

**USF Board of Trustees
Joint Meeting of
Consolidation, Accreditation & Preeminence Committee
& Strategic Initiatives Committee
November 20, 2019
Time: 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Alumni Center – Traditions Hall**

I. Call to Order and Comments

Chair Mullis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He welcomed the committee members and other members of the Board of Trustees.

II. New Business – Action Items

a. Approval of May 14, 2019 Meeting Notes

Meeting notes were approved unanimously.

b. Approval of “One USF” Mission and Goals

President Steven C. Currall and Vice Provost Pritish Mukherjee presented on the updated Mission and Goals for “One USF.” President Currall provided background on consolidation and the history of the current Mission and Goals. He noted there is ongoing process with a broad range of community leaders and university stakeholders including USF’s accreditors, the Board of Governors, USF leadership, faculty and staff as well as input from the Board of Trustees. President Currall mentioned that during the September Board of Trustees meeting it was requested that the updated Mission and Goals should go through the Strategic Initiatives Committee.

Vice Provost Mukherjee informed the Committee that the Mission and Goals process is required for the SACSCOC Substantive Change Prospectus and must be published and approved by the USF Board of Trustees. He noted that the draft Mission and Goals for approval is the result of the work of nearly 100 university stakeholders including students and faculty. Vice Provost Mukherjee provided background on the USF System Strategic Plan and the USF Tampa Strategic Plan process, noting the Mission and Goals were addressed, however neither planning process drafted new language. Along with Senior Associate Vice President Donna Petersen, Vice Provost Mukherjee engaged with the System Faculty Council and the Student Government leaders across all three campuses to refine and finalize the draft Mission and Goals. The draft also encompasses suggestions and feedback that was submitted through the mission@usf.edu email.

Vice Provost Mukherjee noted the Mission needed to reflect USF’s priority of “students first” while drawing attention to research, teaching, and partnerships. Scholarship, research and creative activity are highlighted in order to capture the important values of the University. He explained that a lot of editing and wordsmithing was done so that the Mission statement is as concise as possible. Vice Provost Mukherjee highlighted that goals cover teaching, research and partnership – the backbone of the University’ focus. The changes include adding student success to evaluate the relationship with students and emphasize outcomes including future employment, career advancement and leadership. He noted

the student leaders asked to incorporate safe and inclusive environment language into the goals. He highlighted the cross fertilization between the current USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, USF Sarasota-Manatee, and USF System strategic plans. He closed by noting the Mission and Goals will be fully reconsidered as part of the upcoming strategic renewal process.

There were questions from the Trustees regarding desirable elements for the overall strategic plan of the University; how the length of the draft Mission and Goals compares to other institutions; and how the goals align with USF's vision to be an AAU university and reach the top 25 rankings.

President Currall discussed the distinction between the mission and goals and the need to articulate resources for the goals and objectives.

The Trustees opted to change "graduate" to "alumni" in the final version and approved unanimously.

Chair Zimmerman thanks Vice Provost Mukherjee and Senior Associate Vice President Petersen for their tremendous work.

III. New Business – Information Items

a. Update on Consolidation: SACSCOC Substantive Change Prospectus

President Currall began the presentation by providing some historical background. Since Governor Rick Scott signed into law (on March 11, 2018 – more than 20 months ago), *the Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018*, the USF team has been working diligently to plan for USF's future as "One University Geographically Distributed" and to prepare the request, represented as a *Substantive Change Prospectus*, to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges.

He noted that this ongoing process has necessitated extensive consultation and work with a broad range of stakeholders, from community leaders, elected officials, regional accreditation leaders, specialized accreditation leaders, the Florida Board of Governors, the USF Board of Trustees and the university's leadership, faculty, staff and students on each of the campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee.

President Currall noted that the development of the *Substantive Change Prospectus* followed the statutorily-required *Consolidation Plan and Timeline* that was approved by the USF BOT earlier in the year and presented to the Board of Governors in March, 2019. Guided along the way by the *USF Accreditation Steering Committee* (comprised of Drs. Holbrook, Mukherjee, Peterson, Tadlock and Wilcox, and supported by Michael Wrona, USF's SACCOC liaison and his team), committee members have contributed, reviewed and edited the document each step of the way.

He noted while the work is continuing, this presentation will provide "a first look" in committee before bring the document to the USF BOT meeting in December and, subsequently, to the Board of Governors in January 2020.

President Currall asked Dr. Ralph Wilcox, Provost and Executive Vice President, to highlight the components of the SACSCOC Substantive Change Prospectus. Provost Wilcox noted the planning period is rapidly coming to a close and USF will be required, prior to March 15, 2020, to submit (a) the SACSCOC Cover Sheet indicating our intent to consolidate and operate as one university, effective July 1, 29020, (b) an Institutional Summary Form, and (c) the *Substantive Change Prospectus*.

Provost Wilcox said that while SACSCOC limits the Prospectus to 25 pages of narrative, there are nearly 3,500 pages of digital links required to document and support USF's responses to SACSCOC questions.

He noted the task has been to shape a plan that balances the requirements of Florida state law and those of the regional accrediting agency, all while paying close attention to the Guiding Principles approved by our Board of Trustees. The Prospectus must also focus on strengthening USF's stature as a Preeminent State Research University, while best serving the needs of the students on all campuses.

Provost Wilcox said that while there is a draft prospectus presented today, the the document is currently under review by two independent consultants recommended to USF leadership by SACSCOC. He noted an updated draft of the document will be presented to the full BOT meeting on December 3, 2019.

Provost Wilcox explained that following SACSCOC approval of the request to consolidate, USF will have to provide three sets of what SACSCOC calls "Documentation for the Substantive Change Committee" at least 6 weeks prior to the site visit.

There was discussion from the Trustees regarding alignment between campuses, including curriculum and student success, as well as accountability. Additionally, there were questions around the role of the campus deans, especially in terms of hiring faculty, and the process of promotion and tenure. Trustee Ramil commented that he attended a meeting with SACSCOC in August and took away a list of seven key items that must be seen in the Prospectus – noting he saw six of the seven in the current document, but did not see Promotion and Tenure guidelines. Provost Wilcox clarified where in the draft document Promotion and Tenure was addressed.

There was discussion around how the Board of Trustees can support the faculty, staff and students of the university around consolidation and how to unite into one consistent brand.

The discussion concluded with the Trustees noting how pleased they are with the work that is being done and thanked President Currall for his collaborative approach and leadership. Advocacy with external stakeholders will be crucial as the need for additional resources is critical for a successful consolidation.

Chair Mullis thanked President Currall, Provost Wilcox, and other participates for their hard work.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.