, open and thorough process through which we identified and advocated for the highest budget priorities.

Below is an overview of what the approved budget includes:

- No operating funds were vetoed; however, proviso language prohibiting human embryonic stem cell research was vetoed.

- $308.6 million in PECO was approved. Attached is the final approved PECO list.

- The following PECO projects totaling $80 million were vetoed:
- Although not in the PECO budget, the Governor did veto the FIU/Miami Dade Health Department Facility ($35 M).