As we mark the new school year, it is time to re-launch our "Chancellor's Update" e-mail blasts, which are designed to keep you, our stakeholders, up-to-date on the efforts of the Board of Governors, the State University System and its 12 member institutions. This week, a number of our universities are dealing with the impact of Tropical Storm Isaac, which is likely to become a hurricane soon. I want to thank our university leaders for their efforts to ensure that their students, faculty and staff are safe and to keep everyone informed of campus closures related to the storm. Times like these remind us of the importance of good communication.

We will continue to enhance this communication tool in the months ahead, and have started by adding a special section called "Trustee Topics" at the end of the e-mail. This section will feature articles and other information that Trustees may find useful.

Please feel free to reply if you have ideas on how to further enhance the "Chancellor's Update" or if there are topics you would like us to cover.

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor

Florida Polytechnic University
The Florida Polytechnic University was created on April 20, 2012 when Governor Scott signed legislation that converted the former USF Polytech campus into the 12th university in the System. Since then, the Board of Governors and the Governor has worked hard to name eight of 11 appointed members of the Polytech Board of Trustees, which has already met twice and is slated to meet again on September 5, in Lakeland. They are very motivated and have begun to lay the foundation for an aggressive timetable. Below is a link to the draft critical path that outlines some of the initial steps the Board of Trustees will take in the coming months.

Draft Critical Path >
**Commission on Access and Attainment**

The Board of Governors Access and Educational Attainment Commission held an organizational meeting in June to begin the task of exploring how Florida can make informed, strategic choices on how best to increase the state’s educational attainment levels. The Commission— which includes members from government, business, industry and all sectors of higher education—approved its Work Plan for 2012-13. Commission member Rep. William “Bill” Proctor summarized the three major questions that will guide the Commission’s work as:

- Are the Board of Governors’ degree projections to the year 2025 the correct numbers?
- If the numbers are correct, in what program areas and in which regions of the state do we need to grow?
- Which sectors and institutions should grow?

The Commission plans to meet a total or five times between mid-September and late summer 2013. To ensure that the work of the Commission is data-driven, a team of researchers from education, labor and business will meet regularly to provide information and analyses.

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**Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force**

This Summer, Governor Scott launched a blue ribbon task force designed to offer recommendations in the areas of accountability, governance and funding that will enhance the State University System. The task force is being chaired by Dr. Dale Brill, of the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and includes Board of Governors member Joe Caruncho and UNF President John Delaney as members representing the System. The group recently conducted a remarkable day-long workshop in Clearwater at which more than 100 students, faculty, university administrators, legislators, System leaders, and community members gathered to offer their own ideas that will help influence the final report that is due to the Governor on October 30. We are very excited that the early concepts that seem to be gaining traction very closely align with the Board of Governors strategic plan and its efforts to create a more coordinated and accountable university system.

[Task Force Web Site >](#)
Facilities Funding Task Force
In March 2012, the Board launched a task force to develop recommendations that would address the current crisis in PECO funding. The group was given several charges, including determining how the lack of facility funding for both new construction and maintenance will impact the Board’s 2025 Strategic Plan goals for the State University System. The task force is being chaired by UWF President Judy Bense and includes one representative from each System institution. Additionally, a distinguished panel of advisors was selected to provide technical assistance to the Task Force, including experts in the fields of banking, finance, law, architecture and construction. The group has met twice since its inception, and is scheduled to meet two more times prior to the final report that is due to the Board’s Facilities Committee on November 7.

Learn more >

Online University Study
The 2012 Legislature appropriated funds for the Board of Governors to engage a consultant to conduct a study regarding how the State could increase its online higher education opportunities. After a competitive bid process, The Parthenon Group (based in Boston, MA) was awarded the contract and is charged with: 1) describing the current landscape for online degree programs and courses offered in the state; 2) describing innovative postsecondary online universities in or outside of Florida; 3) assessing Florida’s market and types of programs that could expand or be created to help boost the state’s economy; and 4) providing options for expanding the awarding of degrees in Florida—ranging from leveraging the offerings of existing universities to creating an online university. For each option presented, Parthenon will develop a ten-year business plan that considers factors such as cost, enrollments, degree production, revenue generated, and a timeline for launching each option. Parthenon is currently in the fact-finding phase and has been collecting data and interviewing a wide variety of stakeholders as they develop their report, which is due November 16, 2012 and will be considered by the Board at its January meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING
September 12-13, 2012
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fort Myers, FL

Learn more >

TRUSTEE TOPICS
High-Performing Committees: What Makes Them Work?
As governing boards have become more sophisticated and polished in their oversight of colleges and universities, they have also become more intentional in the way they organize themselves to meet their missions. Some boards have evolved entirely new structures. Even within the parameters of fairly traditional constructs, many boards have made important tweaks. But when it comes to committee structures, there is no one-size-fits-all approach: Boards organize themselves distinctly to best fit their needs and those of the institution. And that
may be precisely the key to success.

Read the full article >
From Trusteeship Magazine
Association of Governing Boards