



Office of the Provost
Academic Affairs
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514-5750

October 30, 2006

Mark Rosenberg, Chancellor
State University System of Florida
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Chancellor Rosenberg:

Thank you for your leadership in the vital and growing arena of emergency management. Your responsiveness to the request to name the Emergency Management Task Force (EMTF) paved the way for the examination of a more comprehensive approach to meeting the emergency management challenges of the State University System.

Since the EMTF first meeting in March, 2006, it has reviewed emergency management issues within the State University System (SUS). It organized its work around subject matters that our experience indicated would be paramount to preparing for, managing through and recovering successfully from various emergencies, especially hurricanes. The latter is of particular interest to our state, given its geographical location, and the impact that hurricanes had on our universities in recent years. In just two hurricane seasons alone, 2004 and 2005, all of our universities were affected with either structural damage to facilities or destruction of landscaping. The cost of structural damage to facilities alone totaled \$47.2M. Yet, SUS institutions weathered the storms and safeguarded lives and academic timetables/careers, in spite of loss of the use of several buildings for periods of time.

Over the months, the EMTF focused on communication, information technology, facilities, emergency management personnel, shared resources, including procurement agreements and contracts. We pulled from the wealth of knowledge of each Task Force member. We also conducted two surveys among the SUS institutions to learn about their preparations for emergencies and the financial impact of the recent hurricane seasons on their facilities. In addition, our discussions were enhanced by presentations from experts on various subjects such as weather systems, the pandemic and state property valuation.

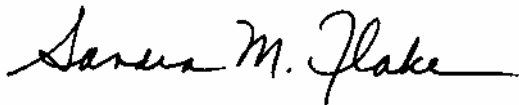
As Chair of the Task Force, it will be my responsibility to report our final recommendations to the Board of Governors (BOG) at its meeting in November. Those recommendations will reflect the Task Force's experiences, discussions and research. They center on 1) a SUS infrastructure for communications and information technology; 2) emergency management personnel and 3) adequacy and immediacy of funding to get university operations, including facilities, back online.

I am appreciative of the work and diligence of my colleagues, as listed in the attachment, who served with me on the Task Force. Much of our work and some valuable resources for the universities are posted on the BOG website at www.flbog.org/emergency_management.

I look forward to seeing you at the November Board meeting that is being hosted by the University of West Florida. It provides the opportunity for the members of the Board to see one of their universities which continues to recover from series of hurricane-derived emergencies.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to serve the SUS.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra M. Flake". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sandra M. Flake
Provost

Attachment

C: Members, EMTF