

NOTES
USF Consolidation Task Force
Task Force Call
September 26, 2018

Present: Dr. Jonathan Ellen, Chair; Alison Barlow, Anddrikk Frazier, Michael Griffin, Melissa Seixas, Byron Shinn, Rick Piccolo, Kayla Rykiel, Dr. Martin Tadlock, Dr. Tonjua Williams

I. Call to Order

Chair Ellen called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. New Business – Action Items

August 22, 2018 meeting notes were approved unanimously. Chair Ellen thanked everyone for their ongoing work and support of the Task Force.

III. New Business – Information Items

a. Subcommittee Updates

Melissa Seixas provided an overview of the Shared Governance and Transparency subcommittee hearing on September 11th in St. Petersburg, where the subcommittee heard from subject matter experts on fee structure, student governance and strategic planning. The fee structure is a multifaceted issue, recognizing that it reflects the diversity of the campuses and will be an ongoing discussion. She applauded the student government presidents for showing an incredible spirit of collaboration and explained the differences on each campus as well as potential solutions moving forward. Dr. Gregory Teague gave an overview of various strategic planning processes and how the new goals and objectives would fit into the ongoing planning. Ms. Seixas concluded by noting their third and final hearing is scheduled for October 2 and will focus on faculty governance and general education requirements.

Mike Griffin provided an overview of the Student Success, Academic Programs and Campus Identity subcommittee's hearing on August 28th in Sarasota-Manatee. The hearing highlighted the demands from a labor market perspective for each of the communities, giving the committee a better idea of where academic programs could be located in response to area need. From those presentations, the subcommittee charged the Huron consultants to prepare some initial recommendations for an academic structure for "one" USF. The subcommittee asked Huron to benchmark against universities in the state of Florida, but also peer and aspirational peer universities throughout the country.

On September 19th, the Student Success, Academic Programs and Campus Identity subcommittee met again to discuss the initial proposal produced by Huron. The goal was to

provide information as early as possible to get feedback from the public, including campus communities as well as community at large – hoping to gain significant input from all those involved and impacted. Mr. Piccolo noted that the presentation has generated a lot of discussion but the report has also helped to establish a starting point when developing their final recommendations.

There was discussion among the Task Force members regarding the structural differences and potential adjustments moving forward. Comments regarding the Huron presentation should be forwarded to Paige Beles.

b. Internal Implementation Committee Update

Mike Stallworth, of Huron Consulting, discussed the internal Consolidation Implementation Committee (CIC) “speaker series,” which allows for outside subject matter experts to speak directly on lessons learned from other university consolidations.

The information that the Task Force continues to provide is useful to the CIC as they begin to draft their recommendations. The initial report Huron provided on the academic structure has helped shape the dialogue and recommendations proposed by the internal groups. Looking ahead, the group continues to make progress on the implementation plan timelines.

c. September 13th Board of Governors Meeting Update

Chair Ellen provided an update on the consolidation efforts to date to the Board of Governors on September 13th at New College of Florida. Chair Ellen, along with BOT Trustee Mullis, addressed the BOG on items including the Task Force timeline, Town Hall status and potential recommendations that have emerged to date. He noted the BOG was pleased so far with the approach and thanked the Task Force members for their diligence and ongoing work. Chair Ellen and Trustee Mullis will continue to give updates as needed.

d. Town Hall Open Discussion

Chair Ellen noted that there is one more Town Hall meeting and provided themes that have been heard so far during the Town Halls. He explained the comments provided good information to stimulate dialogue and thought for the Task Force members. A summary of the takeaways regarding student access are:

1. Challenges posed by higher admission standards post-consolidation can be mitigated by expanding access to bridge programs and other types of pathway programming;
2. Community partnerships are imperative to fostering student access; and
3. There must be thoughtfulness about geography in terms of academic accessibility.

Shared governance and transparency themes include:

1. Shared governance structures should facilitate participation and input from all three campuses;
2. Resources should be distributed equitably to each campus; and

3. Existing strategic plans could be useful in informing decision-making around the deployment of resources.

Finally, student success themes include:

1. Regional stakeholders stressed the importance of maintaining their unique campus identities and building upon existing academic strengths;
2. Developing the research capacity on each campus will likely require investment in research infrastructure; and
3. Future academic structures and programs within a model of “One University Geographically Distributed” were addressed, but remain an ongoing discussion.

There was discussion regarding the need for physical space at the regional campuses, given all the opportunities for academic programs and to look at the needs of the community at large for resource distribution.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.