The charge to the Transition Committee for the New Era is to make those recommendations necessary for the UWF Board of Trustees to expeditiously become the body corporate for the University. According to the governmental reorganization statutes, “Upon appointment, each board of trustees shall commence professional orientation, training, and board development activities, and shall begin setting direction for its university in keeping with accountability and performance expectations of the seamless K-20 education system. Each board of trustees shall submit to the Florida Board of Education action plans and timelines for devolution of duties and responsibilities to the board of trustees.”

Since we cannot dictate to the new board, nor do we wish to, I emphasize that the product of the committee is a set of recommendations. This report will provide a starting place for the Board’s discussions and decisions. Since the Board will ultimately determine the path to take on each issue, the Committee may make some recommendations in the form of options.

The Committee should address in its report at least the following areas:

A. Board of Trustees orientation to include:
   1. Duties and responsibilities of a governing board
   2. Sunshine Laws
   3. The public relations dimension of board membership
   4. Discussion of mission
   5. Consideration of the UWF strategic plan

B. Policies and procedures for Board operation

C. University policy and procedure changes necessary for the Board of Trustees to assume body corporate status.

The job of the Committee will be to review draft recommendations coming from the various University officials, vice presidents, and subcommittees formed to address complex issues. Julie Sheppard will serve as counsel to the Committee. In that role she will coordinate obtaining the draft recommendations from the appropriate parties and groups and present them for your consideration.
Please remember that each of you is a representative of a constituency. I ask that you conduct your business in such a way that no employee feels disenfranchised or alienated from the transition activities. Keith Goldschmidt will serve you as chief communications officer, and he can help to insure that our faculty, staff, and students are informed about the transition.

As you make decisions about how the University will function, keep in mind “Students First.”

The UWF Board of Trustees could be appointed as early as July 1, so I ask that the Committee report be ready by that date.

MLM:vks

cc:  Ms. Julie Sheppard, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
     Mr. Keith Goldschmidt, Executive Assistant to the President and EVP