Update from Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor  
December 15, 2010

Tallahassee is consumed these days, as you well know, with the transition process for the next Governor of the great State of Florida. In the days after the general election, Governor-elect Rick Scott wasted no time appointing more than 300 leaders and experts in about a dozen categories of issues to start looking at personnel and policy issues, and that process has been moving fast across the spectrum of working teams. The Governor-elect also created a “Florida 2.0” web portal that accepts ideas and feedback from citizens and businesses. The transition staff is reviewing all of those closely.

For the State University System, it has been a very exciting, fast-paced several past weeks in this regard. I will briefly cover two separate venues of recent activity:

- USF President Genshaft and I have been serving on the Governor’s education-specific transition team, and those issues are quickly developing as well in that arena for major movement. It is a pleasure for President Genshaft and I to represent higher education public university needs when discussing how we create and sustain a seamless delivery system for education across all venues in Florida. The conversations have been bold and bright, I can assure you.

- In addition, I am appreciative to UF President Machen and UCF President Hitt for ensuring the strong momentum continues for the New Florida Initiative, which the Governor-elect included in his campaign materials by title. Last week, these two Presidents and I jointly presented to the Governor-elect’s economic and regulatory reform transition teams (more than 70 members total, and a group on which the two university presidents were appointed to serve). We provided a detailed overview on how the New Florida Initiative has been launched and is well on its way for Year 1. Our general hope was that some general positive feedback would cement the Governor-elect’s support and inclusion of Year 2 funding for the New Florida Initiative in his first Legislative Budget Request in 2011. This body of advisers, chaired by South Florida’s Wayne Huizenga, Jr., made great comments, of all which aligned with the intent and practice of what has been put in place by the Board of Governors.
Status Update Regarding UF’s “Block Tuition” Proposal

Some of you are closely following the flat-rate tuition issue. If you recall, the Board of Governors had its second and final hearing in November on amendments to the tuition regulation that governs myriad issues related to tuition and fees. The new “block tuition” language, you’ll recall, offers an outline universities would need to utilize if any one of them were to pursue block tuition and what needs to be included in any proposal they may opt to send to the Board of Governors. The UF Board of Trustees took up a proposal last week for UF in keeping with the regulation; however, UF has informed me that it has decided not to submit the proposal to the Board of Governors’ Budget & Finance Committee meeting agenda for February – which would have been any university’s first available opportunity to have it heard by the appropriate Board of Governors committee. Since the UF Board of Trustees voted to pursue implementation in Fall 2012 (instead of Fall 2011), they will submit the proposal to our Board’s Budget & Finance Committee at a later time. For more, see: http://chalkboard.blogs.gainesville.com/2010/12/full-board-approves-block-tuition-noting-concerns/ and http://www.flbog.edu/documents/2010_11_24.pdf.

New University Trustee Interviews Under Way

Application packages have been transmitted to members of the Trustee Nominating Committee from the Chair, Governor Mori Hosseini, for the purposes of interviews. As you know, there are 23 vacancies on University Boards of Trustees (2 on each, with 3 at FAMU). Committee members review applications and select applicants for interviews, then conduct the interviews. Governor Hosseini plans to bring recommendations to fill as many of these appointments as possible in time for the next Board of Governors meeting on Jan. 20.

Coming up …

I will send one more Chancellor’s Update in the next week (recapping thoughts from the first substantive agenda meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Council) and then spend some time during the holidays on leave with my family – I hope you are doing the same, and the Chancellor’s Update will return soon in January 2011.