



Board of Trustees

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

9:30 AM

MINUTES

Chair Will Weatherford welcomed everyone and convened the full Board of Trustees meeting. He acknowledged the guests who were in attendance and the individuals who are planning to give remarks. He acknowledged that the public comment portion of the meeting would occur towards the end.

The Chair commented on the issues in Tallahassee surrounding higher education as well as the proposals that are being introduced in the Legislature.

President Rhea Law provided opening comments to welcome everyone and thank those who were in attendance.

Chair Weatherford additionally commented on the following:

- Grand Opening of the Porter family Indoor Practice Performance Facility
- Inauguration for USF President Rhea Law
- USF's new Provost

Chair Weatherford asked Kiara Guzzo to call the roll

Kiara Guzzo called the roll

Trustee Sandra Callahan

Trustee Mike Carrere

Trustee Rogan Donnelly

Trustee Mike Griffin

Trustee Oscar Horton

Trustee Jenifer Jasinski Schneider

Trustee Lauren Monbarren

Trustee Nithin Palyam

Trustee Shilen Patel



Trustee Fredrick Piccolo
Trustee Melissa Seixas
Trustee Will Weatherford

Student Presentation

Chair Weatherford introduced USF student Athlete, Gerry Bohanon.

USF Bulls Quarterback Gerry Bohanon presented a short video and spoke of his previous experiences and life at USF.

Chair Weatherford thanked Gerry for his presentation and acknowledged him as a great representative for USF. The Chair commented that we are thankful for the example that you have set for student athletes and we're looking forward to the Spring Football game.

President Law thanked Gerry for his insightful and inspiring presentation. We're looking forward to the upcoming season. The Spring football game is on April 14th. The President encouraged all to come out and support the USF Bulls.

President's Report

- February 22nd was a historic day. The USF Men's and Women's Basketball, the Baseball, and Softball teams all won their games on the same night for the first time since February 2011.
- USF Women's Basketball team has won the American Athletic Conference Regular Season Championship.
- Sunday will be the selection show for the NCAA Tournament for Women's Basketball.
- There was a groundbreaking ceremony at USF Sarasota Manatee for the new Housing and Student Center Complex. The new housing will be open in the fall of 2024. Approximately 200 students will stay on campus. The President thanked Dr. Karen Holbrook for her vision, energy, and excitement. A special thanks to Trustee Piccolo who is the Chair for the USFSM Campus Board.
- The third building is a 75,000 square foot Nursing STEM Building- we've received \$5 million from Federal and State Government to get started. This is on our PECO list to get additional funding for the STEM Building.
- USF Day at the Capitol –Last year there were 50 USF students in attendance. This year there were over 100 students; who had an opportunity to see the work of the



Legislature. USF Regional Chancellor Christian Hardigree, Vice President and Dean for USF Health Charly Lockwood and BOT Vice Chair Mike Griffin were also in attendance.

- President Law traveled to Washington DC with General Frank McKenzie, Executive Director of Global and National Security Institute and Cyber Florida. While in DC they met with Senators and Representatives to talk about plans for USF. The President plans to return to Washington DC soon as they are supportive and willing to assist in helping USF accomplish our goals.
- There were 10 USF students selected as Fulbright Scholars, the most in USF history. We were ranked #2 as being one of Fulbright's top producing institutions for student scholars in the State of Florida.
- USF celebrated receiving \$1.5 million dollars which came from Rapid 7; which is the Cyber Security Foundation. They were introduced by Vice Chair Griffin and have partnered with USF to support our interdisciplinary research efforts as well as give hands on learning opportunities to our students. The partnership will create the Rapid 7 Cyber Threat Intelligence Lab and will work closely with Cyber Florida.
- Black Heritage Month and Women's History Month – We recently celebrated Black Heritage month. There were many exciting activities held on campus. USF began celebrating Black Heritage Month in 1972 when President Law was a student.

March is Women's History Month. There are several activities planned. Women have had such an impact on USF as well as the community, state, and country.

- Vice Chair Griffin was awarded the Park Rite III Leadership Award. This award is given annually to Leadership Tampa Alumni who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and have made a significant difference in the Tampa Bay Community.

President Law welcomed and introduced USF's new Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Prasant Mohapatra.

Prasant Mohapatra, Ph.D. Dr. Mohapatra joined the USF College of Engineering on March 1, 2023, as a Professor with the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and as Provost of the University of South Florida. Dr. Mohapatra is an internationally recognized researcher for his work in mobile computing and wireless networks. He is a Fellow of AAAS and a Fellow of IEEE. He comes to USF from the University of California, Davis, where he served as



Vice Chancellor for Research and a tenured Distinguished Professor in the Computer Science Department. He previously served in positions including Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Chancellor, Interim Vice Provost and CIO at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Mohapatra earned a B.S. degree from the National Institute of Technology in Rourkela, India, in 1987, an M.S. from the University of Rhode Island in 1989, and a Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 1993. His extensive research experience includes receiving 75 grants as a PI or co-PI, totaling many tens of millions of dollars. He has co-authored 9 books and book chapters, 128 peer-reviewed journal articles, 277 peer-reviewed papers for selective conferences, and 10 patents.

Please see the USF Office of the Provost Website for Dr. Mohapatra's full Bio.

Provost Mohapatra commented on receiving a heartfelt welcome from everyone at USF and in the Tampa Bay community. He is excited to be the Provost of this great institution. Dr. Mohapatra looks forward to working with everyone and is excited to be part of the nation's fastest growing university.

President Law gave a special recognition to Interim Provost Eric Eisenberg. She thanked him for serving as the Interim Provost, and for agreeing to serve as USF's new Sr. Vice President for University Community Partnerships; this is a very important part of the USF Strategic Plan.

Chair Weatherford thanked President Law for her report and Vice President Eisenberg for his continued service to USF. Chair Weatherford commented that there are many new and exciting things that are happening at USF and it takes a great team to execute them.

New Business – Action Items (Minutes and Consent Agenda)

a. FL 101 – Approval of the Minutes

December 7, 2022 and January 4, 2023

Having no revisions to the minutes, Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve them. The motion was given by Trustee Horton and seconded by Trustee Carrere. The December 7, 2022, and January 4, 2023 minutes were approved.

b. Consent Agenda (FL 102 – FL 108)

Governance Committee Approved Items



Chair Weatherford reported on behalf of the Governance Committee. All items have been thoroughly reviewed by the committee and recommended for approval.

FL 102 – DSO Board Member for USF Research Foundation, Inc.

FL 103 – DSO Board Member for USF Foundation, Inc.

FL 104 – Revisions to USF Institute of Applied Engineering Bylaws

Finance Committee Approved Items

Vice Chair Griffin reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. All items were thoroughly reviewed by the committee and recommended for approval.

FL 105 – Stadium Deal Terms and Design Phase

FL 106 – Student Housing Rental Rates

ACE Committee Approved Items

Chair Horton reported on behalf of the ACE Committee. All items were thoroughly reviewed by the committee and recommended for approval.

FL 107 – Tenure as a Condition of Employment

FL 108 – New Degree Proposal

Chair Weatherford called on UFF President Steve Lang for comments.

Chair Weatherford thanked UFF President Lang for his remarks. The Chair requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was given by Trustee Piccolo and seconded by Trustee Callahan. The Consent Agenda items FL102 – FL108 was approved.

New Business – Action Items

FL 109 - Ratification of the CBA between the University of South Florida and AFSCME

Sr. Associate General Counsel Liz Gierbolini presented.

The University of South Florida and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (“AFSCME”) have reached a tentative 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement



("CBA"). AFSCME notified the University on February 22, 2023, that its membership has ratified the proposed CBA. Ratification by the Board is required for the new CBA to go into effect. Proposed action: Ratify the proposed CBA between the University of South Florida Board of Trustees and AFSCME.

The current 1-year MOU between AFSCME and the University had an expiration date of June 30, 2023, and permitted limited reopeners for Wages and up to 2 other articles in the 2022-23 year.

Ms. Gierbolini commented that throughout the life of the contract this will be an 8% increase for the bargaining unit.

Having no questions about the Ratification, Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve.

Trustee Carrere commented on the positive negotiations as it relates to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Trustee Carrere commented that an approval was recommended and made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Trustee Monbarren seconded the motion. Item FL 109 was approved.

Public Comments

Chair Weatherford announced that each individual or group will have a total of 3 minutes to speak.

Isabelle Crotsley's comments concerned the proposed new degree, the Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics, and Information Systems (BAIS). She also had comments regarding the HB999 and the negative effects that it will have on both faculty and students across USF.

Joseph Robinson's comments also concerned DEI and how it differs from Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Minority Business Enterprise. He congratulated USF Athletics Director Michael Kelly and the VP for USF Foundation Jay Stroman on selecting Barton Malow to design the USF Stadium.

Jonathan Chavez presented a letter to the Board Chair. The letter was signed by thousands of students from 32 organizations at USF. It contained the changes in the Florida law as it relates to HB999. He discussed how it will affect Tenure, the development of the curriculum as well as it being a threat to the student organizations.



Charles Suor commented on the threats of HB999. It will harm morale at USF. It will also harm the admissions, revenue as well as student retention. Our values, culture and experiences are what brings students together. He asked the Board to uphold student organizations so that we can continue help and support other students and maintain student diversity.

Adrianna Novoa commented on the misrepresentation of Hispanic and Latino students. Most of these students come from an area that has suffered some sort of conflict or violence by dictatorship in the past. She commented on the benefits of tenure and academic freedom. Nonwhite students have increased 185.5% since 1976 in the United States. Students need to see themselves equally included in the learning experience.

Chair Weatherford thanked the speakers for having the courage to come forward to give their thoughts and concerns. He encouraged all to allow their voices to be heard in Tallahassee.

BOT Roundtable Discussion

Trustee Jasinski Schneider acknowledged the students who voiced their concerns in today's meeting. The faculty understands and are in agreement with students. Our universities rely on Academic freedom, shared governance, and DEI; these are essential to all universities. She also encouraged students to raise concerns and communicate their ideas outside of USF to educate Florida voters.

Trustee Horton acknowledged the excellent presentations during today's meeting. He asked that the Trustees take all comments into consideration and continue to advocate for what's right for USF.

Chair Weatherford's closed the meeting with some final remarks.

Chair Weatherford thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting, for voicing their concerns and conducting themselves in a professional manner.

Having no further business, Chair Weatherford adjourned the full Board of Trustees meeting.