Below is a recap of the major actions taken during the Board of Governors meeting in Sarasota last week. I also want to offer special thanks to President Donal O’Shea and the entire New College family for hosting the meeting and reception at which I was able to say farewell to so many friends.

Dr. Jan Ignash will continue these updates when she takes the reins as interim chancellor in October, and I know she will do a fantastic job of keeping you informed. You are important stakeholders for our university system, and we know that our future depends in large part on your continued dedication to moving the system forward together.

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor

September Meeting Highlights:

The State University System’s legislative budget request for 2014-15 makes the case for significant investment in critical infrastructure and additional operational funds. The board approved a request for $377 million for facility maintenance and the continuation of funds for new facilities already in the pipeline. The request also includes $50 million in new operational funds—tied to performance metrics—that will help universities continue to enhance access and academic quality. The board is asking for an additional $16 million for other shared services and initiatives that benefit the entire system.

As Vice Chair Mori Hosseini noted, the state is projecting to have more one-time dollars this year as compared to recurring funds, so our request is focusing on much needed academic facilities that will help us prepare students for the new economy.

The request comes at a time when universities are more efficient than ever and—following a generous investment last year by the Florida Legislature—keenly poised to catapult into national excellence.

Hand-in-hand with the request is a continued push toward performance funding. At Thursday’s meeting, the board allocated $20 million in performance funding that was written into this year’s budget. As per statute, universities were evaluated on three metrics prioritized by Gov. Rick Scott: average salaries of graduates, percentage of graduates who are employed or continuing education, and cost-per-degree. Based on those, each university received a portion of the $20 million total.

The board is now expanding that model, adding student success metrics such as graduation rates, retention rates and the number of degrees awarded in areas of strategic emphasis in anticipation of additional performance funding next year.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Vice Chancellor/Chief Academic Officer Jan Ignash as interim chancellor. Yesterday, Chair Dean Colson announced the board member search committee who will help the board identify the next chancellor. They include: Mori Hosseini, who will chair the committee, Tom Kuntz, who will serve as vice chairman of the chancellor search committee, Elizabeth Webster, Wayne Huizenga, Jr., Patricia Frost, Manoj Chopra, and Ned Lautenbach.

Other meeting highlights:

- The board confirmed the reappointment of President Bernie Machen, whose contract at the University of Florida was extended earlier this year. The board also confirmed the appointment of Dennis Crudele, who is serving as interim president of Florida Atlantic University as they search for a permanent
• On behalf of students across the university system, Carlo Fassi, the board’s student member and president of the Florida Student Association, updated the board on efforts to thank members of the Legislature for their support. The students plan to unveil formal thank-you posters in the state Capitol later this month, under the banner of the “Aim Higher” campaign.

NEXT BOARD MEETING
• Sept. 27 via conference call
• Nov. 20-21 at Florida International University in Miami

2013-2016 Board Meeting Calendar >

TRUSTEE TOPICS

SAVE THE DATE - Trustee Summit & Orientation:
The Board of Governors will host a “Trustee Summit” on Wednesday, Nov. 20 in conjunction with the board meeting at Florida International University in Miami. This will be an opportunity for trustees to hear from national speakers on higher education issues that governing boards are facing. Trustees will have an opportunity to connect with each other and network with Board of Governors leadership and staff. A special orientation break-out session for new trustees will also be held during the summit.

Registration for the summit will be coordinated through each university’s board liaison office. Please contact your board liaison if you are interested in participating.