



NOTES
USF Board of Trustees
Academics and Campus Environment Committee
April 6, 2017, 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Marshall Student Center Room 3707

Committee Members Present: Stan Levy, Trustee and Chair; James Garey, Trustee; Stephanie Goforth, Trustee; Chris Griffin, Trustee; Brian Lamb, Trustee and BOT Chair; Byron Shinn, Trustee; Jim Stikeleather, Trustee; David Himmelgreen, Faculty Liaison; Jennifer Lister, Faculty Liaison; Deanna Michael, Faculty Liaison; Judy Genshaft, President; 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 8:09 AM. A quorum was confirmed by Assistant Corporate Secretary Cindy Visot, with the following Trustees present:

Trustee Stan Levy, Chair
Trustee Chris Griffin
Trustee James Garey
Trustee Byron Shinn
Trustee Jim Stikeleather

II. Public Comments Subject to USF Procedure

Chair Levy confirmed that no requests for public comments had been received.

III. New Business – Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2016

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

b. Proposed termination of M.A. in Journalism

Vice Provost Terry Chisholm and Dean Eric Eisenberg described the proposed termination of the M.A. in Journalism at USF Tampa. The reasons given included the vibrant master's program at USF St. Petersburg and the fact that no students have enrolled since the program was suspended in 2014. Dr. Chisholm confirmed, in response to a question, that the program suspension was presented to and approved by the ACE Committee.

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

IV. New Business – Information Items

a. USF System Report on Mental Health Counseling Services

BOT Chair Brian Lamb joined the meeting at this time.

Vice President Paul Dosal introduced Dr. Rita Debate to present an overview of mental wellness health trends and how the USF System is responding to the increasing needs of students. Dr. Debate reported that one third of enrolled students permanently leave USF, with 64% citing mental health issues as the reason. She said this was a national issue, too, with increasing percentages of anxiety, depression, and stress. The USF Counseling/Wellness Mission was reviewed for each institution, particularly counseling services. Dr. Dosal reported that the prospects are likely dim for passage of the legislative budget request, but there is an ongoing discussion of alternative cost-saving ideas with an emphasis to promote awareness through proactivity. Chair Levy requested updates throughout the year.

b. USF System 5-Year Master Plan for New Degrees

Interim Regional Chancellor Terry Osborn gave an overview of the System Academic Leadership Council's (SALC) process that led to the development of the USF System 5-year master plan for new degrees. The Committee discussed, including community involvement, a potential graduate degree in accounting at USFSM, the importance of available resources in new program proposals to the Florida Board of Governors (BOG), and a timeline of over two years for new academic programs from pre-proposal to BOG approval. President Judy Genshaft said that the university must be cautious with program terminations due to the difficulty in obtaining new approvals.

c. USF System Collaborative Design and Delivery of UG and Pre-CPA Accounting

Dean Sri Sundaram described the charge from SALC to develop a USF System delivery of an online baccalaureate program in accounting. Deans Sundaram, Moez Limayem, and James Curran proposed two phases. The first is a two-year completely online program that meets all business core courses and accounting courses. This phase could be completed by January 2018. Phase two proposes a completely online four-year program that includes the general education requirements and could be implemented by Fall 2018. A lengthy discussion followed, including whether students would come from existing programs and USFSP as the resident institution. There was a suggestion to begin discussions with local companies as prospective employers, and implications from the current status of the TEAm grant in Accounting. Committee members then discussed the TEAm grant and requested that results be presented at the next ACE Committee meeting on August 17. Chair Levy expressed his appreciation for the excellent collaboration across the three System institutions.

d. Academic Profile, Performance, and Success of USF Student Athletes

Provost Ralph Wilcox provided context explaining that the report was originally requested by USF BOT Chair Brian Lamb. Athletic Director Mark Harlan gave brief remarks and thanked the ACE Committee for their support, before introducing Interim Dean William Cummings and Associate Athletic Director Tim Anderson, both of whom worked on the report. Dr. Cummings explained that the report covered only USF Tampa and included scholarship and non-scholarship student athletes. He described the FTIC (First Time in College) and transfer admission profiles, both comparably lower than the non-athlete student. Upon the student athletes' enrollment at USF, however, their performance improved substantially to positively impact USF key Preeminence metrics of retention and graduation. Dr. Cummings summarized by saying that student athletes continue to do as well or better than non-athletes in retention, progression, and graduation. The members discussed including the inability to obtain similar in-depth data from peer SUS institutions, and the possibility of incorporating the successful athletic practices into the USF Student Success model.

e. USF Sarasota-Manatee update

Interim Regional Chancellor Terry Osborn provided a focused update on USFSM applications for Fall 2017 with special attention to Accounting and Education. Dr. Osborn also reported on the first freshman class with 31% graduating in four years and a 23% six year graduation rate. Trustee Shinn thanked President Genshaft for the addition of Dr. Karen Holbrook, Senior Advisor to the President, to work with USFSM during this transitional time.

f. USF St. Petersburg update

Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska reported briefly on recent hires at USFSP including new Regional Vice Chancellor for Advancement Deborah Read and new Dean of Education Allison Watson. Regional Vice Chancellor Martin Tadlock then reviewed the most recent academic progress and completion efforts for USF St. Petersburg. The update was requested by BOT Chair Brian Lamb after the presentation at the January 19th ACE Committee meeting. He covered topics including student contact, technology, financial issues such as student need and affordable housing, admissions, and performance based funding metrics. Chair Levy thanked USFSP for their detailed report and asked that their next presentation be placed earlier on the agenda. Trustee Jim Stikeleather said that he met with the Provost and the “most impressive” ODS (Office of Decision Support) team to gain a better understanding of data received and discussed at BOT committee meetings. He highly recommended the briefing to other trustees, describing it as valuable and enlightening.

V. Adjournment

President Genshaft, with Provost Wilcox, announced that the *Times Higher Education* (British version of the *Chronicle*) named USF #34 worldwide and #7 nationally of the top institutions established between 1945 and 1960. The announcement was met with acclamation. Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 9:42 AM.