Since the Board of Governors voted last month to ask the Legislature for $118 million in new performance-based funding, we have been hard at work refining exactly what that approach might look like. Many details are still being worked out, but here’s what we do know: We want to make investments in our universities largely based on goals they set themselves, in their annual work plans. The Board of Governors wants the process to be flexible to allow consideration of each university’s individual missions, goals and challenges— rewarding completed goals, but also rewarding progress toward excellence. There will be further discussions about this important step toward enhanced accountability at our next Board meeting in November.

Frank T. Brogan
Chancellor

Commission on Access and Attainment
The Commission met in Tampa on September 26 to address the question of how many bachelor’s degrees Florida needs to produce to support the growing knowledge-based economy. The Board’s own 2025 Strategic Plan calls for the System to produce 90,000 bachelor’s degrees per year. Much of the Commission’s discussion at this meeting centered around the demand for graduates and an examination of the current supply of graduates. The next meeting will focus on identifying the fastest growing occupations in the state and nation, as well as a discussion of those occupations that are leveling off or are in decline. Future meetings will include a gap analysis between occupational demands and degree program supply and how the State can best fill that gap.

Commission Web Site >

Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force
Governor Rick Scott’s Blue Ribbon Task Force on higher education reform is nearing the end of its study of the state’s higher education landscape. The group released its draft recommendations earlier this week, which include many ideas that align nicely with the Board of Governor’s own Strategic Plan. We share the group’s concerns about state appropriations and tuition, and we are pleased to hear that the panel shares our interest in performance-based funding.

Task Force Web Site >
Florida A&M University Celebrates 125 Years
On October 3, I had the great honor of offering remarks at Florida A&M University’s 125th anniversary celebration. Its rich history is truly a jewel in the crown of the State University System, and we look forward to celebrating the university’s next 125 years and beyond. You can read more about the anniversary year at the website below.

FAMU’s 125th Anniversary>

FSU/FAMU Joint Student Government Meeting
For the first time in recent history, the student government leaders from FSU and FAMU convened together at the House of Representatives chamber earlier this month in a joint session. I was honored to address this group of exceptional students who have set an example for the rest of the State University System in cooperation and collaboration. These students understand that—by working together—we can bring out the best in each other, and I commend them for their hard work.

NEXT BOARD MEETING
November 7-8, 2012
New College of Florida
Sarasota, FL

TRUSTEE TOPICS

Research Universities and the Future of America
The crucial importance of the research university as a key asset in achieving economic prosperity and security is widely understood, as evidenced by the efforts that nations around the globe are making to create and sustain institutions of world-class quality. Yet, while America’s research universities remain the strongest in the world, they are threatened by many forces...
Read the full article >
From Trusteeship Magazine, Association of Governing Boards

Trust, Accountability and Integrity:
Board Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics
The Association of Governing Boards has completed a recent study on the engagement of governing boards in the oversight of intercollegiate athletics. As spending on athletics by colleges and universities continues to rise, accompanied by mounting public ire about ethical and moral misconduct, it is critically important that governing boards monitor and oversee the impact of athletics on the academic missions of the institutions for which they have fiduciary responsibility.
Read the report >