



## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

Tuesday, June 4, 2024  
Marshall Student Center  
9:00 AM

### **MINUTES**

Chair Will Weatherford welcomed everyone and called the USF Board of Trustees meeting to order. He took a moment to welcome the new Student Body President and Trustee, Suryakanth Gottipati.

Chair Weatherford commented that the last three Student Body Presidents were from other countries which speaks volumes about the diversity at USF. He reminded Suryakanth that the student voice is critical to the USF Board of Trustees and his voice on the Board matters.

Suryakanth greeted everyone and expressed his excitement of becoming a Trustee and he's looking forward to serving on the Board.

Chair Weatherford announced that today was Trustee Jenifer Jasinski Schneider's last BOT meeting. He thanked her for her two years of service to the Board and for her great representation of the USF Faculty.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Weatherford presented Trustee Jasinski Schneider with a plaque for her service and leadership to the USF Board of Trustees.

Trustee Jasinski Schneider commented on her amazing experience serving as a USF Trustee. She appreciates the outstanding leadership, advocacy, care and concern displayed by the Board members. Trustee Jasinski Schneider gave special thanks to President Rhea Law and Provost Prasant Mohapatra for their tremendous leadership.

Chair Weatherford reported that June 1<sup>st</sup> was the one-year anniversary of USF being accepted into the Association of American Universities (AAU). This is one of the most significant milestones in USF history.

Over the past year this designation has helped our institution accelerate in many ways. It helps with recruitment, retention and attracting talented students, faculty and staff. There is still work to do to remain in this status and show that we are worthy of this designation. Chair Weatherford thanked everyone for making USF elite.



Chair Weatherford thanked Adriana for her presentation, for being a role model as well as a leader. He proceeded with the meeting.

Before calling on President Law for her report, Chair Weatherford announced that President Rhea Law received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the institution in which she received her Law Degree, Stetson University.

## **President's Report**

President Law thanked Adriana for her presentation and for being a role model.

President Rhea Law provided an update discussing the following:

- National attention associated with campuses disruption and protests involving the right of freedom of expression.

USF has experienced peaceful protests on all campuses. We abide the right of free speech; however, we condemn hate speech and incidents of antisemitism, islamophobia and bigotry. It's critical that we uphold our values and keep our focus on how we carry out our mission. The President urges everyone to do their part to ensure USF continues to be a safe and peaceful place where we treat each other with respect, even when we have opposing views.

- The Spring Commencement ceremonies proceeded accordingly without disruption.

There were 4 days of ceremonies conferring over 7000 degrees. The newest class came from 46 states and 89 nations, featuring 168 student veterans and 114 King O'Neal Scholars.

The youngest graduate was 17 years old, earning a bachelor's degree in health sciences. The most experienced graduate was 69 years old, earning a master's degree in history.

- President Law participated in the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine Commencement Ceremony. There were 177 students who achieved medical degrees. The Class of 2024 was the 1<sup>st</sup> graduating class to start and finish at the downtown USF Morsani College of Medicine location.
- We're opening a College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing. There will be a soft opening this fall. The full operation will begin next fall. USF is the 1<sup>st</sup> university in the state of Florida and one of the first in the country to start a College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing. This has sparked interest and attention in USF.

- USF's Annual Giving week was a huge success, receiving more than \$7 million dollars. There were 9259 donors; 1408 of them were new. The overall total was a 70% increase in alumni donors from the previous year.

The President expressed heartfelt appreciation to the donors who contributed.

- A new Student Center / Atala Residence Hall is set to open at the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus in fall 2024. The name of the residence hall was selected by a committee of students, faculty and staff for the residence portion of the of the building.
- The On-Campus Stadium - A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. This will take place during Homecoming.
- The USF Athletic Teams - Both men and women are doing phenomenal in sports and with GPA's. This past spring semester they have averaged a 3.0 GPA. For the past 19 semesters, USF student athletes have averaged a GPA of 3.0 or better.

President Law commended the commitment of our faculty and staff who work with student athletes making sure that they get what's needed from an educational perspective while pursuing their athletic goals.

- USF Men's Track and Field Team- W(ng. r)-11 (aATc 0.004 Twam)T(th)2 (le)6 (tic (i) t)-2 (S)-8 (F)2 (l



- 1 University Medical Services Assoc., Inc., USF Medical Services Support Corp. & USF Health Services Support Organization, Inc.
- 2 USF Institute of Applied Engineering
- 3 USF Research Foundation, Inc.
- 4 USF Foundation, Inc.
- 5 USF Health Professions Conferencing Corp.
- 6 Sun Dome, Inc.
- 7 USF Alumni Association, Inc.
- 8 USF Financing Corp. & USF Property Corp.

FL 107 – Stadium Project CM Agreement

FL 108 – Pizzo K-8 School Ground Sublease

FL 109 – USF 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (2025/26-2029/30)

### **The ACE Committee**

Trustee Horton reported on behalf of the ACE Committee. After a thorough review the committee recommends approval of all items.

FL 110 - Faculty Nominations for Tenure

FL 111 - Tenure as a Condition of Employment

### **UFF Representative**

UFF President Steve Lang provided an update on the following.

- The USF sailing teams – Both USF women’s varsity sailing team and the Co-ed Club Sailing Team made it to the semifinals at the May Madness Sailing Competition. Next spring USF will host the college nationals for sailing in Miami.
  
- USF Faculty and the effects of extreme legislation.
- Reports of discontent
- The Union
- Faculty promotions
- DEI
- Maintaining AAU
- Challenges of hiring faculty
- The USF Bargaining Team

Chair Weatherford thanked Dr. Lang for his comments and concerns then requested a motion from the Board to approve the consent agenda.

The motion was given by Vice Chair Griffin, seconded by Trustee Jasinski Schneider and the consent agenda items FL 102 - FL 111 were approved.

## **New Business – Action Items**

### **FL 112 – USF FY 2024-25 Continuation and Operating Budgets**

Vice President Jennifer Condon & Controller Masha Galchenko presented. They provided an update on the budget.

The USF Board of Trustees (BOT) is required to adopt and approve an annual budget for the operation of the University. The Board of Governors (BOG) has a two-part submission for the budget.

1. The preliminary operating budget must be approved by the BOT and submitted to the BOG by June 18, 2024.
2. The FY24-25 Operating Budget must be approved by the BOT and submitted to the BOG in mid-August 2024 (exact date has not been communicated yet).

A power point was provided on the Fiscal Year 2024- 2025 Operating Budget. It highlighted the following:

- FY 2024-2025 Operating Budget
- Board Approval Timeline
- Proposed Actions
- Funding Sources
- Funding Uses

Chair Weatherford commented that the new revenue is subject to signature by the Governor between now and July 1<sup>st</sup>. We anticipate that there will not be a negative impact on the budget as it relates to USF. The Chair thanked Vice President Condon and USF Controller Galchenko for their presentation then opened the floor for questions or comments pertaining to the budget. Having no comments Chair Weatherford requested a motion for the approval of the continuing operating budget.

The motion was given by Trustee Horton, seconded by Trustee Carrere and the Continuation and Operating Budgets were approved.

### **FL 113 – Global Virus Network Agreement**

Chair Weatherford presented item FL 113. The Trustee members received information on the Global Virus Network to review in advance.

By partnering with the Global Virus Network (GVN) USF can significantly advance its research and educational missionsnce3 (us)-1 nce3 (us)blls a worllader in virology and infec(us)-1 di4 (3 (us)b)-12 (a)4 ( students as well as the public-at-lrge locally, nationally, and internationally. Thi4 (3 (us)b) partner(us)b3 p wi )4nal(us)bo( of)3 (us)bu9tion aus)





Trustee Jasinski Schneider reported the faculty's involvement on the former golf course project. Vice President Post has done a great job involving the faculty. She has frequently met with the Faculty Senate Leadership, the Senate and with Trustee Jasinski Schneider. She has been transparent throughout the process and the faculty is in full support of this project.

### **BOT Roundtable Discussion**

Vice Chair Griffin opened the floor for the Trustees to discuss any occurrences, items or concerns.

The Vice Chair thanked Trustee Jasinski Schneider for her professionalism as it relates to the Board and for her personal friendship and support.

Trustee Jasinski Schneider reported that David Simmons is the new Senate President and will attend the next Board meeting. Dr. Simmons is a chemical, biological, and material Engineer and will be a great asset to the Board.

Trustee Carrere acknowledged the importance of the faculty and student representation and input to the Board.

Chair Weatherford commented on USF's vision for the golf course property and the importance of implementing the right process. He acknowledged the positive impact that it will have on the community as well as how it will elevate and take the University of South Florida to the next level.

The Chair also commented on the professionalism of the campus police and other security agencies which were involved in keeping the university safe during the protests and commencement ceremonies. We will not allow disruption to everyday business on the USF campuses. Chair Weatherford thanked President Law and her leadership team for their guidance and the Trustee members for their dedication.

Having no other questions or concerns from the Board, Chair Weatherford adjourned the BOT meeting and announced that the Budget Workshop meeting will convene after a brief break.