



**Board of Trustees Academics and Campus Environment Committee
Meeting**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Minutes

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Chair Oscar Horton welcomed everyone to the ACE Committee meeting and asked Kiara Gayle to call the roll.

Trustee Cesar Esmeraldi
Trustee Oscar Horton
Trustee Jenifer Jasinski Schneider
Trustee Lauran Monbarren
Trustee Fredrick Piccolo
Trustee Melissa Seixas – Did not participate.

Public Comments Subject to USF Procedure

There were no public comments.

Chair Horton proceeded with the meeting.

New Business – Action Items

Approval of the November 20, 2023, meeting minutes.

Chair Horton requested a motion to approve the November 20, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was given by Trustee Piccolo, seconded by Trustee Monbarren, and approved.

New Degree Proposal

Dean Anthony Rolle provided a summary of the new degree proposal.

This new degree will create an Ed.S. in the School of Psychology. The proposed new degree will allow our graduates to be credentialed at the School of Psychology, by both Florida Department of Education and the Nationally Certified School of Psychologists as required by the National Association of School of Psychologists. The program is also approved by the BOG as a Program of Strategic Emphasis.

A power point was provided which highlighted the following:

- USF College of Education - Tampa, Sarasota-Manatee and St. Pete. – One College
- Request To Offer a New Degree Program
- Request To Offer a New Degree Program Ed.S. in School Psychology

Chair Horton's questions were concerning the ratio of School Psychologists to students, the need for this degree and the pay.

Dean Rolle commented on the economic challenges and other social issues since 2017 which has increased the demand for these services. The current average salary for this type of position is between \$75,000 - \$90,000 averaging approximately \$86,000 a year per individual.

Having no further questions, Chair Horton requested a motion to approve. Trustee Esmeraldi moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Piccolo and approved.

Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning, Construction and Development Jennifer Fleischman presented the item. They are seeking to approve the renewal of the Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA).

The State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has an established Mutual Aid Agreement to coordinate the sharing of resources among Florida government entities for emergency aid and assistance before, during, or after a major or catastrophic disaster. The SMAA is pursuant to the Emergency Management Act, located in Florida Statue Chapter 252 governing emergency management for the State of Florida. Participating parties to the SMAA may request resource support from one another or through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The SMAA outlines important details and procedures on the use, cost, reimbursement, and insurance requirements by which signing parties must abide.

Trustee Piccolo commented on his company having mutual aid agreements as a government agency in the airport. This is highly recommended.

Chair Horton questioned if the mutual aid agreements only apply for the state of Florida. Would we participate if mutual aid was needed elsewhere?

Assistant Vice President Fleischman's comments were that an agreement with the EMAC process is an option. She has been deployed to North Carolina as member of a statewide team through the statewide mutual aid agreement.

Chair Horton requested a motion to approve. Trustee Piccolo moved for approval, it was seconded by Trustee Jasinski Schneider and approved.

Regulation 6.0021 – Student Code of Conduct

USF Dean of Students Danielle McDonald provided an update on the substantive amendments for Regulation 6.0021 Student Code of Conduct.

Amendments to align with §553.865, Florida Statutes requirements and other changes made for clarification.

Student Conduct and Ethical Development (further referred to as “SCED”) supports the goals, mission, values, and visions of the University of South Florida by promoting responsibility and adherence to the standards of behavior outlined in this Regulation (“Student Code of Conduct” or “Code”).

A power point was provided which highlighted the following:

- Student Code of Conduct Revisions – Summary of Changes
- Section VI: Conduct Violations
- VII Process
- Formal Hearing Procedures
- Appeals & Sanctions
- Record Retention & Expungement

Dean McDonald reported that all three USF campuses were involved in the substantial changes that were made to the Student Code of Conduct Regulations. They worked closely and received feedback from our Student Conduct and Ethical Development office.

Chair Horton had a question concerning the changes that were made to the Student Code of Conduct regulations. Could these amendments to the regulations be characterized as just cleaning up or maintenance work? He also commented that some areas of the regulation appear to be controversial.

Dean McDonald replied yes some of the changes can be considered as clean-up work except for the new sections of the agreement. We must comply with the BOG directives and add to our student code of conduct.

Trustee Jasinski Schneider commented on the Bathroom Bill. This has had an impact on both faculty and students and is a significant issue.

Dean McDonald commented that the Bathroom Bill is a new addition to the Student Code of Conduct in the unauthorized access and or use section of the regulation, under #5.

The USF General Counsel Gerard Solis comments were on the process of BOG directives. They are statutory requirements that we must add into the Student Code of Conduct. Dean McDonald and her team will establish how they will process these matters moving forward. There's also a disciplinary possibility for employees required in the statute.

Trustee Esmeraldi commended Dean McDonald, her team and everyone who worked on the revisions to the Student Code of Conduct, making it more structural. He asked if students had input on the revisions.

Dean McDonald stated that some of the changes were requirements from the BOG therefore no focus groups were involved, however, they have worked closely and received feedback from students.

Trustee Jasinski Schneider comments were on faculty and students not being able to provide feedback. This is a missed opportunity for a wider and clear understanding of the Bill and the changes to the Code of Conduct. It's important to call it what it is which is the Bathroom Bill.

Dean McDonald stated that they are always educating students about the student code of conduct, what it means, and helping them understand the process, their options, rights, and responsibilities. The Dean also commented on the check list and strict timeline to comply with the BOG.

Chair Horton asked if we've ever had a complaint in the past? The Dean replied that this has never been an issue, it's all about complying with the Florida law.

Chair Horton thanked Dean McDonald for her presentation and explanation on the process as it relates to the BOG directives and Student Code of Conduct regulations.

Chair Horton requested a motion to approve the Student Code of Conduct regulation amendments. The motion was given by Trustee Piccolo, seconded by Trustee Esmeraldi, and approved.

Round Table discussion

Chair Horton opened the floor for questions, concerns, and discussion.

Trustee Jasinski Schneider discussed two regulations and the impact that they have had on faculty recruitment, retention, and graduate student recruitment. These are called DEI Prohibited Expenses and the Foreign Influence regulations. Trustee Jasinski Schneider thanked the USF General Counsel Gerard Solis and his team for their guidance as well as the Research Council and HR.

General Counsel Solis's comments surrounded the fact that these regulations are new territory. The Foreign Influence regulation guidance that they will give does align with what the other preeminent universities are doing. Trustee Jasinski Schneider and the Faculty Senate will be the first to hear of the regulation guidance.

Chair Horton asked when will the Board have a full explanation of the regulation guidance. General Counsel Solis explained that these topics can be presented, as they do have an impact on how we operate.

President Law provided an update. Per conversations last night, the BOG is looking for an expedited process on how to deal with students from countries of concern. There were no discussions concerning faculty, however the BOG is fully aware of the hardships and impact and will continue to seek solutions.

Trustee Esmeraldi thanked President Law, General Counsel Solis, and Trustee Jasinski Schneider for their communication with the Board of Governors. This is very important to the students, our research and for the development of all schools in Florida.

Having no other business to discuss Chair Horton adjourned the ACE Committee meeting.