



## **USF Board of Trustees Governance Committee**

Monday, February 21, 2022  
9-9:30am  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

### **MINUTES**

Chair Will Weatherford welcomed everyone and convened the Governance Committee meeting. He asked Kiara Guzzo to call the roll.

#### Kiara Guzzo called the roll

Trustee Sandy Callahan  
Trustee Mike Carrere  
Trustee Mike Griffin  
Trustee Les Muma – Was not in attendance  
Trustee Will Weatherford

Chair Weatherford reported that there were no requests for public comment.

#### I. New Business – Action Items

#### **FL 101 – Approval of November 16, 2021 Minutes**

Trustee Sandy Callahan commented that her last name was incorrect in the minutes. The Chair asked for a correction and requested a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Callahan moved for an approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Carrere. The November 16, 2021 minutes were approved.

#### **FL 102 – Amendments to USF Alumni Association Bylaws**

Jay Stroman, SVP for Advancement and Alumni Affairs presented.

The USF Alumni Association Board has approved revisions to its Bylaws. SVP Stroman supports these changes.

Significant changes are summarized below:

- Changes the Alumni Association's membership model from dues-based to one where all USF alum will be members without required payment.
- The office of Chair-Elect was changed to Vice Chair to denote that succession is not automatic from Vice Chair to Chair.
- A reference in Article VI, section 8.E. which incorrectly limited the term of the USF BOT Chair's appointee to 2 years was corrected to remove the term limit.
- The SVP of Advancement and Alumni Affairs was added as a voting member in Article VI, section 7.E.
- In Article VII, section 1 the number of directors was increased from a maximum of 25 to allow up to 30 directors.
- In Article IX, section 3.d. was added to state that the internal audit function would be provided by the USF Internal Audit department, consistent with the recent USFBOT action.

Chair Weatherford requested a motion for an approval which was given by Trustee Carrere. The motion was seconded by Trustee Griffin and FL 102 was approved.

### **FL 103 – Amendments to USF Regulation 4.0108**

USF Controller Jennifer Condon presented.

Proposed Amendments to Regulation 4.0108: Waiver and Exemptions of Tuition and Fees

Proposed Amendments to USF Regulation 4.0108 to allow transfer of employee tuition waiver to eligible spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child for the purpose of enrolling in eligible undergraduate courses. The University will retain discretion with regard to program details and operation, eligibility requirements, selection, and funding levels. As such, the amendments do not entail any financial impact, though the University may adjust funding levels based on level of interest in the program and other factors, as appropriate. Supports and enhances the mission of the University – Recruitment and Retention.

Chair Weatherford thanked Ms. Condon for her presentation and made commented that this amendment was the right thing to do.

Trustee Carrere had a question concerning the amount of dollars used for the Employee Tuition Program.

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve item FL 103. Trustee Callahan moved for approval with a second from Trustee Griffin. FL 103 was approved.

### **FL 104 – Approval of USF Institute of Applied Engineering Board Members**

USF College of Engineering Dean Robert Bishop presented.

Per Florida Statute Section 1004.28 and USF Regulation 13.002, the USF Board of Trustees must approve members of Direct Support Organizations' Boards of Directors. USF IAE requests Mr. Mark Clifton and Dr. Sylvia Thomas be added to its Board.

Upon final approval by both the USF Board of Trustees and USF IAE Board of Directors, Mr. Clifton and Dr. Thomas are eligible for appointment ending March 2025.

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve FL 104. Trustee Carrere moved to approve with a second from Trustee Griffin. FL 104 was approved.

### **FL 105 – Approval of USF Research Foundation Board Members**

Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Sylvia Thomas presented.

This is a request to approve the reappointment of Gene Engle and Jeffrey Hackman as non-USF members of the Research Foundation Board of Directors and appointment of Dr. Michael Cross as university faculty member, and Alison Barlow and Lakshmi Shenoy as non-USF members.

In addition to appointed and ex officio members, the Research Foundation Bylaws provide for two members of the University's faculty who are nominated to the Board by the University's President as well as a maximum of ten additional persons, to include non-USF employees, who are each nominated to the Board by the USF Research Senior Vice President.

Director of Research Foundation Operations Allison Madden presented the bios.

Trustee Griffin complemented Interim Vice President Thomas and her team for selecting and retaining an amazing group of volunteers who are exceptional advocates in the community.

Chair Weatherford agreed on the outstanding caliber of members selected to serve and requested a motion to approve FL 105. Trustee Callahan moved for approval with a second from Trustee Griffin.

Item FL 105 was approved.

## **II. New Business – Information Items**

### New Board of Governors Requirements/Recommendations

Chair Weatherford reported that at the Board of Governors meeting held in January 2021, the Board approved two sets of requirements and recommendations regarding Academics and Workforce Alliance and Civil Discourse.

The action item relating to academic and workforce alignment are aimed to create stronger partnerships between all SUS Institutions and Florida businesses.

It stems from the 2019 statement of free expression that was adopted by all 12 postsecondary institutions. BOG Chair Syd Kitson established a Civil Discourse initiative during the January 2021 State of the System Address

To implement the recommendations set forth in the Civil Discourse final report and encourage university administration leaders to address areas and thoroughly review and identify areas within the report including asking the Board of Trustees to review and endorse the Board's statement of freedom of expression at a future meeting date.

President Rhea Law presented.

President Law made comments on USF's robust community outreach program.

### **Academic and Workforce Alignment Recommendations**

- a. 1. New Board of Governors Requirements / Recommendations
  - Each university president to know and maintain a relationship with the CEO of the 5 largest employers of their graduates.
  - Each Dean to have an Industry Advisory Council for each of their individual Department.
  - Develop a plan to engage businesses and research opportunities
2. Preparing our graduates for the expectations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.
  - My Florida Future
  - Explore the potential research centralized internship reporting on the institutions
  - campuses.
  - Internship Advisory Councils
3. Statewide platform for internships and employment.
4. System-wide guidance for students and employers
  - System-wide definitions of experiential learning
  - Creating new practices for advisory councils
  - Formulations of system-wide guidelines for effective partnering with businesses

### **Civil Discourse: Examples of best practices**

1. Presentations workshops lectures and trainings to provide opportunities to faculty, staff, students and campus partners to learn how to engage in and facilitate dialogue respectfully
2. Events / programs that provide opportunities to faculty staff and students to engage in, observe or facilitate conversations and encourage civil discourse.
3. Programs, workshops or campaigns with external partners to help cultivate a campus culture of civil discourse
4. Research Based Initiatives –Web tools and courses designed to provide opportunities to student's faculty and staff to engage in and learn about issues related to civil discourse on a formal setting.

The President was pleased to report that Provost Ralph Wilcox and his team are hard at work and on top of these efforts. A guiding document was included in the Trustees packets.

## North Fletcher Property Update

President Rhea Law formed the North Fletcher Property Advisory Committee to review an Ecological Assessment Report and provide recommendations for the future of the property, including the USF Forest Preserve.

President Law provided a brief update based on the advisory committee's report which highlighted the following:

- Area 1 is developable – The Golf Course
- Areas 2,3 and 4 – The forest Preserve – In a traditional sense those areas are not developable however there is a possibility for mitigation banking, research and other activities.
- Discussions with Representative Kathy Castor concerning Federal funding to help with a building on site that can be used for education and research.

Chair Weatherford commended President Law on her report and for her experience in the area of land use. He also commended the Property Advisory Committee for organizing a holistic plan to assure that we protect and preserve our natural resources and waterbodies as well for articulating our intentions.

Trustee Boaz commented on behalf of the Faculty Senate. They were delighted at the proper process and outcome of the advisory committee's recommendations.

Having no further business Chair Weatherford adjourned the Governance Committee meeting.