



NOTES

USF Board of Trustees Academics and Campus Environment Committee October 27, 2016, 1:30 – 3:00 PM Marshall Student Center Room 3707

Committee Members Present: Stan Levy, Trustee and Chair; James Garey, Trustee; Stephanie Goforth, Trustee; Chris Griffin, Trustee; Byron Shinn, Trustee; Jim Stikeleather, Trustee; Scott Hopes, Trustee; Nancy Watkins, Trustee; Judy Genshaft, President; Deanna Michael, Faculty Liaison; Judy Mitchell, USFSP Campus Board Liaison; Geoff Simon, Foundation Board Liaison; Gerard Solis, General Counsel; Ralph Wilcox, USF System Provost & Executive Vice President

I. Call to Order and Comments

Chair Stan Levy called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. Full attendance was confirmed. Chair Levy reminded the members of the USF System's BULLISH guiding principles: Bold, United, Leaders, Loyal, Impactful, Student-centric, High-quality.

II. Public Comments Subject to USF Procedure

Chair Levy confirmed that no public comments had been received.

III. New Business – Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes – August 25, 2016

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

b. Tenure as a Condition of Employment (USF)

Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith presented the single candidate nominated for tenure, Claudia Parvanta, who will serve as the Director of the Florida Prevention Research Center.

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

c. Proposed MS in Conservation Biology (USFSP)

Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska presented for approval the MS in Conservation Biology, a 30-hour program developed in response to student need and community workforce demand, with median salaries from \$60,000 to \$75,000. Job growth is expected to be as high as 13% between 2014 and 2024, with beginning enrollment at 15. Dr. Wisniewska reported that this distinctive program received full approval at all levels and should help to improve performance metrics. She introduced the Dean of Arts & Sciences Frank Biafara and Chair of Biological Sciences Melanie Riedinger-Whitmore. Members briefly discussed and provided words of support and approval for the program.

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

IV. New Business – Information Items

a. USF System Student Profile: Applicants, Admits, Enrollees, Graduates

System Provost Ralph Wilcox used a Power Point presentation to review the USF System student profile from application to graduation. He emphasized the USF System's strong belief in diversity and inclusiveness and named its top two strengths as faculty and commitment to diversity. He summarized enrollment data, including modest gains in total student headcount and the relative stability of the diversity of incoming Freshman classes (Summer/Fall) for the USF System and USF Tampa over the last five years. Dr. Wilcox explained the conversion (percentage of student applications accepted) and yield (percentage of accepted students who enroll) rates, with the consistently highest conversion rates for Asian applicants. He also reported the FTIC (first time in college) retentions rates as generally trending positively across all groups, with the four and six year FTIC graduation rates generally trending upward at USF Tampa. Vice President Paul Dosal discussed the challenges and limitations of One Florida, increasing competition, and limited scholarship funds. A lengthy discussion followed, including questions regarding the comparison to peer institutions, student body makeup, student success and its relation to familial support structure, and strategies moving forward to recruit a more scholarly prepared multiracial student population. Dr. Dosal also announced that USF recently received the 2016 Eduventures Innovation Award, in recognition of the university's student success initiatives that effectively utilized student performance data to significantly improve first year student retention rates.

Chancellor Wisniewska reported on USF St. Petersburg, naming retention and graduation as the number one priority. She described the strategies and action steps for USFSP to attract a more diverse population, including increasing the number of scholarships to both in-state and out-of-state students, creating 2+2 partnerships, attracting more prospective students to visit the campus, addressing financial aid issues, and the use of alumni hosted events.

Chancellor Stone listed the USF Sarasota-Manatee strategies for diverse recruitment, including enhancing scholarship funding, a more comprehensive enrollment management plan by the end of this academic year, utilizing both academic and career advisors, establishing a robust alumni network and future USFSM Bull Referral Program, and growth of the Summer Bridge Program which provides intensive preparation for potential fall enrollees. Dr. Stone reported that, by actively engaging with the local College Access Network to sponsor multiple events to help students and parents apply for financial aid, Sarasota county led the state last year in the number of completed FAFSA application by high school students for the fall semester.

Chair Levy asked that an update be provided at the ACE Committee meeting next year at this time.

b. Accounting TEAm Grant Status Report

Dean Moez Limayem of the Muma College of Business first explained the background of the \$15 million grant awarded to USF Tampa, USFSP, Florida International University, and the University of Central Florida, meant to bridge the gap between supply and demand of accounting graduates in Florida. Dean Sri Sundarem of the Kate Tiedemann College of Business at USFSP, with Dr. Limayem, provided an explanation of strategies meant to reverse the decline in enrollment and completion. They reported that both institutions would increase marketing of the Accounting major, provide enhanced tutoring, better utilize the FUSE program designed to provide eligible students a direct pathway from community

colleges to a USF System institution, enhance scholarships, and more actively engage with the accounting firms and businesses. Dr. Limayem reported that an overly rigorous entrance exam would be replaced with a more effective diagnostic tool; Dr. Sundarem said that USFSP would use achievement celebrations, 4+1 program, and internships to increase Accountancy enrollments and completions. The committee briefly discussed, with Chair Levy and Trustee Shinn both confirming that the lack of sufficient Accounting graduates is a major issue for the state of Florida.

Chair Levy asked that Deans Limayem and Sundarem return to ACE in six months with an update on strategies and action points.

V. **Adjournment**

Trustee Levy adjourned the meeting at 3:02 PM.