On November 11, 2011, Orange County Deputies began the investigation into the death of FAMU Drum Major Robert Champion.

On November 19, 2011 the Medical Examiner for the Ninth Judicial Circuit ruled the death of Mr. Champion a homicide. With the receipt of the M.E.’s report, the OCSO Homicide Unit continued the investigation with “hemorrhagic shock due to soft tissue hemorrhage due to blunt force trauma sustained during a hazing incident” as the cause of death.

During the course of this investigation, Orange County Sheriff’s Office investigators have worked over 1000 man hours and over 40 individuals have been interviewed. We have worked closely with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and on numerous occasions investigators have traveled to and from Tallahassee to meet with witnesses and gather statements.

The investigative reports have officially been turned over to the State Attorney’s Office, which will make the determination of applicable charges. Investigators have been in contact with the Champion family to advise them of this newest development. This investigation could not have been accomplished without the support of the FAMU Administration and we do thank them for their cooperation.