June 2015

June is turning out to be a busy month in Tallahassee. As universities settle into their summer schedules, the Legislature has returned to Tallahassee for a special session to finalize a budget for the state of Florida. Meanwhile, here at the Board office, we continue our preparations for the June 16-18 Board of Governors meeting while closely monitoring the details of the special session.

Have a safe summer.

Marshall M. Criser III
Chancellor, State University System of Florida

Legislature returns to Tallahassee
The Legislature returned to Tallahassee Monday for a scheduled 20-day special session, during which time lawmakers say they will negotiate and pass a budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. The State University System of Florida is continuing to work during this special session to remind our elected leaders about the excellent return on investment offered by our universities, particularly as universities continue to demonstrate their strength and improvement through performance funding.

National Science Foundation 2015 Conference
The 2015 National Science Foundation (NSF) Grants Conference was a huge success. Co-hosted by the National Science Foundation and the State University System of Florida, the conference drew roughly 300 attendees from around the country. Speakers included U.S. Representative Kathy Castor of Tampa/St. Petersburg and Dr. Pramod Khargonekar, who is on the senior leadership team at the NSF and is a former dean of the University of Florida’s engineering college.

University Work Plans to be presented
After productive committee meetings in May, the Board office is busy preparing for our full Board meeting in June, which will span from June 16-18 and include university work-plans. While our June meeting is always one of our busiest, it’s also an exciting time as our universities engage in a greater dialogue about how each institution contributes to our System’s overall vision.

Progress on FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
The FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Governance Council met on May 20 at Florida State University. During the meeting, the two universities presented an enhanced plan for administration for the joint college. The plan was approved unanimously by the governance council and is being implemented. The council also approved a draft facilities plan which was submitted to the Board of Governors on June 1.
In addition, the academic leadership has worked closely to integrate students on a learning management system that is dedicated to the College. There continues to be strong collaboration between both universities as we work on the integration of academic and student affairs.

**Upcoming Board Meetings**

- June 16-18 – University of South Florida, Tampa
- September 2-3 – University of Florida, Gainesville

**Trustee Topics**

**Trustees Dinner**

USF Trustee Chair and Vice Chair, Harold Mullis and Brian Lamb are inviting all trustees attending the Board of Governors meetings to a Trustees Dinner on Wednesday evening, June 17, 2015. Trustees should RSVP to Ms. Tammy Brown at tybrown@usf.edu or by phone at (813) 974-6442, no later than June 10.

**Trustee Orientation**

Orientation for new trustees will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Registration for orientation can be made online at www.flbog.edu/aboutsus/trustees-orientation.php As part of the Board’s Trustee Selection and Reappointment Process trustee appointments made by the Board of Governors are subject to participation in orientation within one year of the date of appointment. The 2½ hour session is a valuable opportunity for trustees to learn about the State University System, our collaborative efforts to move the State University System forward, and the importance of strategic alliances. It is also an informal occasion to meet other trustees, forge relationships with the leadership of the Board of Governors and become familiar with senior staff from the board office. While gubernatorial appointees are not required to attend, all trustees, including faculty and student government representatives, are encouraged to participate.

**Trustee Vacancies**

The Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida is seeking qualified applicants to serve as trustees on each of the state university boards of trustees. There are four vacant positions at Florida A&M University and three vacant positions at University of Central Florida. Each of the following public state universities has two vacancies: Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, Florida Polytechnic University, Florida State University, New College of Florida, University of Florida, University of North Florida, University of South Florida and University of West Florida. More information is available at [http://flbog.edu/pressroom/news.php?id=572](http://flbog.edu/pressroom/news.php?id=572)