

USF Board of Trustees
Strategic Initiatives Committee
November 10, 2020
Time: 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM
Teams Meeting

I. Call to Order and Comments

Chair Carrere called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. On behalf of Chair Carrere, he welcomed the committee members and other members of the Board of Trustees.

II. Request for Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

III. New Business – Action Items

a. Approval of August 25, 2020 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved unanimously.

IV. New Business – Information Items

a. Strategic Renewal Process Update

Chair Carrere noted previous strategic plans and how language differs from the current higher education environment. He then read an excerpt from the USF System Strategic Plan.

President Currall began his presentation by noting how thrilled he is to be partnering with Chair Carrere throughout the strategic planning process. He explained that the planning process will ensure USF protects current priorities and will inform where to invest or reinvest. President Currall noted the higher education landscape including consolidation, COVID-19 public health crisis, uncertainties around legislative actions and state budgets, and diversity and inclusion issues. He continued by explaining a well-rounded curriculum and student-life preparations are on the forefront of our planning.

President Currall explained that USF's aspirations are not changing and there will be a continued focused on Performance-based Funding, Preeminence, Top-25 public university and AAU eligibility. He noted USF is not wavering on previous strategic commitments as we continue to review budget fluidity.

President Currall continued by highlighting what a strategic plan is and what it is not. He noted it is extremely important to have an institution-wide plan that includes all three USF campuses, as well as our mission, long-term aspirations, core commitments, and unique sources of differentiation. Finally, the strategic plan should set expectations and standards for the colleges and administrative units. President Currall noted that a strategic plan is not a list of projects or initiatives that will receive additional attention. Additionally, the plan will not serve as a tactical plan for colleges and administrative units. He also noted this plan will not be a static document that will be presented to the Board and then shelved for some years.

President Currall turned to Brian Ten Eyck, Vice President and Chief of Staff, to provide the high-level operational details. VP Ten Eyck provided an overview of the initial project plan, noting target dates and

engagement framework. He expressed the plan will be robust and reflect the values of the entire university.

President Currall noted the various stakeholders that will be consulted, including faculty, staff, students and community members. He also explained that this process will inform further resource allocations and how it is advantageous for the strategic renewal and budget realignment processes to be working in parallel.

President Currall closed his presentation by mentioning the ongoing listening tour which ensures a consultative process with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community partners. He noted this plan will need to encompass a 10-year time horizon, with five-year, three-year, and one-year milestones and quarterly updates. The plan will be periodically refined and modified in response to shifts in higher education.

There was discussion among the trustees regarding external stakeholder engagement and USF as an urban-grant university. Chair Carrere went on to explain it is very important to have a well-rounded curriculum and well-prepared students. He explained preparing USF students outside of their majors is critically important and needs to be an integral part of the plan moving forward. He thanked VP Ten Eyck and expressed his gratitude for the work he is doing in communicating with the trustees.

There was further discussion regarding engaging business leaders to gather their input on the strategic plan. President Currall noted we are eager to engage with our corporate partners. There was discussion on ways to communicate with businesses and other community stakeholders, including the college advisory councils and various scheduled town halls. Discussion ensued regarding meeting the needs of the business community and engagement with partners in the community and state. There was discussion around degree demand and the market needs, and the opportunity to be at the forefront of changing labor markets.

Chair Zimmerman thanked President Currall and VP Ten Eyck for their presentation and Chair Carrere closed the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 a.m.