

University of South Florida
Board of Trustees Conference Call
Monday, August 19, 2019
Official Minutes

Chair Jordan Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM. Chair Zimmerman thanked everyone for joining this call of the Board of Trustees. He stated that the Board of Governors' deadline is in advance of the Board's committee meetings and the scheduled September Board meeting, hence the need for a special call.

Chair Zimmerman asked Assistant Corporate Secretary Dr. Cindy Visot to call the roll.

Dr. Visot called roll with the following trustees present:

Trustee Michael Carrere

Trustee Britney Deas

Trustee Stephanie Goforth

Trustee Michael Griffin

Trustee Oscar Horton

Trustee Deanna Michael

Trustee Harold Mullis

Trustee Leslie Muma – joined call after roll call

Trustee John Ramil

Trustee Byron Shinn

Trustee Charles Tokarz

Trustee Nancy Watkins

Trustee Jordan Zimmerman

FL 101 – University of South Florida Legislative Budget Request

Chair Zimmerman asked President Steven Currall to present the Legislative Budget Request (LBR).

President Currall presented a brief overview of the provided LBR. He noted the significance of requesting funding for all three campuses together, stating that with consolidation comes the need for more funding (\$37.4 million) to serve the fast-growing Tampa Bay area as a preeminent and nationally ranked research university. The Board's consolidation plan calls for investment in all three campuses to raise the national profile of "One USF" and to provide students and faculty with new academic and research opportunities never before available.

Trustee Les Muma and Trustee John Ramil commented that the LBR was well done and seemed justified for the amount requested and represented all three campuses well. Trustee Ramil also clarified that on page nine of the report, the \$2.2 million requested to hire "administrative personnel" to support new faculty hires, are as lab technicians and similar positions, not conventional administrators.

Trustee Michael Carrere inquired about the process of approval for this budget request and if USF would be competing against other SUS institutions for the allocated budget, to which AVP for Government Relations Mark Walsh confirmed that hopefully USF has the most compelling rationale to receive the funding from the state.

Trustee Byron Shinn noted the significance of the Integrated Science and Technology Complex building at the Sarasota-Manatee campus, which would house STEM programs, as he stated that they are out of space in their current building for offices.

President Currall proposed the action to approve the 2020-2021 Legislative Budget Request for \$37,424,835. Chair Zimmerman asked for a motion. Trustee Muma made a motion for approval and Trustee Harold Mullis seconded the motion; the trustees approved the motion unanimously.

FL 102 – Florida Institute of Oceanography Legislative Budget Request

Chair Zimmerman then asked USF Vice Provost and Interim Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) Director Jim Garey to present the FIO Legislative Budget Request. Dr. Garey began by noting that he was representing the SUS and not USF for this presentation. He stated the FIO is hosted by USF in St. Petersburg with the vision of supporting excellence in marine science, technology and education through infrastructure, programs, information, and people. It supports all 12 State University System institutions in coastal/ocean science and engineering by providing research vessels and marine laboratory facilities for faculty and students across the SUS.

The main issue that Dr. Garey discussed is that FIO is nowhere near capacity in any of the goals and new funding would help it reach capacity and help achieve the new plan for SUS Research. Dr. Garey proposed a recurring funds request for \$1,477,908. He noted that all 12 SUS provosts have given their support in writing for FIO improvement. He stated that the provided funding would help with pre-positioning vessels for 30 days of subsidized ship-time once a year in different locations across the state, making their use by SUS institutions and others more cost effective.

Dr. Garey stated FIO's intent to conduct workshops and demonstration cruises/field experiences to educate potential researchers on how FIO resources could enhance their research and teaching, which would in turn lead to an increase applications for vessel and facilities use.

Chair Zimmerman thanked Dr. Garey for his thorough overview and then asked for a motion. Trustee Carrere made a motion for approval and Trustee Muma seconded the motion; the trustees approved the motion unanimously.

FL 103 – 2019–2020 Operating Budget

President Currall then asked Senior Vice President for Business and Financial Strategy David Lechner to introduce the next agenda item. Mr. Lechner then introduced Nick Setteducato, Associate Vice President for Resource Management & Analysis to provide an overview of the University Operating Budget. Mr. Setteducato reviewed highlights of the overall budget, stating that including all activities, the “all-source” USF System Operating Expense Budget for FY20 is \$2.15 billion, which is \$39.1 million over the previous year’s budget. Excluding Faculty Practice Plan and Self-insurance, the USF System budget for FY20 is \$1.86 billion and has increased 1% from the previous fiscal year. Mr. Setteducato further detailed statewide budget cuts and their effect on all USF campuses.

VP & CFO Nick Trivunovich noted that the BOG asked for Business and Finance to provide the carry forward budget, which will be presented at the September 10th Board meeting.

Trustee Michael asked about the reduction of funding that was mentioned and where it is located in the budget; Mr. Trivunovich directed the trustees to slide three, which shows the \$3.2 million that is offset by other appropriations.

Mr. Setteducato proposed two actions:

1. Approve FY20 Operating Budget. This action included a requirement that the university President shall receive and must approve strategic spending plans for new funds appropriated for FY20 for USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee. The President’s approval of the spending plans is required prior to funds being committed by the campus.
2. Authorize the President (or the Designee) to implement budget amendments issued by the state during the fiscal year or other changes approved by the Board Chair.

Trustee Nancy Watkins asked to limit the scope of the President’s authority in the second action with the addition of the word “non-material” changes. Trustees and General Counsel Gerard Solis agreed to make this change in order to match the policy 0100.

Chair Zimmerman asked for a motion. Trustee Muma made a motion for approval with the change in #2:

1. *Approve FY20 Operating Budget. This action included a requirement that the university President shall receive and must approve strategic spending plans for new funds appropriated for FY20 for USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee. The President’s approval of the spending plans is required prior to funds being committed by the campus.*
2. *Authorize the President (or the Designee) to implement budget amendments issued by the state during the fiscal year or other non-material changes approved by the Board Chair.*

Trustee Watkins seconded the motion; the trustees approved the motion unanimously.

With no further business, Chair Zimmerman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.