MEMORANDUM

TO: System CEOs

SUBJECT: Texas A&M System IT Assessment

As part of my continuing efforts to increase effectiveness and efficiencies in the way we do business across The Texas A&M University System, I want to share with you information about the upcoming assessment of IT services across the system. As you know from prior reports, an RFP was generated this summer and disseminated to a wide audience. Ten companies submitted proposals. After a careful evaluation process, Deloitte has been selected as the successful proposer. We plan to commence the project in November. Early in the project, we will coordinate a system-wide kick-off meeting with many of you joining via video conference.

The assessment will be carried out in two components. In Part I, Deloitte will analyze the governance, security and infrastructure of system members’ IT operations over the course of the next four to five months. The initial work will include a significant information-gathering effort involving every System member. Site visits will be made to some system members for this purpose, while for other System members information-gathering will be handled via telephone and video conferencing. One of the first orders of business with Deloitte is to establish the details of this information gathering effort.

Once Part I is complete, we will review Deloitte’s findings and recommendations, and decide whether we want to proceed to Part II. In Part II, Deloitte would analyze application management, IT operations, IT demand and project management, and IT staffing and support.

To facilitate next steps in this process, I need each of you to designate a lead contact and notify Glenda Rogers in OGC (gkr@tamus.edu and 979-458-6128) with the appropriate name and contact information as soon as possible.
Part I of this project carries a cost of $902,983.00. Although System Offices is a relatively minor focus of this project, System Offices will pay 50% of the total cost. The remaining 50% will be allocated among system members based on your relative use of centralized IT services. An allocation estimate is attached for your reference. Greg Anderson and Joseph Duron will follow up with your business officers regarding this aspect of the project.

With the advent of this System IT assessment and the significant work that will follow in implementing recommendations that flow from the assessment, it is no longer feasible for our System Chief Information Officer, Pierce Cantrell, to work in a shared services capacity. Beginning November 1, Dr. Cantrell will return to Texas A&M University full time and focus on his role as Vice President and Associate Provost for Information Technology. System Offices will begin a national search for a System Chief Information Officer. In the meantime, David McLaughlin, President of Columbia Advisory Group in Dallas, Texas will serve as interim System CIO. Mr. McLaughlin has worked closely with System Offices in the development of the RFP and the evaluation of the various proposals submitted, and is well qualified to lead this effort in the coming months. Please give Mr. McLaughlin your assistance and cooperation as we embark on this important project.

John Sharp
Chancellor

cc: Executive Committee