May 19, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor, State of Florida  
Plaza Level 02  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida  32399  

SUBJECT: PECO Appropriations - SB 2000 - General Appropriations Act

Dear Governor Scott:

Thank you for your leadership and participation with us at our March 2011 Board meeting. We look forward to an ongoing dialogue about the role our state’s universities have in diversifying and transforming Florida’s economy.

As you review the budget that was presented to you by the Legislature, please know that the Board of Governors fully supports the PECO projects that were included in the 2011 General Appropriations Act. Significant investment in our public universities — as well as attention to deferred maintenance issues — is vital and creates thousands of new jobs. Funding for facilities is an essential cornerstone to building an economy based on knowledge, research discoveries, commercialization and innovation.

To assist in your evaluation, I would like to take the opportunity to provide some additional facts for your consideration. The total funding of more than $137 million from PECO and Lottery bonds would provide the following benefits:

- Completion of projects currently under construction.
- Renovation of existing educational facilities.
- Development of new construction projects to meet the access and demand for student enrollment.
Funding for System-wide maintenance at each of the 11 state universities, something we desperately need for capital renewal, which will help protect the state’s existing investment in more than 4,000 buildings and associated supporting infrastructure, such as roofs and the need to address ADA requirements and fire safety codes at certain buildings.

We appreciate the thoughtful deliberation that you and the Cabinet brought to the May 17th meeting of the State Board of Administration (SBA). Your action in authorizing $74 million in 2008-appropriated PECO bonds serves the State of Florida well, allowing dozens of projects across the entire spectrum of K-20 currently under construction to continue forward to completion. As you know, PECO dollars in the statutory formula are shared among the K-12 system, charter schools, the Florida College System of community and state colleges, and the State University System.

Governor, you can be assured that the entire list of State University System PECO projects as listed in the 2011 state budget on your desk adheres to all standards, were approved by their respective university boards of trustees, and are among the top priorities for the State University System. Should you or your staff need any additional information regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me or Chancellor Brogan.

You already have been a tremendous supporter of the State University System. We continue to look forward to working with you and your team in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Ava L. Parker
Chair

C: Members, Board of Governors
Chancellor Frank T. Brogan