

USF Board of Trustees

Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Unofficial Minutes

Call to Order

Trustee Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining. He stated that as the state and country begins to reopen, it was now time to discuss USF's reopening plan for the upcoming Fall semester.

He then asked Dr. Visot to call roll.

The following trustees present:

Trustee Sandra Callahan
Trustee Michael Carrere
Trustee Stephanie Goforth
Trustee Michael Griffin
Trustee Oscar Horton
Trustee Deanna Michael
Trustee Claire Mitchell
Trustee Leslie Muma
Trustee John Ramil
Trustee Byron Shinn
Trustee Charles Tokarz
Trustee Nancy Watkins
Trustee Jordan Zimmerman

He stated that he wanted to hear everyone's feedback regarding this plan that was diligently put together.

New Business – Action Item

FL 101 – Approval of USF's Plan for Fall 2020

Chair Zimmerman introduced President Currall to present the item.

President Currall thanked Dean Donna Petersen and Dean Charles Lockwood for leading this effort and all. He mentioned that they have been working diligently since March 2nd. He stated that there has been a massive effort with people from across all campuses working on this plan. He also noted that this is conservative plan and that it would be easier to relax procedures than make them stricter.

He then shared a presentation that covered the Guiding Principles that were created for the Task Force, the plan's alignment with the blueprint provided by the Board of Governors, the Operational Plan, and the Financial Impacts. These slides further detailed the planning process, recovery support functions, risk assessment, promoting a healthy campus environment, personal responsibility, cleaning and sanitization, student life, housing, athletics, community engagement, prevention and mitigation, screening and testing, exposure assessment and isolation, contact tracing, surveillance approach, and academic program delivery.

He further detailed the financial impacts and closed with a summary and timeline. He stated that the Plan will be submitted to the BOG on June 12th and will be presented on June 23rd. He then asked for questions from the Trustees.

Trustee Byron Shinn inquired about how much other universities in the SUS have shared of their plans. President Currall stated that the UF plan is available and he has been in talks with the UCF president about their plan, but it has not been presented to their trustees. He stated that all plans must be submitted on June 12th so everyone should have access to them all by then.

Trustee Michael Griffin inquired about testing and why USF is not doing more than what was outlined? President Currall stated that what was outlined was intended to mitigate risk and maximize health while still considering feasibility. Dean Petersen shared that there was a lot of time spent talking about testing and that the BOG Reopening Task Force also had a subcommittee on testing. She stated that testing is challenging but that USF would especially be testing people coming from places with high confirmed cases, everyone in housing, and a 10\$ sample of everyone with random samples taken every other week. It was determined that this was the best use of resources and would not create a false sense of security by having everyone tested ahead of time.

Trustee Griffin then asked about the use of masks on campus. Dean Petersen stated that they will be required to be worn in enclosed shared spaces, points of service, wherever people are together and it is challenging to maintain physical distance.

Trustee Deanna Michael shared her praise everyone for caution in phased opening. She stated that it sends good cultural messages to parents and students that this is going to be a safe environment and faculty need to hear that too. She asked when does phase 1 begin? Dean Petersen stated that there is not date, but that it would be gradually worked into and then phase 2 would be quick to follow. Trustee Michael stated that some faculty who are higher risk want to come in earlier and then transition back to working from home when more people are on campus.

Trustee John Ramil stated that this was an enormously complex task and gave much praise to the team for taking it on. He then inquired, what are the main concerns that students and faculty had in putting this plan together and how have those been addressed? Dean Petersen stated that firstly people's concerns have changed as time goes on and experience is gained. She stated that some do not want to come back to campus but some are very eager for the "college experience." Deposits and enrollment are up, people are looking forward to having the campus experience. President Currall shared that he has been doing video conferences with students and they have expressed many different views that he called balanced in complex considerations. Dean Petersen went on to say that faculty completed a survey that produced an almost perfect Bell curve of people who were uncomfortable and very comfortable with coming back to campus, and some are concerned with health conditions as they are in high risk groups. President Currall stated that the process of creating this plan was very consultative.

Trustee Stephanie Goforth stated that USF's plan is more extensive and detailed than other university plans she has looked at, and she commended our team for that. She then asked for thoughts on contact tracing and how USF is able to do that across all three campuses in three different counties.

Director of USF Emergency Management Jen Fleischman stated that her staff attend weekly meetings at county levels (all 3) and work with each other to ensure that campus operations will not conflict with county rules. Dean Petersen stated that contact tracing is a task that is authorized in state statute and only the Florida Department of Health has the authority to conduct contact tracing. She further explained that in

Florida, the model for the Department of Health is that there are not county offices, but rather offices in each county that are ultimately run by the state department so there is good communication and coordination state-wide for contact tracing. She shared that early on the FDH hired 150 OPS to work on contact tracing and about half of them came from the USF College of Public Health. She also stated that they have students available who have volunteered to help as well if needed, but ultimately it would be left to the Florida Department of Health to conduct the contact tracing.

Trustee Goforth then inquired about where USF would stand legally if a student or faculty member contracts COVID-19 and has an unfortunate outcome. General Counsel Gerard Solis answered that it is tricky but it must be shown that the university had a duty and failed to act on such. He also stated that it will be challenging to say exactly where they may have contracted it from. He stated that the university must be able to show that they were diligent in applying standards and enforcing them to the best of their ability. Liability more focused on response than instance.

Trustee Sandra Callahan asked for thoughts on communicating this plan to students and parents. President Currall stated that there will be a very formal and comprehensive campaign to communicate this information. He then called on VP and Chief Marketing Officer Joe Hice to speak more on the subject. Mr. Hice detailed that there will be a very aggressive social media and email campaign that will continue through the fall. He gave a general outline of how the university will proceed, including a series of posters throughout campus, masks, sanitation procedures, floor traffic stickers, banners, town halls, and more. Communications employees at each campus will do more at each individual campus as well.

Trustee Les Muma asked about how the university plans to police the student body. Counsel Solis stated that this was a complex challenge, but the number one strategy is the public health campaign by showing the students that they have a duty to follow reasonable guidelines. He stated that they will use student rights and responsibilities and faculty when needed, but that they do not plan to rely on university police and will instead be investing time and training to help folks in different areas deescalate conflict if someone does not want to wear a mask or such. He stated that the university needs buy-in from community to enforce the guidelines.

Trustee Nancy Watkins asked what can be done about students who are putting others at risk? Counsel Solis stated that they can be removed from campus or class for not complying, but they are relying on current procedures for disciplining students. Trustee Watkins asked if the consequences will be made aware to the students. Counsel Solis said yes and that there was a chart drafted detailing the rules and consequences. He stated that he did not recommend zero-tolerant behavior, and that regular due process should take place.

Trustee Michael was concerned that it sounded like it is going to fall on faculty to model and mitigate the culture of wearing masks and social distancing. She asked if there will be any training offered for faculty and staff in deescalating if a conflict were to occur. Counsel Solis stated that there will be training available and if that particular person was not trained that the goal is that someone in the building can be contacted to help with the situation but of course if the situation becomes threatening, UPD should be called, as is normal procedure. Dean Petersen further explained that they intend to add classroom expectations to all course materials that will note social distancing and masks. She also mentioned that they will do their best to have masks available for students who may forget. They are working toward finding a place where they can remind and encourage students to put on masks when entering buildings or classrooms so that it does not fall solely on the faculty who have other things to do.

With no further questions or comments, Trustee Zimmerman moved to approve:

The University of South Florida's Plan for Autumn 2020: *Resuming University Operations Amid a Global Pandemic* ("Plan"). The Board further authorizes the President to make nonmaterial changes to the Plan after consultation with the Board Chair. The President shall provide the Board of Trustees with a copy of the final Plan submitted to the Board of Governors on June 12, 2020. Trustee Goforth moved for approval with a second from Trustee Griffin. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.