CONSTITUTION OF THE

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SYSTEM FACULTY COUNCIL (SFC)**

**ARTICLE I: Purpose**

The System Faculty Council (SFC) constitutes the principal Faculty advisory body to the University of South Florida System President and to his/her designees charged with oversight duties for the USF System. It embodies the University’s philosophical commitment to, and represents the practical application of, the principle of shared governance between Faculty members and Administrators. Pursuant to the USF System Policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (10-050), Faculty and Administrators are pledged ‘to actively foster within the University a climate favorable to responsible exercise of freedom by developing and maintaining academic policies and processes in which the professional judgments of Faculty members are of primary importance.’ Because Faculty members are the vital elements through which the University functions, the will, advice, and guidance of the Faculty are essential to preserving this climate within the USF System.

**ARTICLE II: Function**

The various functions of the USF SFC fall under two main headings: 1) to review and recommend the implementation of policies across the member institutions and campuses of the USF System and 2) to transmit, as fully and accurately as possible, the views of Faculty members from across the System.

*Section 1: Reviewing Policies and Procedures*

The SFC does not replace the Faculty Senates that operate on the constituent campuses and institutions. Rather it seeks to share ideas and establish common procedures that will be implemented by the Faculty and Administrators on each campus. The SFC determines whether established processes have been methodically, fairly, and thoroughly implemented at each institution/campus, particularly in those matters that impact the working lives of Faculty. It also ensures that the wishes of individual Faculty members in the important matters of academic unit restructuring and curricular development are heard, and that all affected parties are given the opportunity to share their views.

*Section 2: Representing the Will of the System Faculty*

Composed of Faculty representatives elected from each of the member institutions and campuses of the USF System, the SFC will convey a sense of the Faculty’s opinion on any significant matter, and to a wide variety of interested parties. Because the President of the SFC is also the Faculty representative on the USF Board of Trustees, s/he plays a vital role in advising both the System President and the Board. Furthermore, in the furtherance of the goal of shared Faculty governance, the SFC recommends the appointment of Faculty members to the standing Board of Trustees Workgroups, where key aspects of the System’s long-term goals are determined.

Moreover, the SFC President and Vice-President provide a critical link between the USF System Faculty and the Faculty of other Universities in Florida’s State University System (SUS). They attend regular meetings of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS), which includes representatives from each of the State’s Universities. Additionally, the opinions of the SFC should be transmitted, whenever possible, to the Faculty representative on the SUS’s Board of Governors.

The SFC also provides a vital channel of communication between the USF Faculty and the larger community whom the University is designed to serve. The SFC President is empowered to represent the views of Faculty from across the System to all available media outlets, especially when a critical issue is facing the USF System and/or the future of higher education in our larger community is at stake.

**ARTICLE III: Procedures**

The SFC Bylaws address all procedural matters, under the headings of Membership and Duties, Officers, Councils and Committees, Meetings, Voting Procedures and Quorum, and Action on Recommendations and Resolutions. The SFC shall review this Constitution every two years in order to identify potential alterations. Amendments to the Bylaws (or to this Constitution) will require a 2/3 vote of the SFC membership, and such voting may be conducted electronically to ensure full participation.

**ARTICLE IV: Compliance**

The provisions of this Constitution shall not be construed in any manner so as to conflict with the laws of the State of Florida, the policies of the SUS Board of Governors or the USF Board of Trustees, or contractual agreements between the USF Board of Trustees and Faculty bargaining agents.

Adopted by the SFC at its regular meeting, 20 September 2012.