Update from Frank T. Brogan, Chancellor
June 1, 2011

Today marks the official start of the 2011 Hurricane Season – but for our System’s front-line managers, emergency preparedness simply has become a year-round job for many reasons.

While the complicated enterprises we run certainly have billions of dollars of infrastructure to protect, the health, safety and welfare of more than 320,000 students and thousands of faculty, staff members, and visitors are at stake.

In preparation for what is predicted to be a busy six months in the tropics for developing depressions and storms, each university and the Board office have reviewed their respective Continuity of Operations Plans, updated contact information, and tested all alternative lines of communication. The life-altering and tragic events that have occurred just in the past few months – tornadoes and floods in the Midwest, earthquakes and tsunamis in Asia – remind us in the most compelling ways possible of the importance of a year-round attentiveness and awareness to emergency management.

Several universities participated in the annual Governor’s Hurricane Conference a few weeks ago in Fort Lauderdale. The theme of this year’s gathering was “25 Years: Learning from the Past, Preparing for the Future.” From the booklet: “In 1987 the conference was established to focus on the challenges caused by hurricanes and tropical events unique to Florida, the most hurricane-vulnerable state in the nation.” In the days prior to that conference, a group of emergency coordinating officers from across the System joined Chris Kinsley, Facilities Director at the Board of Governors, for an unprecedented meeting in Tallahassee with the new Division of Emergency Management Director, Bryan Koon, and members of his leadership team. This is an example of the outreach that is vital so that we regularly remind our fellow state entities of the resources in the System that might not come immediately to mind. Conversely, beyond our great capabilities, the System has potential liabilities that are unique to us, and we must be able to tap the more advanced resources of the state agency responsible for emergency preparedness.

Finally, as we prepare our workplaces and campuses for a weather event or crisis, please ensure during hurricane season that you yourself are prepared at
home. Our institutions’ top leaders have a special role in any post-disaster event, and the peace of mind that your homefront is taken care of to the fullest extent possible cannot be overstated.

**Michalson Announces Retirement as President of New College**

As many of you know, Dr. Gordon E. “Mike” Michalson, Jr. will retire from the presidency of New College effective July 1, 2012. In the fall of 2013, he plans to rejoin the faculty as a professor. He will have led New College during the most stunning 10 years of its collective independent academic achievement, and he will have served as chief administrative officer of New College for 16 of the past 20 years. President Michalson stated in his announcement: “Clearly there comes a time when an institution benefits from fresh vision and renewed energy.”

On behalf of Chair Parker and the Board of Governors, we applaud President Michalson’s leadership and tenure, and are very pleased he will remain in the State University System for the benefit of students for years to come.

**June Board of Governors Meeting**

The Board’s next meeting is scheduled for June 22-23 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, at which the universities' annual "work plans" once again take center stage, and rightfully so. In many respects, this is the most important Board meeting of the year since, for the second consecutive year, it provides the opportunity to hear from all 11 institutions for the full day on June 22. This daylong session provides underpinning amid the Board's ongoing discussions of its own strategic planning work. The Board also will review any and all tuition differential requests, which obviously are necessary for the universities to firm up their operational budgets for FY2011-12. The Board meeting will be webcast live from [www.flbog.edu](http://www.flbog.edu), as usual.

*Thank you for your leadership of the State University System of Florida.*