



NOTES
USF Board of Trustees
Academics and Campus Environment Committee
August 27, 2019, 9:15 AM – 11:15 AM
USF Marshall Student Center, MSC 3707

Committee Members Present: Charles Tokarz, Trustee and Chair; Britney Deas, Trustee; Stephanie Gosforth, Trustee; Michael Griffin, Trustee; Deanna Michael, Trustee; Byron Shinn, Trustee; Steven Currall, President; Gerard Solis, General Counsel; Ralph Wilcox, USF System Provost & Executive Vice President; Jordan Zimmerman, Trustee and BOT Chair

I. Call to Order and Comments

Chair Charles Tokarz called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. A quorum was confirmed with the following Trustees present:

Trustee Charles Tokarz
Trustee Stephanie Goforth
Trustee Britney Deas
Trustee Michael Griffin
Trustee Deanna Michael
Trustee Byron Shinn

II. Public Comments Subject to USF Procedure

Chair Tokarz confirmed with General Counsel Gerard Solis that no requests for public comments had been received.

President Steven Currall reported that USF's current class is the largest and most academically qualified in USF history; and that expectations are for an annual economic impact of \$582 million.

III. New Business – Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes – August 27, 2019

A motion to approve was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

b. Tenure as a Condition of Employment (USFT)

Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith gave a brief summary of the tenure process, before reporting that the documents record President Steven Currall as recommending approval; instead, however, the recommendation came during the tenure of former President Judy Genshaft. Dr. Smith introduced Associate Vice President Dr. Valerie Parisi to present the candidates from USF Health. She reviewed the credentials of Dr. Brendan Walker, an internationally recognized “addictionologist” from Washington State University, and Dr.

David Russ, a grant reviewer for the Department of Defense from Ohio University who will join the School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences.

A motion to approve was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

c. Textbook Affordability Report

Dean Todd Chavez provided a brief overview of the annual report, noting that it is for textbook and instructional materials for undergraduates only. Dr. Chavez explained that the BOG benchmark national average is \$41.67 per credit hour, and USF has far exceeded that mark at \$26.77 per credit hour. USF is also above the compliance threshold of 95%, standing at 97.4%. He reported an actual quantifiable, cumulative savings from 2010 to date of \$20,369,094, \$8.9 million coming since 2016 and \$4 million just last year. This can be attributed to adopting the lowest-cost format, which could be digital, inclusive access that allows students to be billed directly through their university accounts, and the library's purchase of digital licenses of adopted materials, thereby allowing students access to e-books at no cost. Recent steps and new initiatives were covered by Dr. Chavez, as to information and data, structure, and resources. There was lengthy discussion throughout the presentation, including the role of faculty in the university's success, Open Access Textbooks, the difficulties for university presses in the current marketplace, website overhaul and the Textbook Affordability Project (TAP) dashboard, and the USF Bookstore move from Barnes & Noble to Follett, who was selected as a more aggressive cost-savings partner. Dr. Chavez made it clear that USF is not yet satisfied and will continue to do more, with all units across the USF community collaborating. He expressed particular appreciation to the task force members, Dean Moez Limayem for his negotiating prowess, and Senior Vice Provost Dwayne Smith for his leadership.

A motion to approve was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

Trustee Britney Deas joined the meeting at this time.

d. SUS Equity Report

Vice President Haywood Brown provided background on this annual report to the State University System (SUS), which follows a BOG template and definitions. The report, focused on women and members of specified race/ethnic classes, is meant to record progress in implementing strategic initiative and performance related to equity and access for students, athletics, and employment. Dr. Brown introduced Associate Vice President Cecil Howard to continue the presentation. Mr. Howard reviewed overall undergraduate enrollment figures, which identify USF as a "majority minority" institution. He noted the increase in the categories of Two Races and Unknown, the latter indicating no racial ethnicity named. First Time in College (FTIC) data was similar to overall headcount, with White less than 50%, and, for the first time, female enrollment is above the 60% threshold. Mr. Howard also reviewed transfer enrollment, retention rates, graduation rates, and diversity of faculty and administrators. The Committee's discussion included merit-based aid, the success of the FUSE program, improving diversity in new faculty and administrator hires, enrollment of students from local counties, potentially emulating successful measures used for student athletes, and comparisons with state peers and AAU and AAU aspirant institutions. Mr. Howard emphasized that there is no gap in achievement based on race or ethnicity. Dr. Brown closed by offering opportunities on which to expand, including student recruitment efforts, monitoring closely the loss and/or promotion of diverse faculty, and increasing administrator diversity. The report was met with acclamation.

A motion to approve was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

e. Industrial Hemp Pilot Project

Chair Tokarz prefaced the presentation with historical context, specifically that in 2016 Governor Rick Scott signed HB-307, the Medical Use of Cannabis Bill, allowing state universities with Colleges of Agriculture to carry out cannabis research; in 2017, Governor Scott signed SB-1726, which extended the cannabis research to land grant institutions; and in 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis signed SB-1020, allowing all state universities to participate in Industrial Hemp Pilot Programs. Dean Kevin Sneed thanked the Board for their support in the naming of the USF Health Taneja College of Pharmacy, before presenting the pilot project details. Dr. Sneed said that the program is expected to achieve a Clinical Research Program to advance the understanding of the impact of cannabis, and a Basic Science Research Program to examine the components in cannabis, dosing, delivery, and therapeutic potential. He further explained that there will be no direct costs to the university and that funding will initially be provided by donations. The members discussed at length, including sources of materials, levels of THC contained in the cannabis, consistency of genetic pedigree, impact on the university's reputation, and thorough vetting of companies with whom USF will work. Dr. Sneed firmly committed to working only with those companies with common values, and that projects will adhere to all state and federal regulations, with close oversight by the Office of Research and Innovation.

A motion to approve was made and seconded. Approved by all committee members present.

III. New Business – Information Items

a. Florida Institute of Oceanography Update

Vice Provost James Garey, with a background in marine science, was named Acting Director of FIO, an Academic Infrastructure Support Organization (AISO) hosted by USF on behalf of the entire SUS. He began by thanking the Board for their support of the recent Legislative Budget Request (LBR). Dr. Garey reported that there are two active research vessels in the FIO fleet, R/V Hogarth and R/V Weatherbird, with a total of 206 ship days used by eight SUS universities and six other organizations. There were more than 3,000 visitors in 2018-2019 to the Key Marine Lab Service, a world class, eight acre site with 30 beds, labs, small boats, and seawater system. The year's educational and research outreach included a graduate field course by a consortium of SUS members and the Florida Restore Act Center of Excellence Program, a response to the 2010 Deep Water Horizon oil spill, for which funds held by the Department of the Treasury continue to be distributed. Dr. Garey reviewed results from a recent safety audit conducted by a third party company, Ocean 360, which recommended increased training requirements, development of a Safety Management System Document, increasing the number of crew members on the R/V Hogarth, and upgraded ship systems. FIO is approximately 70% toward completion of the Ocean 360 recommendations. Dr. Garey expressed problems with the FIO Director current job description, responsibilities to include both ship operations and the FIO mission, making it more difficult to find a suitable candidate. Instead, the future plan is to hire a marine superintendent for operational management and the FIO Director's role to be strictly overall research, education, and service mission. A discussion ensued, including underused FIO capacity, decommissioning of the R/V Bellows and R/V Price, eligibility for use of resources, boosting crew pay, Keys Marine Lab, maximizing efficiencies, and the condition and repair/upgrade of the R/V Hogarth. The

budget was also discussed, 2019-2010 projections, total operating funds, total expenditures, raising “day rates,” and the necessity to keep a “buffer” for unexpected expenses.

b. Consolidation Update

Executive Vice President Ralph Wilcox, after brief comments on the importance of FIO, began with the guiding principles used by the USF BOT Consolidation & Preeminence Committee. He covered substantive tasks, those completed, which include alignment of degree programs and majors, a single general education program for *One USF Geographically Distributed*, and a single set of tenure and promotion guidelines; those tasks still in progress including a unified structure and functional relationships for Student Success support units, a constitution for *One USF* Student Government, and governing documents for *One USF* Faculty Senate; and tasks not yet started such as development of a single faculty handbook and defining the mission and goals for *One USF*. He reviewed briefly the anticipated timeline, then responded to questions during an extended discussion, which covered the process by which the Substantive Change Prospectus is submitted to SACSCOC, USF BOT communication and involvement, budget and reporting lines, and accuracy of message. President Currall confirmed that, before the end of September, there will be further clarity as to progress, with particular communication around the retention/enhancement of campus identities.

c. Fall 2019 Enrollment Update

Executive Vice President Ralph Wilcox provided an early update on Fall 2019 enrollment, for which the total head count is 50,792. He reviewed first day benchmark enrollment data for USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, and USF Sarasota-Manatee, as well as their FTIC Academic Profiles. Diversity numbers and percentages for Non-White, International, and Gender were also presented by total enrollment and FTIC enrollment. Dr. Wilcox thanked his team for their hard work and collaboration, particular Vice President Paul Dosal and Dean of Admissions Glen Besterfield.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Tokarz adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM.