

November 20, 2007

Dear BOG Members, BOT Members, SUS Presidents and SUS Provosts:

As you know, the judicial system is now reviewing tuition setting authority in the State University System. We are confident that the matter will soon be decided, and hopefully clarified. In the meantime, we want to state our near-term approach to this important matter so that all interested parties can plan accordingly.

Our belief is that the Legislature should fully fund our base instructional, research and service operations, and provide for enrollment growth funding sufficient to ensure continuing access for new and transfer students. In the best of worlds, we would only raise tuition if the prospects for continuing access and quality instruction, research and service could not be met through state appropriation. Thus, for the 2008-09 academic year, we have not yet made any recommendation to the Board of Governors about tuition.

On November 1, 2007, the Board of Governors submitted a \$3.8 billion 2008-09 budget to the Governor and Legislature. This is an increase over the 2007-08 recurring base of approximately \$450 million (including ongoing state and tuition revenues). Then we were hopeful the State's revenue forecast would have stabilized and that a robust appropriation by the Legislature would negate the need for a significant increase in tuition beginning Fall 2008.

In light of the mid-November state revenue forecast and the uncertainty elsewhere, we believe it will be premature to take action on any Fall 2008 tuition increases, including differential tuition, until after the regular legislative session. Any reductions to the university system budget that may come out of the session will have further negative consequences on SUS access and quality issues. We will need to look carefully at the impact of those reductions to the system and set tuition accordingly to ensure that our students will have the faculty and courses available to meet their demands. Therefore, we anticipate having a Fall 2008 tuition and differential tuition proposal for your consideration at the BOG meeting via conference call on May 8, 2008.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Mark B. Rosenberg
Chancellor
Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
Phone: 850-245-0466
Fax: 850-245-9685
Mark.Rosenberg@flbog.org
Visit us online at www.flbog.org

c: SUS Governmental Relations Representatives
BOG Staff