

The following was sent by email from Chancellor Mark Rosenberg to the State University System presidents on May 3, 2007.

Dear Presidents:

Recent developments in the student loan industry have raised many questions that need to be answered. We have an obligation to ensure that each student seeking financial aid receives the information and services that are most beneficial to that student. Moreover, we must continue to earn the respect and trust of students and their families as we help them navigate the sometimes complex world of financial aid.

The U.S. Department of Education soon is expected to finalize its currently proposed rules regarding student lending, and some regulatory changes may require state universities to approach relationships with lenders differently. Congress is also considering a number of statutory changes. In order to anticipate how those changes may affect Florida, I request that by May 25, 2007 each of you respond to the following questions.

1. What are your processes for informing students and parents about preferred lenders?
2. Describe all financial and other considerations your institution receives from lenders.
3. What is your process for selecting preferred lenders?
4. How do your institution's conflict of interest policies apply to student aid officers and other campus officials having responsibility for the administration and oversight of student financial aid? How have those policies been implemented?

I am also attaching three documents that provide a good overview of the issues as well as proposed federal regulatory and statutory changes.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosenberg, Chancellor

Cc: BOG members
BOT chairs
SUS Financial Aid Directors
SUS Data Administrators