



## **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.

The Chair announced that on October 18<sup>th</sup> we will have a groundbreaking for the new on-campus football stadium. This will help to activate our campus in a way in which it has never been activated before. The groundbreaking along with other festivities will take place during the week of Homecoming.

Chair Weatherford reminded the Board members that there will be a Budget Workshop following today's Board meeting. He asked Kiara Gayle to call the roll.

### **Kiara Gayle called the Roll**

Trustee Sandra Callahan  
Trustee Mike Carrere  
Trustee Rogan Donelly  
Trustee Suryakanth Gottipati  
Trustee Mike Griffin  
Trustee Oscar Horton  
Trustee Jenifer Jasinski Schneider  
Trustee Lauran Monbarren- Did not participate.  
Trustee Shilen Patel  
Trustee Fredrick Piccolo  
Trustee Melissa Seixas - Did not participate.  
Trustee Will Weatherford

### **Student Presentation**

Adriana Aranguibel is a senior and Cybersecurity Major at USF. She shared her experience with the Board with a short video and presentation.

Adriana chose to attend USF because of the networking opportunities and technical excellence. She started as a pre-med student then realized there was need for women in technology. She changed her major to engineering.

Adriana and a group of peers at USF founded The Women in Cybersecurity Club. Their goal is to foster a more inclusive environment by shaping the future of the industry and promoting and increasing women in technology. They also aim to offer women a more supportive community by providing education, mentorship and networking opportunities.

Growing up in Venezuela and attending school in the US has allowed Adriana to experience challenges, but those have not stopped her from giving back to her community with gratitude. She envisions herself in the future serving on the front lines in defense for Cybersecurity, ensuring integrity and data preferably in a healthcare environment and around HIPPA compliance. Adriana is open to working in any area relating to different aspects of the information technology field.

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- Won the Indoor Conference in February and recently won the Outdoor Championships.
- The USF Women's Track and Field Team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Outdoor Championships.
- There are 12 track and field athletes (8 men and 4 women) who are competing in the NCAA Championships in 7 events. This will take place starting tomorrow in Eugene Oregon.
- The USF Golf Team won their 6<sup>th</sup> AAC Championship.
- New College Deans update:

Dr. Elizabeth Spiller is the new College of Arts and Sciences Dean. She recently served as the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer at the University of Nebraska Lincoln and has more than 10 years of experience as an academic leader. She will start in July.

Dr. David Blackwell was introduced as the new Dean of the Muma College of Business. He recently served as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business and Economics.

- The upcoming Budget Workshop – The President is looking forward to the Budget Workshop to implement the vision of USF over the next several years.

- President Law introduced a special guest. Snowbird is a Goldador Retriever and USF St. Petersburg's first ever comfort dog. Snowbird was in attendance with his handler Officer Lickenfelt of the USFSP Police Department. Snowbird will be an important resource for our students when they're feeling stressed. President Law presented Snowbird with a gift and posed for a photo.
- Each of the Trustees received a book written by General Frank McKenzie. This was a gift from President Rhea Law and her husband Wayne Williams. The book was titled *The Melting Point: High Command and War in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

### **New Business – Action Items (Minutes and Consent)**

FL 101 – Approval of Minutes

March 18, 2024

April 30, 2024

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was given by Trustee Horton, seconded by Trustee Griffin and approved.

### **Consent Agenda (FL 102 – FL-111)**

The Chair thanked all who stepped up to volunteer time to serve on the different committees and boards. They are all important entities that help represent the university.

### **The Governance Committee**

Chair Weatherford reported on behalf of the Governance Committee. After a thorough review of all items the committee recommends approval.

FL 102 – USF Research Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

FL 103 – USF Alumni Association Board of Directors

FL 104 – USF St. Petersburg Campus Board Members

FL 105 – USF Intercollegiate Athletics Association Bylaws

### **The Finance Committee**

Vice Chair Griffin reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. After a thorough review of all items the committee recommends approval.

FL 106 – DSO 2024-25 Annual Financial Plans

- 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 missions, position itself as a world-leader in virology and infectious disease, including viruses that cause cancer, while providing substantial benefits to faculty, trainees, and students as well as the public-at-large locally, nationally, and internationally. This partnership will also offer USF significant opportunities for research grants and fundraising.

Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve the Global Virus Network Agreement. The motion was given by Trustee Piccolo, seconded by Trustee Patel and approved.

## **New Business – Information Item**

### **FL 114 – Former Golf Course Update**

**Vice President** Carole Post presented the item.

This item will come before the Board for a vote as a P3 Agreement. Vice President Post commented on wanting transparency, visibility and to ensure that everyone is a part of the process as it unfolds. She recognized Sr. Associate General Counsel Hilliary Black and Sr. Vice President Eric Eisenberg for their invaluable guidance on this project.

A power point was provided which highlighted the following:

- Former Golf Course Update
- Overview – The Site
- Tampa Campus and Surrounding Activities
- Strategic Objectives for the Project
- Listening Sessions for USF Participants
- Emerging Themes for Possible Uses for the Site
- Public Solicitation Process and Timing
- Community and CBE Involvement
- Questions / Feedback

Vice President Post commented that the project team is very optimistic at the opportunities that lie ahead for USF and the entire university area. She welcomed questions or feedback from the Board.

Vice Chair Griffin thanked Vice President Post for her presentation, transparency and a look into a broader vision as it relates to this project for USF and the surrounding area.

Trustee Patel also thanked Vice President Post for her presentation on the plans for the former golf course and the work her team is doing. This is a massive opportunity and having the right long-term outcome will be complementary to the University.

Trustee Carrere had questions concerning the immediate area behind the University Mall. Does it involve improvement plans that we envision for USF?

Vice President Post's comments were on the fact that USF have been participants around that parcel for many years however it isn't our land. With the help of Vice President Eisenberg's leadership there are plans to revisit a collaboration with the organizations who are representing the ownership group to take it to the next level.

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.