



**Board of Trustees**

**Thursday, April 1, 2021**

**Microsoft Teams - 1:30 PM**

**A G E N D A**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>I. Call to Order and Comments</b>   | Chair Jordan Zimmerman |
| <b>II. New Business – Action Items</b>   |                        |
| <b>a. FL 101 – <a href="#">Amendment to Board of Trustees Operating Procedures</a></b> | GC Gerard Solis        |
| <b>b. FL 102 – <a href="#">Board Elections</a></b>                                     | Chair Zimmerman        |
| <b>III. Adjournment</b>  | Chair Zimmerman        |

## Agenda Item FL 101

### USF Board of Trustees April 1, 2021

**Issue:** The USF Board of Trustees' Operating Procedures (Operating Procedures) currently provide for elections based on vacancy date, rather than according to regular calendar dates. This could create challenges to Board planning and stability if an election and leadership transition were to occur during the academic year, fiscal year, or legislative session.

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**Proposed Action:** [Amend Article I.C. of the Operating Procedures](#) to create regular terms and election dates for Board Officers to coincide with the end of the fiscal year following the expiration an Officer's term.

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**Executive Summary:** The Board's Operating Procedures currently specify that elected officers (Chair and Vice Chair) will serve two-year terms beginning immediately upon election. Historically, however, elections for Board Officers occurred at the end of the fiscal or academic year, which promotes: (1) predictability by having elections and leadership transitions occur at regular times and intervals; and (2) stability by avoiding transitions in Board leadership during the academic year, fiscal year, or legislative session.

Under the current Operating Procedures, the Board is set to hold elections on April 1, 2021 to coincide with the expiration of the current Board Chair's term. Chair Zimmerman is eligible for reelection. In order to return to a calendar year election cycle, the Board is asked to consider that regardless of whom is elected on April 1, 2021, the Board Chair's term would run from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. An election for the regular term (e.g., July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023) will then be held at the Board's regular meeting immediately prior to July 1, 2021, which is currently calendared for June 8, 2021.

Only the full Board can amend the Operating Procedures.

**Proposed Motion:** Move to amend the Operating Procedures to: (1) create regular election dates for Board Officers to be held within 30 days of July 1 of the calendar year in which an Officer's term is set to expire; and (2) that in the event of a vacancy prior to expiration of an Officer's term, the newly elected officer shall serve the remainder of the vacating officer's term. This motion is made with the understanding that the Board Chair elected on April 1, 2021 will serve until June 30, 2021 so that the Board may implement this amendment to the Operating Procedures. This shortened term shall be considered a vacancy under the Operating Procedures.

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**Strategic Goal(s) Item Supports:** USF Goal Nos. 2, 3 and 4

**Committee Review Date:** NA

**Prepared by:** Gerard D. Solis, General Counsel

**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” or “Board”) 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 Student Advisory Council and (2) the President of the University of South Florida 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 non-advisory (i.e. the advisory board does not vote or take actions on university matters) 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 Student Advisory Council; the faculty representative serving on the USF 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 each serve two-year terms to begin on July 1 following the election and concluding two years later on June 30 (“Term”). The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by majority vote by the Board of Trustees within 30 (thirty) days of the expiration of the Term. Elected officers may serve for one additional consecutive 2-year term or until a successor is elected by majority

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vote, and for each additional consecutive term beyond two terms officers may be reelected by a two-thirds vote.

**Moved down [1]:** The University 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). A vacancy occurs upon the death, incapacity, resignation or removal of an Officer. The newly selected officer (s) will serve the remainder(s) of the Term of the vacating officer(s). The completion of a vacating officer's Term shall not limit a Trustee's eligibility to serve two consecutive 2-year terms by majority vote, and to serve each additional consecutive term beyond two terms by a two-thirds vote.

**Deleted:** terms as specified in the above section. This may result in the Chair of the Board and Vice Chair terms of office not running concurrently.

The University President shall serve as Corporate Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and is not an elected Officer of the Board.

**Moved (insertion) [1]**

The Officers shall have the following responsibilities:

**Deleted:** o

1. **Chair**

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

b. The Chair of the Board 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.

c. The Chair of the Board shall appoint at least one representative to the board of directors and the executive committee of any direct-support organization certified by the Board.

2. **Vice-Chair**

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

3. **Corporate Secretary**

a. The University 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 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. The Corporate Secretary, or designee, shall attend all Board meetings as defined in Article II of these Operating Procedures. The Corporate Secretary, or designee, will not be counted as part of a quorum for the purpose of transacting business and shall not vote.

b. Subject to the Board's fiduciary and oversight responsibilities, the President serves as the Board's point of official contact with the Campus Advisory Boards, faculty, staff, students and support organizations of the University. The President is at all times accountable to the Board. The President exercises such powers as are appropriate to his/her position in promoting, supporting and protecting the interests of the University and in managing and directing its affairs, including but not limited to approving all decisions impacting the organization, curriculum, budget, personnel and performance of the university, subject to the Board's established governance processes. 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 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.

c. The President shall receive all Campus Advisory Board recommendations, plans, requests and budgets (collectively "Campus Advisory Board Materials") on behalf of the Board. Campus Advisory Board Materials are non-binding and advisory on the President and Board. The President shall promptly forward to the Governance Committee any Campus Advisory Materials

relating to a matter that will come before the Board for action in its original form along with the President's recommendation to the Board to approve, revise or reject any portion or all of the Campus Advisory Board Materials. Consistent with the powers and duties delegated to the President by the Board, the President will review and consider Campus Advisory Board Materials that do not relate to a matter that will come before the Board for action.

**D. Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for cost-effective policy decisions, implementing and maintaining high-quality education, research and creative programs consistent with the university's mission, measuring the University performance and providing input regarding compliance with state policy, budgeting and education standards. The Board of Trustees sets policy for the University 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 of the Board. 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 of the Board.

**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 of the Board, an issue requires immediate Board action. Whenever such emergency meeting is called, the Chair of the Board 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, unless otherwise provided in these Operating Procedures.

**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 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.

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 no fewer than three (3) voting members, all of whom shall be trustees. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees shall be members. Additional trustees shall be appointed by the Chair 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. Committees on University Strategic Priorities**

The Chair of the Board may establish temporary committees on University strategic priorities as deemed necessary for the orderly conduct of the business of the Board and that relate directly to the strategic priorities of the University. Each committee shall have a written statement of purpose and primary responsibilities as approved

by the Board. The Chair of the Board shall determine the period of service of any such committee(s).

The Chair of the Board appoints the members of the committee and any non-voting faculty and community liaisons, selects a chair of the committee, and serves as an ex officio voting member (when present) of any such committees.

Committees on University Strategic Priorities shall make recommendations for consideration and action by the full Board or other Board committee, as authorized by these Operating Procedures.

The chair of the committee shall perform the chair's duties in consultation with the President and/or designee. The committees shall meet as often as the chair of the committee shall determine necessary. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees for information at the next regular meeting of the Trustees. A majority of committee members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**C. Standing Committees**

Standing Committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board. The Chair of the Board appoints the members any non-voting faculty and community liaisons, selects a Chair of the Committee, and serves as an ex officio voting member (when present) of all Committees. 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 Chair of the Board. 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 President and/or designee. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees.

**ARTICLE V  
AMENDMENT OF OPERATING PROCEDURES**

These Operating Procedures may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority vote of Board members at a 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 on which the requestor(s) wishes to comment.

Comments shall be generally heard at Board Committees. However, the President in consultation with the Chair of the Board will determine whether the item will be heard and when the item will be heard. There will be a three minute time limit on any presentation. The total time allotted for all comments shall not exceed fifteen minutes, unless approved by the Chair.

As permitted by section 286.0114 F.S., the Chair of the Board 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 of the Board 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 IV  
REGIONAL CAMPUS ADVISORY BOARDS**

The Chair of the Board shall appoint members to the Regional Campus Advisory Boards for USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee based on the recommendations of the USF President. 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 nonfulfillment of Campus Board duties, other than the Chair of the Campus Board.–Members may be reappointed as described herein, at the discretion of the Board, for additional terms 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 Chair of 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 Chair of 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 Chair of 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 Chair of the Board shall select one joint member.
- C. Campus Board Chair** -- The Board of Trustees member appointed to the Campus Board shall chair their respective Campus Board Chair, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees Chair.
- D. Authority** -- As provided by applicable state law or regulation and subject to these Operating Procedures, the Regional Campus Boards shall have the authority to:
  - 1. Review and approve an annual campus legislative budget request, operating plan and budget, which will be submitted to the Board of Trustees.
  - 2. 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.

**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, perceived 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 Chair of the Board of all conflict of interest matters disclosed by a Trustee. If it is determined that a conflict of interest exists, the Chair of the Board, 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 must 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 Chair of the Board and Corporate Secretary in the event of an actual conflict.

**6. Definitions**

The terms used in this Article should be interpreted and defined as provided in Chapter 112, Part III, Florida Statutes: Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

**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 06/03/16; Amended 09/01/16; Amended 12/03/19

**OPERATING PROCEDURES OF  
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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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 non-advisory (i.e. the advisory board does not vote or take actions on university matters) 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 Student Advisory Council; the faculty representative serving on the USF 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.

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vote, and for each additional consecutive term beyond two terms officers may be reelected by a two-thirds vote.

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c. The Chair of the Board shall appoint at least one representative to the board of directors and the executive committee of any direct-support organization certified by the Board.

2. **Vice-Chair**

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

3. **Corporate Secretary**

**a.** The University 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 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. The Corporate Secretary, or designee, shall attend all Board meetings as defined in Article II of these Operating Procedures. The Corporate Secretary, or designee, will not be counted as part of a quorum for the purpose of transacting business and shall not vote.

**b.** Subject to the Board's fiduciary and oversight responsibilities, the President serves as the Board's point of official contact with the Campus Advisory Boards, faculty, staff, students and support organizations of the University. The President is at all times accountable to the Board. The President exercises such powers as are appropriate to his/her position in promoting, supporting and protecting the interests of the University and in managing and directing its affairs, including but not limited to approving all decisions impacting the organization, curriculum, budget, personnel and performance of the university, subject to the Board's established governance processes. 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 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.

**c.** The President shall receive all Campus Advisory Board recommendations, plans, requests and budgets (collectively "Campus Advisory Board Materials") on behalf of the Board. Campus Advisory Board Materials are non-binding and advisory on the President and Board. The President shall promptly forward to the Governance Committee any Campus Advisory Materials relating to a matter that will come before the Board for action in its original form along with the President's recommendation to the Board to approve, revise or reject any portion or all of the Campus

Advisory Board Materials. Consistent with the powers and duties delegated to the President by the Board, the President will review and consider Campus Advisory Board Materials that do not relate to a matter that will come before the Board for action.

**D. Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is responsible for cost-effective policy decisions, implementing and maintaining high-quality education, research and creative programs consistent with the university's mission, measuring the University performance and providing input regarding compliance with state policy, budgeting and education standards. The Board of Trustees sets policy for the University 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 of the Board. 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 of the Board.

**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 of the Board, an issue requires immediate Board action. Whenever such emergency meeting is called, the Chair of the Board 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, unless otherwise provided in these Operating Procedures.

**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 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.

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 no fewer than three (3) voting members, all of whom shall be trustees. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees shall be members. Additional trustees shall be appointed by the Chair 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. Committees on University Strategic Priorities**

The Chair of the Board may establish temporary committees on University strategic priorities as deemed necessary for the orderly conduct of the business of the Board and that relate directly to the strategic priorities of the University. Each committee shall have a written statement of purpose and primary responsibilities as approved

by the Board. The Chair of the Board shall determine the period of service of any such committee(s).

The Chair of the Board appoints the members of the committee and any non-voting faculty and community liaisons, selects a chair of the committee, and serves as an ex officio voting member (when present) of any such committees.

Committees on University Strategic Priorities shall make recommendations for consideration and action by the full Board or other Board committee, as authorized by these Operating Procedures.

The chair of the committee shall perform the chair's duties in consultation with the President and/or designee. The committees shall meet as often as the chair of the committee shall determine necessary. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees for information at the next regular meeting of the Trustees. A majority of committee members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**C. Standing Committees**

Standing Committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board. The Chair of the Board appoints the members any non-voting faculty and community liaisons, selects a Chair of the Committee, and serves as an ex officio voting member (when present) of all Committees. 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 Chair of the Board. 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 President and/or designee. Minutes shall be taken and distributed to all Trustees.

**ARTICLE V  
AMENDMENT OF OPERATING PROCEDURES**

These Operating Procedures may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority vote of Board members at a 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 on which the requestor(s) wishes to comment.

Comments shall be generally heard at Board Committees. However, the President in consultation with the Chair of the Board will determine whether the item will be heard and when the item will be heard. There will be a three minute time limit on any presentation. The total time allotted for all comments shall not exceed fifteen minutes, unless approved by the Chair.

As permitted by section 286.0114 F.S., the Chair of the Board 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 of the Board 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 IV  
REGIONAL CAMPUS ADVISORY BOARDS**

The Chair of the Board shall appoint members to the Regional Campus Advisory Boards for USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee based on the recommendations of the USF President. 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 nonfulfillment of Campus Board duties, other than the Chair of the Campus Board.–Members may be reappointed as described herein, at the discretion of the Board, for additional terms 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 Chair of 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 Chair of 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 Chair of 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 Chair of the Board shall select one joint member.
- C. Campus Board Chair** -- The Board of Trustees member appointed to the Campus Board shall chair their respective Campus Board Chair, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Trustees Chair.
- D. Authority** -- As provided by applicable state law or regulation and subject to these Operating Procedures, the Regional Campus Boards shall have the authority to:
  - 1. Review and approve an annual campus legislative budget request, operating plan and budget, which will be submitted to the Board of Trustees.
  - 2. 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.

## **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, perceived 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 Chair of the Board of all conflict of interest matters disclosed by a Trustee. If it is determined that a conflict of interest exists, the Chair of the Board, 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 must 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 Chair of the Board and Corporate Secretary in the event of an actual conflict.

**6. Definitions**

The terms used in this Article should be interpreted and defined as provided in Chapter 112, Part III, Florida Statutes: Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

**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 06/03/16; Amended 09/01/16; Amended 12/03/19

**Agenda Item: FL 102**

**USF Board of Trustees  
April 1, 2021**

**Issue:** Board Officers

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**Proposed Actions:** Elect Chair of the Board for April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021 “vacancy”

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**Background information:** The Board of Trustees is granted the legal authority to elect its Chair. *\*The officers of the Board of Trustees are the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Corporate Secretary. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall each serve two-year terms to begin on July 1 following the election and concluding two years later on June 30 (“Term”). The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by majority vote by the Board of Trustees within 30 (thirty) days of the expiration of the Term. Elected officers may serve for one additional consecutive 2-year term or until a successor is elected by majority vote, and for each additional consecutive term beyond two terms officers may be reelected by a two-thirds vote.*

*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). A vacancy occurs upon the death, incapacity, resignation or removal of an Officer. The newly selected officer (s) will serve the remainder(s) of the Term of the vacating officer(s). The completion of a vacating officer’s Term shall not limit a Trustee’s eligibility to serve two consecutive 2-year terms by majority vote, and to serve each additional consecutive term beyond two terms by a two-thirds vote. **\*pending approval on 4/1/21***

- a. The Chair of the Board may serve as Chair of the Finance Committee, serves as an ex officio voting member of all Committees of University Strategic Priorities and all Standing Committees of the Board, and appoints members thereof.
  - b. The Chair of the Board 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.
  - c. The Chair of the Board shall appoint at least one representative to the board of directors and the executive committee of any direct-support organization certified by the Board.
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Supporting Documentation: None

Prepared by: Dr. Cindy Visot, Assistant Corporate Secretary