



FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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October 25, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner John Winn

FROM: Carolyn Roberts *CRoberts*
Chair, Florida Board of Governors

SUBJECT: Transfer of Activities Related to Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida

Prior to creation of the Florida Board of Governors, the Division of Colleges and Universities (DCU), as part of the Department of Education's (DOE) K-20 structure, provided for DOE's statutory responsibilities related to the four-year institutions among the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) whose students are eligible to receive the William L. Boyd, IV, Florida Resident Access Grant. These responsibilities included assessment and annual reporting of campus physical plant safety and crime statistics (pursuant to §§1013.11, F.S. and 1006.67, F.S.), consumer protection and program approval issues, handing of student complaints, and other matters referenced in Chapter 1005, F.S. In 2004-05, DCU also provided oversight of grants related to certain ICUF institutions for special categories attributed to DOE within the General Appropriations Act.

As you know, the personnel previously associated with these DOE responsibilities are now employed by the Board of Governors. Pursuant to Article IX, Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Florida, the Board of Governors is to "govern the state university system," which is comprised solely of the eleven state universities, as defined in §1000.21(6), F.S. The provision of activities associated with any other institutions is neither in concert with the Board of Governors' Strategic Plan nor one that the Board Office is staffed to perform. Accordingly, and as discussed at the last meeting of the Florida Board of Governors, the DOE responsibilities related to ICUF institutions need to be associated with an office of DOE, rather than with staff employed outside it.

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Acting with the best interests of Florida K-20 education in mind, I felt it was imperative to apprise you of this situation, in order to ensure proper placement these responsibilities, some of which are time-sensitive, as expeditiously as possible. It is my hope that resolving the issue at this time will allow for the smooth transition of the responsibilities as they are restored under the DOE organizational structure.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

CKR/rlc

c: Vice Chair John Dasburg
Mark Rosenberg
Ed H. Moore
Jeanine Blomberg