



FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

FROM: Governors M. Lynn Pappas and Frank T. Martin

DATE: September 22, 2008

SUBJECT: Preparation for Thursday's Board of Governors Strategic Planning and Academic and System Oversight Committee Meeting

The charge of the Board of Governors (BOG) Strategic Planning and Academic and System Oversight Committee is broad in both scope and timing of implementation. It is our view that, in order for the Committee to stay focused and action oriented, we should clearly articulate goal statements, set timetables, and develop a road map to achieve those goals. Of necessity, the road map will rely on the work of other Board committees or, in certain instances, actions of outside organizations such as the Florida College System Task Force and the Distance Learning Task Force established by the 2008 Legislature. To help us begin to understand how the work of these groups affects our planning, we have asked Commissioner Smith to provide us with an overview of the Florida College System legislation, as well as an update on the work of that Task Force, as part of our Committee meeting on Thursday.

It is inevitable that circumstances outside of our control enter into the picture on a frequent basis. The intent of the process we are suggesting is that, by staying on task in a more compressed timeline, we can avoid drift in our thinking and planning, which occurs when we revisit topics on an infrequent, unpredictable, and isolated basis.

The goal of the discussion at our Committee meeting this week is to reach agreement on this structure, as well as on the content of the work plans themselves. Of course that does not mean that there will be no variations along the way, but we should have a commitment to our plans.

You will see that, by engaging individual board members in working groups, our goal is for us to make progress outside of our formal BOG meetings in advancing these work plans. This approach gives rise to the need for a significant commitment from each of

us and staff, but – in our view – it is the only way to keep this process on track in a manner that allows for the level of continuity necessary to reach our goals.

A major contributor to our promotion of this plan is the changing dynamic in which we find ourselves and higher education in Florida in general. If we do not create our own clear vision of how to face these challenges in a timely manner, then a vision will be visited upon us. We do not have the luxury of open-ended timeframes to analyze these issues and implement action plans.

This Thursday, the Strategic Planning and Academic and System Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Marshall Student Center at the University of South Florida. We have several action items on our agenda: First, we will hear a status report on the Johnnie B. Byrd, Sr., Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute and will be asked to approve the amended Articles of Incorporation included in your packet. Second, we need to decide whether to endorse the "Recommendations of the State University System Workgroup with Regard to Senate Bill 1716 and the Florida State College System" and ask that the report be distributed more widely. Third, we need to determine whether to maintain the limitations on freshman enrollment (through fall 2010) that we set on July 10, 2007. Fourth, we need to request that the Chancellor solicit revised plans (for discussion at the November meeting) from the universities based on current enrollment data and revised financial assumptions for 2009-10. Fifth, we need to consider whether to change the start date for the implementation of University Compacts to July 1, 2009. Finally, we need to work on the work plans for the Committee.

Attached you will find two documents: (1) a detailed set of work plans for the Committee and its subcommittees and project teams; and (2) a Critical Actions document that will provide a summary of the primary milestones along the way. Please review these documents prior to our meeting on Thursday. We look forward to our discussion and welcome your thoughts.