For those who were not able to attend the Board of Governors meeting in Sarasota this week, below are some highlights of discussion and action that took place during the two-day meeting. I want to thank President O'Shea and his team at New College of Florida for so graciously hosting the meeting and making us all feel right at home.

Frank T. Brogan  
Chancellor

Board of Governors Meeting Highlights
(Follow us on Twitter @flbog)

If there were any doubts of the importance of higher education to the state of Florida, the November meeting of the Florida Board of Governors surely laid those to rest.

With visits from both Governor Rick Scott and Dale Brill, chair of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Higher Education, the two-day Board meeting had the future of the State University System squarely in the spotlight — and rightly so. With a continued push toward more accountability at Florida’s 12 public institutions, the Board of Governors shares the Governor's interest in providing a good return on investment for our students.

We applaud the fact that all of the state's leaders are lining up behind the idea that our universities are critical to the state's future, and that our State University System needs the resources to elevate it to greatness.

As part of his education tour, which also included visits to the Association of Florida Colleges and State Board of Education this month, Governor Scott touted the many successes of the State University System, boasting that there are “so many things to be proud of.” He also voiced support of more robust measurement of universities' performance, which the Board of Governors shares in its efforts to secure performance-based funding.

Dovetailing the Governor’s presentation was an update from Dale Brill, chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force created by the Governor earlier this year to explore enhancements to Florida’s higher education. Dr. Brill detailed the Task Force’s final recommendations, which align nicely with the Board of Governors’ own goals for the State University System.

Among them: increased coordination of System-wide goals, increased funding for the System and funding tied to performance metrics.

The Board is already working toward many of those initiatives.

Advancing an effort to secure performance-based funding for the State University System, the Board this week further discussed metrics by which universities might be evaluated. They include benchmarks intended to measure both excellence and improvement, such as post graduation job success, degrees in areas of strategic emphasis, graduation and retention rates, and more.
The Board is asking for approximately $100 million in new funding from the State Legislature this year to be tied to specific goals at each university.

In other funding news, the Board discussed a number of recommendations from its Task Force on Facilities, which has been surveying solutions to the state’s drop-off of Public Education Capital Outlay money. Known as PECO, the fund is paid for with taxes on utilities — like home phones or electric bills — and in the past couple years has all but dried up.

The Board of Governors will now work with the Governor, the Legislature, and System stakeholders to determine next steps.

More meeting highlights:

• The Board named its final appointment to the Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees. William Mitchell “Bill” Brown, president and CEO of the Harris Corporation, joins ten other trustees from across the state. The Board of Governors also on Thursday formally approved the transfer of assets from the University of South Florida’s former Lakeland campus to the new Florida Poly.

• Board of Governors Inspector General Derry Harper gave the Board an update on the continuing investigation into Florida A&M University’s internal controls.

• The Board reviewed the progress of its three-year market-rate tuition pilot program, by which universities can request the ability to charge higher tuition for certain graduate programs. It approved new market-rate proposals at four universities: Florida International University, the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida and the University of South Florida.

---

NEXT BOARD MEETING
January 16-17, 2013
at University of Florida in Gainesville

2013-2016 Board Meeting Calendar >

---

TRUSTEE TOPICS

Performance Funding Supports Missions and Systemwide Excellence

The Board of Governors is developing a performance funding model that is based on the universities’ work plans and advances their unique institutional missions. Click below to read a guest column that ran in the Tampa Bay Times in which I offer some perspective on this topic and debunk some myths about performance funding.

Read More >