

**Board of Trustees Governance Committee**  
**Conference Call**  
**January 19, 2018**  
**Draft Meeting Notes**

Conference call called to order January 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Roll call by Corporate Secretary

Committee Members present: Brian Lamb, Stan Levy, Hal Mullis, John Ramil, Nancy Watkins, and Jordan Zimmerman. Other trustees participating: Trustees Carrere, Garey, Goforth, Kheireddine, Muma and Shinn.

Committee Chair Zimmerman welcomed the committee members and other trustees attending including the newly appointed trustees.

**New Business – Information Item**

Governance Committee Chair Zimmerman asked Board Chair Lamb to lead the discussion of the recent legislation submitted Friday evening affecting the USF System.

Chair Lamb reviewed how the call would work: Mark Walsh, USF System Assistant Vice President for Government Relations, will review the bill filled; President Genshaft and Trustees Goforth and Shinn as the Campus Board chairs, will provide comments and discussion on Board's role/focus.

AVP Walsh reviewed with the trustees that the higher education bill from 2017, which was vetoed by Gov. Scott, has been broken into two separate bills for 2018 with one bill addressing university issues and a separate bill addressing state/community college issues. The Senate has passed their version of the SUS bill, SB 4, through the full Senate already. The House released Friday evening amendments to their chamber's version of the SUS bill, HB 423, which included changes to the accreditation of the USF System as well as performance based funding and DSOs. The new language proposed by the House affecting the USF System does give the Board of Trustees the opportunity to put a plan together on phasing out three separately accredited institutions into a consolidated accreditation system. The bill requires that the BOT submit a plan to the BOG by January 2019 with single accreditation occurring by July 1, 2020. AVP Walsh then explained that the plan required by the bill is to provide action steps and a timeline with no lapse of accreditation at any institution and must minimize any disruption to student success. He then reviewed the next steps for the legislative process and stressed this is very early in the process before it would become law. Chair Lamb asked if there were any questions about the process. Seeing none, Chair Lamb called on President Genshaft for comments.

President Genshaft stressed that regardless of the outcome USF System will continue to stay focused on its goals and values and that each institution would retain its identity. She stressed that the USF System was not the same institution as in 2001, but stronger and nationally recognized. She also shared that she had talked with the head of SACS to notify her of the pending legislation and seek her assistance if this bill moves into law so that no institutional accreditation lapses. Based on the call and dates of accreditation for each institution, there would be no lapse in based on the timeline in the bill.. SACS is committed to working with the USF System throughout the process. President Genshaft also stressed to the Trustees that the university

is pushing forward with the USFSP P3 project and legislative requests for completion of the downtown medical school funding and USFSM STEM building. She again stressed that regardless of the outcome of the bill, the USF institutions are only moving forward.

Chair Lamb asked Trustee and USFSP Campus Board Chair Stephanie Goforth to comment. She too stressed that as long as she is the campus board chair, she will not let USFSP go back to pre-2001. She committed to the trustees that the USFSP campus board is focused on the future and committed to moving forward with strong momentum regardless of the outcome. She shared with the trustees that the campus board members are briefed and will stay close to the process, committing that they will be actively involved in any planning discussions as well as the community.

Trustee and USFSM Campus Board Chair Byron Shinn stressed that the USF System has changed and grown in its approach to regionalism but recognizes that there have been some unintended consequences due to the 2001 legislation. Trustee Shinn stated that they are looking forward to being at the table to shape the plan and focusing on embracing the opportunity. He is pleased with the outlook for USF SM and does not feel this proposed legislation will slow them down, especially with the new regional chancellor (who is research and student focused and understands importance of business partnerships). He also discussed the anxiety of change and that USFSM Campus Board will be actively engaged with the process to address the anxiety.

Trustee Garey let the trustees know that the System faculty council will be engaged and committed to support the planning efforts if the legislation goes forward. Trustee Kheireddine also stressed that the System student government will also be engaged and are currently talking with their constituents. He stressed the importance of communication with the students, especially the impact this would have on them if it is approved.

Chair Lamb stressed that we do not know enough at this time to make decisions; it's not the culture of this Board to make quick, uninformed decisions so the Board will be listening and learning over the next few weeks. He again stressed the legislation is still a "moving target" and this Board will follow fundamental principles, i.e., process, transparency, accountability, and governance/strategy. He also stressed that during this time the Board and leadership cannot lose sight of our trajectory (student success, PBF, Preeminence, USF branding) and to stay the course, moving forward). He encouraged patience and that any plan will position USF for the next 50 years.

Chair Lamb opened discussion among the trustees. Comments ranged from support for the points already made to stressing the importance to stay focused on our strategic goals. The consensus was that whatever structure we have, USF will continue its trajectory for success by paying attention to the facts and data and continuing to do analysis for what is best for the USF System. Trustees repeated that student success must continue to be in the forefront and that it is too early in the process to speculate, but that the Board needs to have patience and thoughtful decision making throughout the process. Another theme throughout the discussion was the value for all USF students, regardless of home institution, to graduate from a preeminent university.

Questions asked by trustees: Any idea what the intent was as it's part of a much larger education bill; what is the legislator trying to accomplish with the USF unification under one accreditation but also preeminence changes (and its effect on USF Tampa achieve preeminence) and DSO language. AVP Walsh responded throughout the discussion when it pertained to legislation. Highlights include...the sponsor of the USF unification bill felt the unified system would elevate all of the USF campuses, especially pertaining to

preeminence; create better opportunities for student success and expanding specialized programs, including doctoral and research at the regional institutions without all the current barriers and high costs associated with establishing such programs that will benefit the local workforce and economic development, and cut down on repetitive independent programs at each institution, allowing funds to focus on other areas for student success. AVP Walsh shared that USF Tampa stands to be preeminent this year and this bill in its current form would not impact that status. This bill does move the university back under one data source in July 2020 in which the measurement would expand to all campuses. This would also put USF in line with the other SUS institutions around the state. He also stressed that the bill is clear that there is to be no impact on the students to the extent possible and no gap in accreditation.

Chair Lamb reiterated to the trustees that this board continues to demonstrate the ability to focus on students and this bill will not have an impact on students including no gap in accreditation. He stressed as others did that no matter what the structure is, the USF System is focused and moving forward. He also stressed that this bill gives us time to plan and the authority to do so. We will listen and communicate through a transparent process and that there are a lot of questions out there that we just cannot answer. He thanked the trustees for their productive conversation and as further information comes available, it will be disseminated.

Governance Committee Chair Zimmerman thanked the trustees for participating in the Committee's call as well as AVP Walsh, President Genshaft and Trustees Goforth and Shinn for their passion and helping to lead a healthy conversation. Lastly, he thanked Chair Lamb for his leadership of the Board.

Having no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned by Governance Committee Chair Zimmerman at 9:51 a.m.