

**OPERATING PROCEDURES OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**ARTICLE I  
ORGANIZATION**

**A. Legal Status of Board of Trustees**

The University of South Florida Board of Trustees (“Board of Trustees”) is established as a public body corporate, with all powers as provided by Florida law. The Board of Trustees acts as an instrumentality or agency of the state for purposes of sovereign immunity pursuant to Section 768.28(2), Florida Statutes.

**B. Members**

The Board of Trustees shall be composed of thirteen persons, six members appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida and five members appointed by the Board of Governors. The other two members shall be (1) the elected representative of the University of South Florida System Student Advisory Council and (2) the President of the University of South Florida System Faculty Council.

Board of Trustees’ members who are appointed by the Governor and Board of Governors shall be appointed for 5-year terms.

Members of the Board of Trustees and the Campus Boards shall not serve on any other Board of the University or its Direct Support Organizations during their appointed term(s). However, this limitation does not apply to the Board representatives for: the student body serving on the USF System Student Advisory Council; the faculty representative serving on the USF System Faculty Advisory Council; Board members serving on the USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Boards pursuant to Sections 1004.33 and 1004.34 Florida Statutes; and service on Boards with which the University has an affiliation agreement.

Members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses in accordance with state law.

**C. Officers**

The officers of the Board of Trustees are the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Corporate Secretary. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by majority vote by the Board of Trustees at appropriate times and shall each serve two-year terms to begin immediately upon election. The Chair may serve for one additional consecutive 2-year term by majority vote, and for each additional consecutive

term beyond two terms, may be reelected by a two-thirds vote. The University System President shall serve as Corporate Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

In the event of a vacancy in the Chair and/or Vice Chair positions, an election will be held as soon as practical after the vacancy occurs to select a member of the Board, by a majority vote, to the applicable vacant position (s). The newly selected officer (s) will serve terms as specified in the above section. This may result in the Board Chair and Vice Chair terms of office not running concurrently.

The officers shall have the following responsibilities:

1. **Chair**

a. The Chair serves as Chair of the Finance Committee, serves as an ex officio voting member of all University Strategic Priority Committees, Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees of the Board, and appoints members thereof.

b. The Chair presides at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, calls special meetings of the Board when necessary, serves as spokesperson for the Board, attest to actions of the Board and notify the Governor or Board of Governors in writing whenever a Board member fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings in any fiscal year, which may be grounds for removal.

2. **Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair acts as Chair during the absence or disability of the Chair and during any temporary period of vacancy before election of a new Board Chair pursuant to Section C, 1 above and, in that event, shall perform those duties of the Chair described hereinabove.

3. **Corporate Secretary**

a. The University System President, as Corporate Secretary, is responsible to the Board for all operations and administration of the University and sets the agenda for meetings of the Board in consultation with the Chair. During the absence or disability of the University System President, the Provost and Executive Vice President will function as Corporate Secretary. The President may designate an individual to serve as assistant corporate secretary to the Board. This individual shall perform all duties delegated by the corporate secretary.

b. The President serves as the official contact between the Board and the faculty, staff, students and support organizations of the University System. The President exercises such powers as are appropriate to his/her position in promoting, supporting and protecting the interests of the University System and in managing and directing its affairs. The President shall have the authority to execute all documents on behalf of the university and the Board consistent with law, applicable Board of Governors' and Board of Trustees' rules and policies, and the best interests of the university. The President may issue directives and executive orders that are not in contravention of existing Board policies. The President is responsible for all educational, financial, business and administrative functions of the University System to advance its educational missions and goals, consistent with University policy, and exercises such other powers, duties and responsibilities as are delegated or established by the Board.

**D. Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for cost-effective policy decisions, implementing and maintaining high-quality education programs consistent with the university's mission, measuring the University System performance and providing input regarding compliance with state policy, budgeting and education standards. The Board of Trustees sets policy for the University System and serves as its legal owner and final authority. As the "public body corporate" for the university, the Board holds the university's financial, physical and human assets and operations in trust and is responsible for efficient and effective use of resources. It must ensure the performance of all duties assigned by law, rules and regulations of the Florida Board of Governors. The Board, pursuant to Section 1004.28 Florida Statutes, provides budget and audit review and oversight of university Direct Support Organizations and establishes the conditions with which they must comply in order to use property, facilities or personal services at the university. The Board may adopt rules, regulations and policies consistent with established laws and the university's mission and strategic plan. Board members establish policy and assess the implementation of Board policies. When the Board, through majority vote at a public meeting, establishes a new rule, regulation or policy it will be promulgated as follows:

1. Rules- in accord with the requirements set forth in Ch. 120, F.S.;
2. Regulations- in accord with the provisions of the Board of Governor's Regulation Development Procedure for State University Boards of Trustees; and
3. BOT Policies- the Corporate Secretary shall assign each BOT policy to the General Counsel office for promulgation with a distinct

number that includes the year in which the policy was established (e.g. 2007-01) and posting the policy to the Office of the General Counsel web page.

The specific membership, powers and duties of the Board are authorized by Article 9, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution, and Sections 1001.71, 1001.72 and 1001.73, Florida Statutes.

## **ARTICLE II MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **A. Regular Meetings**

The Board meets no fewer than four times per fiscal year, at a time and place designated by the Chair. Meetings of the Board are open to the public and all official acts are taken at public meetings. The schedule of meetings is available on the University of South Florida website at <http://www.usf.edu>.

### **B. Special Meetings**

The Board may meet in special meetings, including hearings and workshops, at such times and places designated by the Chair.

### **C. Emergency Meetings**

Emergency meetings of the Board may be called by the Chair of the Board upon such notice as is reasonable under the circumstances whenever, in the opinion of the Chair, an issue requires immediate Board action. Whenever such emergency meeting is called, the Chair will notify the Corporate Secretary. The Corporate Secretary will immediately serve either verbal or written notice upon each member of the Board, stating the date, hour and place of the meeting and the purpose for which the meeting has been called. No other business will be transacted at the meeting unless additional emergency matters are agreed to by a majority of those Board members in attendance. The minutes of each emergency meeting will reflect the manner and method by which notice of such emergency meeting was given to each member of the Board.

### **D. Notice of Meetings**

Notice, stating the time, date, place and agenda or purpose of the meeting. of regular meetings, special meetings and committee meetings shall be posted on the USF Website, and shall be distributed through an appropriate USF list serve. Notice will be given not less than seven (7) days, if practicable, before the event and will include a statement of the general subject matter to be considered. Whenever an emergency meeting is scheduled, the Corporate Secretary will post a

notice on the USF Website, and distribute same through an appropriate USF list serve as soon as practicable stating the time, date, place and agenda or purpose of the meeting.

**E. Meetings by Means of Telephone Conference Calls and other Communications Media Technology**

The Board may use telephone conference calls and other communications media technology to conduct Board business in the same manner as if the proceeding were held in person. The notice of any meeting conducted by means of communication media technology will state where and how members of the public may gain access to the meeting. Such notice will be in accordance with the notice procedures set forth above.

**F. Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**G. Voting**

The decision of the majority of the Trustees in attendance and voting on an issue shall prevail, except that a majority vote of all members of the Board is required for appointing and removing the president and for approving or discontinuing academic programs. A Trustee may abstain from voting only under those circumstances prescribed by law. Voting by proxy or by mail shall not be permitted.

**H. Parliamentary Rules**

The most recent version of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (11<sup>th</sup> ed.) will be followed in conducting meetings of the Board, unless otherwise provided by the Board.

**I. Agenda**

The agenda for each meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the President or his/her designee. Every request for inclusion of an item on the agenda of a meeting shall be put in writing and filed, together with any supporting documents, with the President sufficiently far in advance of the meeting to permit a determination to be made by the President with respect to the propriety and practicability of including that item on the agenda for the meeting. The President will assemble the agenda and provide a copy of the agenda to each member of the Board at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and will post the agenda to the USF list serve, the USF Board of Trustees website and with the University Communications Office prior to the meeting. If additional items or supporting

documentation become available, a supplemental agenda may be provided at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Per HB 7019 any proposal to the Board to increase tuition or fees shall be publicly noticed at least 28 days before its consideration at a board of trustees meeting. Such notice will be in accordance with the notice procedures set forth in s. 1009.24, F.S.

**J. Minutes**

Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be kept by the Corporate Secretary or designee, who shall cause them to be posted on the Board website and to other places where deemed appropriate within two weeks after each Board meeting. Minutes must include the vote history and attendance of each trustee. All lengthy reports shall be referred to in the minutes and shall be kept on file as part of the University records, but such reports need not be incorporated in the minutes except when so ordered by the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE III  
COMMITTEES**

**A. The Governance Committee**

The Governance Committee shall have five (5) voting members, all of whom shall be trustees. In addition, the President of the University System shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Governance Committee and will not be counted as part of a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees shall be members. In addition, three (3) trustees shall be appointed by the Chair at the annual meeting to serve on the governance committee. A majority of Governance Committee members shall constitute a quorum.

The purpose of the Governance Committee is twofold: to conserve time, it shall serve at the pleasure of the Board as the Board's agent in assisting the President to address routine business between regular Board meetings; and it shall assist the Chair and the President in their joint responsibility to help the Board to function effectively and efficiently by suggesting board meeting agenda items and periodically assessing committee work. The Governance Committee shall have authority to act for the Board of Trustees on all matters except for the following, which shall be reserved for the full Board: appointing and removing the President; approving or discontinuing programs; board officer selection; Campus Board membership; changes in institutional mission and purposes; changes to the operating procedures; incurring of corporate indebtedness; and adoption of the annual budget. These operating procedures or other board policy may reserve other powers for the Governance Committee.

The Governance Committee shall meet as often as necessary to conduct business as the Chair and President shall determine, and it shall ensure that minutes are taken of such meetings which will be distributed to all Trustees for information at the next regular meeting of the Trustees.

**B. University Strategic Priority Committees**

The Chair of the Board may establish such University Strategic Priority Committees as deemed necessary for the orderly conduct of the business of the Board. These Committees relate directly to the strategic priorities of the University. The Chair of the Board appoints the members, appoints the faculty and community liaisons, selects a Chair of the Committee, and serves as an ex officio voting member (when present) of all Committees.

University Strategic Priority Committees' action is reported as a recommendation for consideration and action by the full Board. If the full Board, however, authorizes a strategic priority workgroup to take final action on a matter referred to it, the Chair of the Committee shall report the action taken to the Board at its next scheduled meeting.

The University Strategic Priority Committees shall meet as often as the Chair of the Committee shall determine. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees for information at the next regular meeting of the Trustees. A majority of University Strategic Priority Committee members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

**C. Standing Committees**

Standing Committees may be appointed by the Board Chair. Each standing committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members. Members of standing committees shall hold office until the appointment of their successors. Any vacancies on standing committees shall be filled by appointment of the Board Chair. Unless specifically delegated or as otherwise provided in these Operating Procedures, authority to act on all matters is reserved to the Board. The duty of each standing committee is to consider and to make recommendations to the Board upon matters referred to it. Each standing committee shall have a written statement of purpose and primary responsibilities as approved by the Board. The Chairs of all standing committees shall perform their duties in consultation with the University System President and/or designee. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees.

**D. Ad Hoc Committees**

Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed by the Board Chair with such powers and duties and period of service as the Board Chair may determine. Unless specifically delegated or as otherwise provided in these Operating Procedures,

authority to act on all matters is reserved to the Board and the duty of each ad hoc committee shall be to consider and to make recommendation to the Board upon matters referred to it. Each ad hoc committee shall have a written statement of purpose and primary responsibilities as approved by the Board. The Chair of any ad hoc committees shall perform their duties in consultation with the University System President and/or designee. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees.

#### **ARTICLE IV REGIONAL CAMPUS BOARDS**

The USF System is comprised of three (3) separately accredited institutions (i.e., regional campus), USF, USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee. The Board shall appoint members to the Campus Boards, from recommendations of the USF System President, for USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee. Consonant with the State Constitution, members shall hold no other State office. Members shall be appointed for 4-year terms. Campus Board members serve at the will of the Board and may be removed by the Board for non-fulfillment of Campus Board duties.

Members may be reappointed, at the discretion of the Board, for additional terms to Campus Boards not to exceed eight (8) years of service.

In addition, a member of the USF Board of Trustees shall serve as provided below.

- A. USF St. Petersburg** -- If a resident of Pinellas County is appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University, the Board shall appoint that member to serve jointly as a member of the Campus Board. If more than one Pinellas County resident is appointed to the Board of Trustees, the Board shall select one joint member.
  
- B. USF Sarasota-Manatee** -- If a resident of Sarasota-Manatee Counties is appointed to the Board of Trustees of the University, the Board shall appoint that member to serve jointly as a member of the Campus Board. If more than one Sarasota-Manatee County resident is appointed to the Board of Trustees, the Board shall select one joint member.
  
- C. Authority** -- As provided by applicable state law or regulation, the Regional Campus Boards shall have the authority to:
  - 1. Review and approve an annual campus legislative budget request, which will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education through the Florida Board of Governors as a separately identified section to the USF legislative budget request. The Campus Executive Officer shall prepare the legislative budget request in accordance with guidelines established by the Florida Board of Governors. This request must include items for campus operations and fixed capital outlay.



2. Approve and submit an annual operating plan and budget for review and consultation by the University Board of Trustees. The campus operating budget must reflect the actual funding available to that campus from separate line-item appropriations contained in each annual General Appropriations Act.
  3. Enter into central support services contracts with the University Board of Trustees for any services that the Regional Campus cannot provide more economically, including payroll processing, accounting, technology, construction administration, and other desired services. However, all legal services for the campus must be provided by a central services contract with the University. The University Board of Trustees and the Campus Board shall determine in a letter of agreement any allocation or sharing of student fee revenue between the University's main campus and each Regional Campus. In addition, various University units may enter into contracts with the Regional Campus for any services that the University desires the Regional Campus to provide.
  4. The Campus Board will consult with the University President and Campus Executive Officer in the development of a Campus Strategic Plan, and periodic updates to the plan, to ensure campus development that is consonant with regional needs and that the campus meets the requirements necessary for separate accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Campus Strategic Plan and updates will be submitted to the University President for review, approval and inclusion in the University Strategic Plan, which will go to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The Campus Strategic Plan will guide the development of Legislative Budget Requests and Campus Operating Budgets.
  5. The Campus Board will regularly review enrollment patterns to ensure that the campus builds the full-time-equivalent student base required for the long-term support of existing and planned programs.
  6. The Campus Board will exercise other such powers as are lawfully delegated by the University Board of Trustees to provide for the efficient operation and improvement of the campus.
- D.** Upon enactment of the state budget, the Campus Executive Officer will consult with the Campus Boards and the USF System President and/or designee to develop for each regional campus an operating budget that advances the strategic goals for the campus, consistent with state law.

The operating budget for each Regional Campus that was developed through the consultative process will be submitted to the Board of Trustees through the appropriate committee. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the regional

campus operating budgets will be reflected in the University of South Florida System operating budget.

The Board of Trustees appointed member shall chair their respective Campus Board unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees Chair.

## **ARTICLE V AMENDMENT OF OPERATING PROCEDURES**

These Operating Procedures may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority vote of Board members in attendance at any regular meeting, when notice of the proposed amendment or repeal is provided in the meeting notice.

## **ARTICLE VI APPEARANCES BEFORE THE BOARD**

Individuals or group representatives, who desire to appear before the Board to address a subject within the Board's jurisdiction may submit their requests in writing at least three (3) days in advance to the Corporate Secretary, c/o Office of Board of Trustees Operations, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, CGS401, Tampa, FL 33620, specifying the agenda item they wish to speak about. The President in consultation with the Chair will determine whether the item will be heard and when the item will be heard. As permitted by section 286.0114 F.S., the Board Chair may place reasonable time limits on any presentation or may decline to hear any matter that: does not relate to a particular agenda item; is not practicable for a particular meeting; is outside the Board's jurisdiction; or was made available for public comment at a prior workgroup or committee meeting before the Board takes action.

The Chair may recognize any individual or representative of groups to address the Board.

In order to proceed with the essential business of the Board in an orderly manner, any individual or group representative who attempts to disrupt a Board meeting will be subject to appropriate action pursuant to law.

## **ARTICLE VII CODE OF ETHICS**

Trustees are Public Officers of the State of Florida who are invested with the public trust and appointed as fiduciaries of the University. Trustees will exercise their powers and duties in the best interests of the University and avoid actions or situations that result in or create the appearance of using their positions with the University for private gain, unwarranted preferential treatment to themselves or any outside individual or

organization, or that calls into question a Trustee's independence and impartiality, or adversely affects the University's reputation.

At the same time, Trustees have a range of professional and personal associations and interests with individuals and other entities. These associations and interests routinely benefit the University and enhance the effectiveness of the Board. However, Trustees should also avoid situations where external associations or interests could compromise, or reasonably appear to compromise, the University's academic values or business decisions, including but not limited to admissions and employment matters.

Accordingly, it is the policy of the Board that all Trustees will act in a manner consistent with their fiduciary responsibilities to the University and avoid circumstances in which their external financial or other ties could present an actual or potential conflict of interest.

### **1. Presumed Conflict of Interest**

No policy statement can address every conceivable situation that might entail a conflict of interest. However, the following are presumed to create a conflict of interest:

- a. the Trustee's financial interests or other opportunities for personal benefit may compromise, or reasonably appear to compromise, the Trustee's independence of judgment in fulfilling his/her Board duties; or
- b. the Trustee or a member of his or her family, has an existing or potential financial interest or other opportunities for personal benefit relative to a university matter or initiative.

### **2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

If a Trustee believes that he/she may have a conflict of interest, the Trustee shall fully and promptly disclose the conflict to the Secretary, Assistant Corporate Secretary or the General Counsel.

The Corporate Secretary, Assistant Corporate Secretary or the General Counsel shall inform the Board Chair of all conflict of interest matters disclosed by a Trustee. If it is determined that a conflict of interest exists, the Board Chair, Corporate Secretary or Assistant Corporate Secretary, and the General Counsel shall work with the affected Trustee to address the conflict.

In addition, all Trustees shall annually list on the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form the following relationships.

- a. Relationships that they or members of their family maintain with organizations that do business with the University; or
- b. Relationships and external interests that could be construed to affect their independent, unbiased judgment in light of their decision-making authority and responsibility. If a Trustee is uncertain as to whether to list a particular relationship, the General Counsel should be consulted.

Information shared or gathered as a result of such consultations (including information provided on the disclosure form) shall not be released except: in accordance with applicable public records laws; or when the institution's best interests would be served by disclosure, or as required by court order. Any such required disclosure will be made only after informing the affected Trustee.

### **3. Voting**

Trustees are required to disclose all potential conflicts of interests as described above, but Trustees are still required to vote on all matters before the Board unless an actual conflict of interest as prescribed by law exists. In actual conflict of interest situations, Trustees are not permitted to vote. In situations that involve the appearance or potential of a conflict of interest and a Trustee is present and required to vote, the appearance or potential of the conflict of interest will be disclosed publicly at the Board meeting in which the affected matter is being considered.

### **4. Public Officers**

In addition to the foregoing, members of the Board of Trustees shall be guided by the provisions set forth in Florida law for the conduct of public officers.

### **5. Regional Campus Board Members**

This Code of Ethics applies equally to Trustees and Regional Campus Board Members. Disclosures from Regional Campus Board Members should be made to the Regional Chancellor and the General Counsel, who will notify the Board Chair and Secretary in the event of an actual conflict.

## **ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **A. Indemnification**

The University of South Florida (University) shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless each Trustee of and from any and all claims, demands, civil or criminal actions, rights, defenses, counterclaims, proceedings, administrative actions, agreements, contracts, covenants, accounts, offsets, attorneys' fees, costs, damages, liabilities, losses, expenses, suits, debts, judgments, awards, duties or obligations, of any nature whatsoever, at law or in equity (collectively referred to as "Claims"), that arise from or relate in any way to his or her position on the Board of Trustees, or any act undertaken or omitted in connection with his or her service as a Trustee.

### **B. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Board shall commence on July 1 of each year and end on June 30.

**C. Sunshine Laws**

Public access to Board records will be governed by the provisions of the Public Records Law, Chapter 119, F.S. Board meetings shall be governed by the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 286, F.S.

**D. Corporate Seal**

The corporation shall have a seal on which shall be inscribed “The University of South Florida Board of Trustees”.

Approved 9/21/01; Amended 03/21/02; Amended 01/21/03; Amended 06/12/08 ; Amended 06/14/12; Amended, 12/5/13; Amended 09/01/16