At last week’s Board of Governors meeting we welcomed five new Board members: Harry “Wayne” Huizenga Jr., Ned C. Lautenbach, Alan Levine, Wendy Link and Edward “Ed” Morton. We all look forward to working with these talented and dedicated individuals during a pivotal time for the State University System. Below are highlights of discussion and action that occurred during the two-day meeting in Gainesville. I want to thank President Machen and the University of Florida for hosting the meeting and being so accommodating.

Frank T. Brogan  
Chancellor

**Board of Governors Meeting Highlights**

With a number of new Board members at the table and a chance to evaluate the progress of the State University System, the January meeting of the Florida Board of Governors marked a fitting beginning to the new year.

This will be a year of renewed commitment to delivering high-quality higher education, to providing graduates with workforce-ready skills and to ensuring a maximum return on investment through system-wide collaboration. That was the message of Chair Dean Colson in his annual State of the System address.

Chair Colson highlighted key accomplishments and areas in need of improvement, as detailed in this year’s *Annual Accountability Report* —approved by the Board at this meeting. The document provides a look at each university’s progress on key metrics, such as graduation rates, time-to-degree and meeting statewide workforce needs. In conjunction with the State University System’s 2025 Strategic Plan and each university’s individual work-plans, it helps ensure the system is meeting its goals in a transparent way.

Identifying those goals and challenges is more important than ever, as the Board of Governors continues to develop a performance-based funding model. It is a priority the Board has been working on for the past several months, with the goal of steering universities toward excellence in an even more accountable way.

The Board’s discussion at this meeting centered around proposed metrics to track through the model, which include: the percentage of graduates who get jobs after graduation or continue their education, cost-per-degree, wages of graduates, graduation rates, academic progress rates, degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis, university access rate, plus institution-specific metrics to be chosen by the universities and the Board of Governors.

More meeting highlights:

- The Board heard up an update from its Strategic Planning Committee on its efforts to better organize and expand the State University System’s online learning offerings. The Board's Strategic Planning committee is working closely with stakeholders in the Legislature and Governor's office and will return to the next meeting with specific proposals for how best to move forward.

- The Board awarded four institutions—Florida International University, the University of Central Florida, the University of West Florida and the University of Florida—each with a one-quarter share of $15 million, as part of a performance-funding pilot for information technology programs implemented by the Legislature last session.
Florida A&M University pledged cooperation with the Board on solutions to issues outlined in a Board of Governors inspector general report and my Report on additional FAMU investigations. FAMU President Larry Robinson and I agreed to report regularly to the Board on issues related to academic affairs, student affairs and administrative oversight.

The Board appointed or reappointed a member to each of the boards of trustees at Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida State University, New College of Florida, the University of North Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of West Florida.

Florida State University President Eric Barron gave the Board a report on FSU's digital arts program in West Palm Beach, which recently lost its primary partner, Digital Domain, after the company declared bankruptcy. Chair Colson has created a select committee to review whether the program should remain in south Florida or transition to FSU's campus in Tallahassee.

NEXT BOARD MEETING
February 21, 2013
Via conference call or in-person at University of North Florida in Jacksonville

2013-2016 Board Meeting Calendar >

TRUSTEE TOPICS
THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT LEARNING AND QUALITY
In an attempt to evaluate the quality of learning that goes on in colleges and universities, some organizations have pursued questionable approaches—for instance, assigning a letter grade of A through F to institutions based on “core” subjects like composition, literature, foreign language, history, mathematics, and so on. Should trustees take ratings like this seriously?

Read the full article >

From the Association of Governing Boards
This article is provided as information only and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Chancellor, the Board of Governors, or the State University System of Florida.