

February 6, 2008

Dear Presidents:

As you know, the Board of Governors has requested that I bring them an adjusted enrollment plan for 2008-09 that is aligned with available funds. The enrollment levels in the original 2007-08 General Appropriations Act were based on a level of state funding that has not materialized. If we cannot afford to hire faculty and advisors, we do not have the capacity to enroll students.

Given the current revenue picture for 2008-09, it is unlikely that funds will be available for over-enrollments or to restore fully the 2007-08 cuts in system-wide capacity. The funded enrollment plan of the system must, therefore, be reduced proportionately until we are able to establish that revenue will be available to maintain or increase enrollments without further sacrificing quality.

The attached spreadsheet shows the reduction in your funded 2007-08 enrollment plans based on the October special session cuts of 3.6% we have already experienced and the 3.8% currently being held back. In deference to the Governor's budget request, another 1.6% is added back for 2008-09 based on the assumption that a limited amount of incremental funds will be available over the reduced 2007-08 base.

At current student/faculty ratios, we estimate that the budget cuts experienced so far reduce the capacity of the system from about 298,000 students (fall headcount) to 276,000. The limited enrollment growth funding projected would restore 5,000 seats, bringing the total back up to about 281,000.

In order to provide information at the March 26-27 meeting, I ask that you review the spreadsheet and provide the following information no later than February 29.

- 1) Is our estimate of your actual 2007-08 enrollment approximately correct? We will update when final spring numbers are in.
- 2) Does the spreadsheet accurately reflect the number of students you can afford to enroll, after the cuts, without sacrificing quality? If you believe you can afford to enroll more students and maintain equal quality in spite of the revenue reductions, please provide an alternative funded 2007-08 plan.
- 3) For initial discussion, we have allocated the cuts equally at all levels, but added the 08-09 enrollment growth back at the upper division undergraduate level to protect the 2+2 system. If that is not how you would allocate the cuts or the growth funds, please provide a revenue-neutral alternative that respects the ongoing freeze on freshman enrollment growth.

- 4) How would you plan to align your actual enrollment to the new funded level if you had to do so in a single year – in other words, by 2008-09?
- 5) How would you plan to align your actual enrollment to the new funded level if given three years – by 2011-12? What would your 2008-09 FTE enrollment be, by level, in the first year of this alignment?

Please note that we have calculated a “weighted FTE” for each university based on the relative costs in the current funding formula for an FTE at each level. You may make revenue-neutral shifts – i.e. shifts that result in the same weighted FTE – as needed.

This is a difficult and regrettable – but necessary – adjustment for the state’s public universities. I look forward to working with you in the coming years to establish appropriate and predictable funding to fully meet the state’s postsecondary education needs.

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](mailto:Mark.Rosenberg@flbog.org)  
Visit us online at [www.flbog.org](http://www.flbog.org)