

A MESSAGE FROM THE USF CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE CHAIR

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Friends of USF:

As the new academic year begins, I would like to provide an update on the work of the USF Consolidation Planning Study and Implementation Task Force. On March 11, 2018, Governor Rick Scott signed the Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018, requiring the USF System – composed of University of South Florida Tampa, University of South Florida St. Petersburg and University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee – to consolidate accreditations under one umbrella.

In accordance with the Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act, the USF Consolidation Planning Study and Implementation Task Force was established. The law requires the Task Force to make recommendations to the USF Board of Trustees on areas including student access, shared governance, academic programs and campus identity. The Task Force is comprised of members of the community, the President of USF and the Regional Chancellors at USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee and is operating from a shared set of guiding principles set forth by the USF Board of Trustees.

The Task Force has divided into three subcommittees with each currently holding hearings with subject matter experts speaking to each subcommittee's substantive scope. We encourage members of the USF community to attend the subcommittee hearings. A complete list of hearing dates and subcommittee information can be found on our website: bit.ly/usf-consolidation.

An important part of the process is hearing from faculty, staff and community members. In order to do so in a meaningful way, we invite you to hear a status update on the Task Force's work and to share public comment regarding USF accreditation consolidation at a series of upcoming Town Hall meetings:

▶ **AUG. 22, 2018 | 3:00 PM**

USF Tampa, Marshall Student Center 3707

▶ **SEPT. 11, 2018 | 2:00 PM**

USF St. Petersburg, Student Center Ballroom

▶ **OCT. 2, 2018 | 3:00 PM**

USF Sarasota-Manatee, Selby Auditorium

For more information about the USF Consolidation Task Force, including members, agendas, materials, public comment procedure and meeting notes, please visit our website at: bit.ly/usf-consolidation.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Paige Beles Geers at paigebeles@usf.edu.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jonathan Ellen

