



Board of Trustees

Tuesday, September 6, 2022
USF St. Petersburg Campus
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Comments

Chair Will Weatherford

Chair Will Weatherford welcomed everyone to the St. Petersburg Campus and convened the USF Board of Trustees meeting at 9:30 a.m. The Chair thanked Christian Hardigree for hosting the meeting and provided opening comments:

- USF was named one of the State of Florida’s best employers, by Forbes Magazine, ranking 21 out of 100 public and private universities and ranked # 2 among higher education industries.
- The Chair introduced new Trustee members Nithin Palyam (Student Trustee member and Jenifer Jasinski Schneider (Faculty Trustee member).
- A special celebration was held at the Lifsey House to honor outgoing Provost, Ralph Wilcox.
- Chair Weatherford gave a special welcome to the members of TOBA.

Chair Weatherford asked Kiara Guzzo to call roll.

Kiara Guzzo called the roll:

Trustee Sandy Callahan – Did not participate

Trustee Mike Carrere

Trustee Rogan Donnelly

Trustee Mike Griffin

Trustee Oscar Horton

Trustee Jenifer Jasinski Schneider

Trustee Lauran Monbarren

Trustee Nithin Palyam

Trustee Shilen Patel

Trustee Fredrick Piccolo – Did not participate

Trustee Melissa Seixas

Trustee Will Weatherford

FL 117 – Provost Emeritus*

Chair Weatherford Presented.

On August 6, 2022, Dr. Wilcox stepped down as provost and executive vice president to return to teaching. Dr. Wilcox has called the University of South Florida his professional home for nearly two decades and served as Provost for 15 years at an unrelenting pace, continuously pushing USF towards higher levels of excellence.

Accomplishments that occurred during his tenure include:

- Increased the academic profile of incoming freshmen – from 3.86/1188 in fall 2011 to 4.18/1297 in fall 2021 – with the number of National Merit Scholars climbing to an all-time high of 62 in 2021.
- Significantly improved the freshman retention rate – from 85% in 2010-11 to 90% in 2020-21.
- Increased the four-year FTIC graduation rate – from 36% for the 2007-11 cohort to 62% for the 2017-21 cohort.
- Improved the six-year FTIC graduation rate – from 52% for the 2005-2011 cohort to 74% for the 2015-21 cohort.
- Improved the Florida College System AA transfer student two-year graduation rate – from 34% for the 2008-10 cohort to 48% for the 2018-20 cohort.
- Increased graduate degrees awarded annually – from 3,013 in AY 2010-11 to an all-time high of 4,271 in AY 2020-21.
- Decreased average cost (of tuition, fees, and books minus financial aid) for completion of a four-year degree from \$14,490 in AY 2013-14 to \$1,810 in AY 2019-20 – even as the undergraduate in-state full-time tuition has not changed from \$6,410 over the past nine years, and graduate in-state full-time tuition has not changed from \$10,428 over the past nine years.
- Led the state in percentage of undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded in state-defined “areas of strategic emphasis” – preparing a pipeline of talented graduates for employment in high-demand, high-skilled and high-paying jobs in Florida’s economy.
- and increased the number of USF students winning competitive national scholarships – from three in AY 2010-11 to 55 in AY 2020-21.
- Instrumental in USF’s designation as a Florida Emerging Preeminent Research University in 2016 and, two years later, USF’s designation as the third – and only metropolitan – Preeminent Research University.

With Board approval, Dr. Wilcox will carry the title Provost Emeritus for life.

President Rhea Law thanked Provost Wilcox for his contributions and service to the University of South Florida. She looks forward to his continued service at the University.

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve Provost Ralph Wilcox as Provost Emeritus; a title that he will carry for life. Trustee Seixas made the motion followed by a second from Trustee Carrere. The motion passed. On behalf of the BOT members, the Chair congratulated Provost Emeritus Wilcox.

II. Student Presentation

Sam Reчек gave a presentation on his experience at the University of South Florida. A short video was presented.

Sam is a senior at the University of South Florida in Tampa majoring in Political Science and Philosophy with minors in Economics and History. Sam is passionate about the First Amendment's value for democratic law and society, and his activities on campus reflect this dedication. Sam is the President and founder of a student organization dedicated to engaging students with their First Amendment protections on campus, and he recently co-authored a manuscript exploring social media users' tendency to avoid diverse political opinions. He has interned at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education and has researched freedom of information law with the Florida First Amendment Foundation. After college, he aspires to attend law school and become an appellate judge. A native of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Sam enjoys playing tennis, discovering new music, and eating.

III. President's Report

President Law provided an update and highlighted the following issues:

- Week of Welcome festivities on all USF campuses
- Residence Halls are 100% full
- There were 65,000 applications for admission
- Welcomed more than 140 new faculty members
- In August the USF Research and Innovation Office recognized 26 faculty members as Outstanding Research Achievement Awardees
- At USFSM, the Baldwin family and VRP Group made a \$5.2 million gift to rename the School of Risk Management to the Baldwin Partner School of Risk Management and Insurance. It is the largest gift that the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus has ever received.
- On November 6th USFSM will host the 28th Annual Brunch on the Bay event
- There are 2 new Majors at USFSP - Environmental Chemistry and Hospitality and Tourism Management
- At USFSP There are plans for additional Bachelor Degrees in General Studies, Applied Science and Public Health
- Met with the St. Petersburg Mayor and USF Alumni, Ken Welch
- EOS Funding is still a top priority
- USF had a best in history year in Philanthropy. \$151 million with 34,000 donors. 6300 were 1st time donors.
- Personnel Updates: Eric Eisenberg is serving as the Interim Provost, Tricia Penniecook is serving as the Interim Vice President of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman is serving as the new Interim Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Recruitment Retention and Engagement. Donna Petersen is the new Chief Health Officer

- USF played BYU in the football season opener. USF was unsuccessful winning the first game. A sold-out luncheon and pep rally was held
- On Campus Stadium
- Supplier Diversity - This a priority.
- Mentor Portege Program – Partnering with Skanska
- Launched a local Restaurant Row – An ARAMARK Developed Program
- Judy Genshaft Honors College and the Indoor Practice Facility – USF will have access of 49% MBE spend.
- USF was ranked 22nd of the best places to work for women by Forbes Magazine. One month later USF was designated 21st out of 100 public and private employers as the best place to work for everyone.
- 650 employees attended a welcoming event held at the Lifsey House.
- A Town Hall meeting will be held on September 7th
- Homecoming Festivities on October 8th – 15th

Public Comments

Mr. James Ransom – TOBA – comments were concerning the on-campus stadium as well as Diversity and Inclusion

Mr. Joseph Robinson – NAACP – Commented on the Diversity and the Equity Report

Mr. Allan Greene – Envision – Made comments on Diversity and Inclusion and the on-campus Stadium

IV. New Business – Action Items (Minutes and Consent)

FL 101 – Approval of Minutes

June 22, 2022

August 19, 2022

Having no revisions to the minutes, Chair Weatherford requested a motion for approval. Trustee Jasinski-Schneider made the motion with a second from Trustee Donelly. The June 22nd and August 19th minutes were approved.

a. Consent Agenda (FL 102 – FL 112)

FL 102 – DSO Board of Directors

- USF Foundation, Inc.
- USF Institute of Applied Engineering
- University Medical Service Association, Inc.
- Medical Services Support Corporation
- Health Professions Conferencing Corporation

f. Sun Dome, Inc.

Finance Committee Approved Items

FL 103 – USF Legislative Budget Request

FL 104 – FIO Legislative Budget Request

FL 105 – General Banking, Merchant, and Purchasing Card Services

Audit & Compliance Committee Approved Items

FL 106 – Internal Audit (IA) Work Plan FY23-FY24

ACE Committee Approved Items

FL 107 – Tenure as a Condition of Employment

FL 108 – USF Textbook & Instructional Materials Affordability Annual Report

FL 109 – Annual Equity Report

FL 110 – Full Report on Civil Discourse

FL 111 – Specialized Admissions

a. CIP 50.0301 Dance General

b. CIP 50.0409 Graphic Design

c. CIP 14.0501 Bioengineering & Biomedical Engineering

d. CIP 51.3801 Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse

FL 112 – 2022-2023 Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund Proposal

On behalf of the Finance Committee and after thorough review, Trustee Griffin recommended approval of all Finance Committee consent agenda items.

On behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee and after thorough review, Trustee Monbarren recommended approval of all Audit and Compliance Committee consent agenda items.

On behalf of the ACE Committee and after thorough review, Trustee Horton recommended approval of all ACE Committee consent agenda items.

UFF Representative

UFF President Steve Lang commented on the following:

- The USF Sailing Team events will start this weekend.
- Growth and challenges at USF
- Implementing a contract for the faculty members

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve the consent agenda; it was given by Trustee Griffin with a second by Trustee Horton and the Consent Agenda, (items FL 102-112) was approved.

V. New Business – Action Items

FL 113 – Delegation of Authority

Assistant Vice President Masha Galchenko presented.

As part of Board of Governors Regulation 10.015, for state of Florida Institutes and Centers (I&C), universities must provide annual reports to the Board of Governors. In accordance with the updated regulation, these reports must now be approved by each University's Board of Trustees prior to submission.

As the report must be submitted to the BOG for all I&Cs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 by close of business December 1, 2022, approval of this one-time delegation of authority to the November 15th Finance Committee meeting will enable the University to meet the BOG deadline.

This request is for a one-time delegation with the intent to bring all future submissions to the full Board during a regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting beginning in 2023.

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve. It was given by Trustee Carrere and seconded by Trustee Jasinski Schneider. Item FL 113 Delegation of Authority was approved.

FL 114 – 2022-23 University E&G Carryforward Spending Plan

Assistant Vice President Masha Galchenko presented.

Approve the 2022 – 23 University E&G Carryforward Spending Plan. Board Chair approves (along with the USF President and the USF CFO) the FY 2023 Budget Certification Form.

Authorize the President in consultation with the BOT Chairman to make necessary nonmaterial changes be approved by the university Board of Trustees. This authorization does not modify the Board's expenditure policies.

A power point was provided that highlighted the following;

- 2022–23 University E&G Carryforward Spending Plan
- Objectives
- General Restrictions on use of Carryforward
- Guidelines and Reporting Standards for Carryforward Enacted
- Overall Cash & Investments Balance - \$881.89 Million
- Summary of Carryforward Reporting Categories
- Major Categories Associated with E&G Carryforward Spending Plan
- Carryforward Usage by Category Restricted = \$93.13 million Proposed for FY 23

- Carryforward Usage by Category Commitments =\$145.78 million Proposed for FY 23
- Action Item

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve FL 114. The motion was given by Trustee Griffin with second from Trustee Carrere. FL 114 2022–23 University E&G Carryforward Spending Plan was approved.

FL 115 – Fixed Capital Outlay Budget

Vice President Carole Post presented.

Authorize the President, in consultation with the Board of Trustees Chair, to make necessary non-material adjustments to the 2022-2023 fixed capital outlay budget, with the requirement that material changes be approved by the University Board of Trustees. This authorization does not modify the Board’s expenditure policies.

Authorize the President, Board Chair and CFO to execute a certification required by the State University System Board of Governors relating to the Fixed Capital Outlay Budget.

A power point was provided that highlighted the following:

- Fixed Capital Outlay
- Fixed Capital Outlay Categories
- Projects \$1 million or greater
- Projects under \$1 million
- Next Steps

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve FL 115. Trustee Patel moved for approval with a second by Trustee Griffin. Item FL 115- Fixed Capital Outlay was approved.

FL 116 – President’s 2022-23 Goals

Chair Weatherford presented.

Per the President’s contract: On or before August 15th of each contract year, the President shall provide the Board Chair with a list of proposed goals and objectives. Once approved by the Board Chair the proposed list of goals and objectives shall be submitted by the President to the Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees for consideration. Following consideration by the Governance Committee, the proposed goals and objectives shall be presented for review and approval by the Board.

Please refer to the BOT website to view the President’s 2022- 23 Goals

Trustee Jasinski Schneider comments concerned adding language and being more specific in the Equity and Diversity section of the goals as well as including the word “transparency” in the Budget section.

Trustee Carrere had a suggestion concerning the President's Goals. He suggested that the BOT members receive updates on the President's accomplishments and the universities success on specific initiatives relating to the goals and metrics, throughout the academic year.

Trustee Carrere moved for approval and Trustee Palyam seconded the motion. Item FL 116 the President's Goals were approved, with the intent to revise the language by the next Board meeting. *

**Later in the meeting, the motion was restated by Trustee Griffin. Trustee Griffin made a motion to approve the goals as presented with the understanding the President and Chair will clarify the goals related to Diversity and Inclusion and budget transparency and that the Chair will provide the clarified goals to the trustees. The motion was seconded by Trustee Jasinski Schneider and item FL 116 the President's Goals were approved.*

**FL 117 – Provost Emeritus (This item was taken out of order and considered at the beginning of the meeting. See above).*

VI. New Business – Information Items

Board Self-Evaluation

Chair Weatherford made comments on having 100% response rate by the BOT members.

Section 4 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges 2018 Principles of Accreditation requires governing boards to define and regularly evaluate their responsibilities and expectations as a Board. The Board's responsibilities are defined in Article IX, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution, the Board's Operating Procedures, Board regulations, and state law.

The biennial Board of Trustees' Self-Evaluation survey administered electronically in July. The survey results have been posted in Diligent for discussion.

Chair Weatherford highlighted the following:

- For the Board to continue to seek out new diverse thoughts by engaging with individuals on our DSO boards who could add value.

Overview of Office of Corporate Partnerships

Executive Director Morgan Holmes provided an overview of Corporate and Foundation Engagement.

The Office of Corporate Partnerships provides a single point of entry for our current and potential industry partners to help identify and access USF's vast resources to advance and accelerate their company's business goals.

- Our Team

- Partnerships - External and internal partners
- Private Foundation Team
- University wide approach – Support all three USF campuses
- Increasing Corporate Philanthropic Activity
- Multi Prime Partnerships
- Next Steps – Build the Infrastructure
- Build Key Corporate Interest Areas

E&G Allocations

President Law thanked Sr. VP Rich Sobieray and his team for their contributions to the university. The President announced that this budget will include for the fiscal 2023 a minimum wage increases to \$15 an hour as well as base salary increases throughout the University based eligibility. The increase is for out of unit employees. The minimum wage increase will be completed by the end of this month. The base salary increases will be completed by the end of October. The changes for the in-unit employees will be implemented as set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Senior Vice President Rich Sobieray provided an update of the E & G Allocations.

In 2021, the President was tasked with creating a new value driven university-wide budget allocation model and to develop strategies to maximize the University's financial resources and opportunities.

The finalization and communication of the FY'23 E&G budget allocations, adjusted for the new resources received in the FY'22 legislative session, is the first deliverable.

Accreditation Reaffirmation Update

Vice Provost Terry Chisolm and Director Christopher Combie provided an update of the Accreditation Reaffirmation.

Accreditation is a process of external review used by the higher education community to assure quality and promote ongoing improvement. Accrediting agencies are private, non-profit organizations whose members are their colleges and universities. Accreditation relies on a rigorous peer-review process to define and evaluate whether universities meet high standards. Florida's public universities are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). USF has been accredited by SACSCOC since 1965. SACSCOC has a 10-year accreditation cycle and USF is beginning preparation for its next reaffirmation of accreditation in 2025. An update about the reaffirmation process will be presented.

A power point highlighted the following:

- Reaffirmation & SB 7044 Updates
- Reaffirmation Update
- Why is accreditation important to USF?
- What Does Reaffirmation Entail? – Areas Receiving Scrutiny – Board Involvement
- Reaffirmation Timeline

- SB 7044 (Section 1008.47, FL Statutes) Updates
- Institutional Accreditors

Enrollment Update

Interim Provost Eric Eisenberg provided an update.

USF welcomed the largest and strongest academic incoming class of first year students in the 70-year history of USF. The Interim Provost highlighted the following.

- We welcomed 6918 students. An increase of 8%.
- The Fall 2022 class have an average high school GPA of 4.20
- An average SAT score of 1309
- An average ACT score of 29
- A record 79 National Merit Scholars
- 65,000 perspective students applied – 15,000 more than last year
- Strategic Enrollment Planning
- The headcount of minority students has grown over the past 5 years
- First time in college population – our diversity remains the same
- There is a decline in FTIC black students from last year's record high numbers
- Working with the USF Black Leadership Network
- Working with the Helios Foundation
- President's Advisory Committee – Council on Black Affairs
- Plans to interact more with middle schools
- Status of Latino Faculty and Staff Association
- Advancing Latino Access and Success Task Force
- Status of Latinos
- Partnership with Leap Tampa Bay College Access Leaders

Stadium Update

Senior Vice President Jay Stroman and Vice President Michael Kelly presented the Stadium Update. A power point was provided that highlighted the following:

- On Campus Stadium – Timeline – 2026 Stadium Opening Project Schedule
- On Campus Stadium – Timeline – Where We Have Been
- On Campus Stadium – Timeline – Where We Are Going
- Intent To Award – Barton Malow/ Populous
- 43 Projects / 33 Years Barton Malow – Populous- Collaboration
- Next Steps

Michael Kelly commented on the Selmon Mentoring Institute.

Chair Weatherford had a question concerning other SUS institutions Athletic Departments and their structure.

Chair Weatherford requested that the Strategic Initiatives Committee Chair, Mike Carrere, and the USF General Counsel, Gerard Solis, research the legal structure of the USF Athletics Program around the State and report their findings at the next BOT meeting.

VII. BOT Roundtable Discussion

Chair Weatherford

Trustee Carrere commented on a robust discussion by committee members on Diversity Equity Inclusion and Civil Discourse. There were 7 recommendations. The BOT will report to the Board of Governors on USF's progress as it relates to Civil Discourse.

Having no further discussion Chair Weatherford adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting.