



March 13, 2019

Mr. Ned Lautenbach
Chair, Board of Governors
State University System of Florida

Dear Chair Lautenbach,

In the spring of 2018, Governor Rick Scott signed the “Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018” into law, which required the three University of South Florida (USF) campuses to consolidate under a single accreditation. Pursuant to the law, the USF Board of Trustees (BOT) must submit an Implementation Plan and Timeline to the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida (BOG) by March 15, 2019. Today, the USF BOT is pleased to submit the Implementation Plan and Timeline, which will provide a valuable framework for the work ahead.

From the legislatively mandated USF Consolidation Planning Study and Implementation Task Force to the consolidation implementation committees and staff who have contributed their thoughts and perspectives – this has and will continue to be a team effort, in the spirit of unity and collaboration. Toward that, the BOG has been an integral player, providing valuable feedback and guidance, allowing us to reach this important milestone. The BOT and university administration appreciate the opportunities the BOG has afforded to provide consolidation updates including several conference calls with Chancellor Criser and BOG staff, a formal update to the BOG Strategic Planning Committee in September of 2018, and an in-person meeting in Tallahassee to discuss the draft Implementation Plan and Timeline in February.

The law mandates that the Implementation Plan and Timeline address how the BOT is preparing to:

- Terminate Existing Separate Campus Accreditations and Replace with a Consolidated Institutional Accreditation
- Minimize Disruption to all USF Students
- Prepare for Data Consolidation

Consolidation offers opportunities to leverage the unique identity of each campus while continuing to provide a world-class education as one geographically-distributed university. USF remains committed

A Preeminent Research University

to strengthening Preeminence, optimizing Performance-Based Funding outcomes, and advancing our collective strategic priorities while continuing to serve the best interest of our students, the Tampa Bay region, and the state of Florida.

The BOG will continue to play a critical role in the success of consolidation. We have made significant progress and are looking forward to the BOG's ongoing collaboration as we move ahead with consolidation. This transparent process has invigorated the University of South Florida's commitment to greater student success, better institutional performance outcomes, more empowered faculty, improved research capacity, and greater community partnerships. The future is exciting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Lamb
Chair, USF Board of Trustees