

February 6, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

During my recent State of the System address, I spoke of the need for increased innovation within the system in order for it to remain intellectually and economically competitive in the public higher education marketplace. (Complete remarks can be found at

http://www.usg.edu/chancellor/speeches/chancellors_state_of_the_system_address_2010/)

More importantly, I also noted that this innovation both had to begin and flourish at the campus level. We can neither order nor dictate innovation from the System level. But, the System does have a role in the process. First, to provide needed support and coordination for campus-based efforts. And second, to provide principles to help guide increased innovation and engagement at the institutional level.

My present plan is ask the Board of Regents to adopt these principles at its March meeting, following an introduction and discussion of them at the February meeting. Following that meeting, I will incorporate any feedback from the board as well as that from a variety of people including yourself, institutional presidents, my cabinet, the Staff Council, SAC and the newly formed faculty discussion group.

Attached to this note is a copy of the principles in their present form which I plan to discuss with the Board next week.

I would appreciate your feedback both on the principles themselves and any other aspects of the document. You may wish to address questions such as: Are these sufficient to guide innovation? If not, what should be added? What should be dropped or altered? Are the Board's expectations clear enough?

I do want to emphasize that the Board is not looking to craft a values statement for all that we do at the University System. It is only looking to issue principles to guide the process of innovation and engagement at the campus level.

In order for your thoughts and comments to be considered, I will need to receive them by February 26th. Please email them to me at chancellor@usg.edu. Thanks in advance for your responses and for your continuing support of our quest to create a more educated Georgia.

Regards,

Erroll B. Davis, Jr.

Chancellor