



**USF Board of Trustees Meeting  
December 10, 2024  
Marshall Student Center – 9:30 am**

Chair Will Weatherford welcomed everyone to the Board of Trustees meeting and called the meeting to order.

Chair Weatherford recognized and thanked Trustee Horton and his wife for their generosity of the 1-million-dollar donation to the stadium. He also recognized and thanked the Gonzmart family for their generosity and their significant financial investment in the new stadium.

Chair Weatherford commented about the Women's Volleyball team and how they won the AAC and won their conference. It was an incredible season, and we are excited to see where they go in the future.

Chair Weatherford commented on the recent storms that impacted all our campuses and thanked the leadership, the security team, and campus police for being there for us and our students and keeping us safe.

**Chair Weatherford asked Brittany Dix to call the Roll.**

Trustee Sandra Callahan – not in attendance  
Trustee Mike Carrere  
Trustee Rogan Donelly  
Trustee Suryakanth Gottipati  
Trustee Michael Griffin  
Trustee Oscar Horton  
Trustee Luran Monbarren  
Trustee Shilen Patel  
Trustee Rick Piccolo  
Trustee Melissa Seixas  
Trustee David Simmons  
Trustee Will Weatherford

A quorum was established.

## **Student Presentation**

Third-year resident, Zayn Mohamed spoke about his journey at USF where he graduated at the age of eighteen. He is currently in the Interventional Integrated Radiology Program at USF and has also earned a law degree from Stetson. He, his mom and three brothers all graduated from USF. He spoke about all the opportunities the University has given him such as being in the School of Music, Honors College, student council, community service and studying abroad.

Chair Weatherford thanked Zayn for his presentation.

## **President's Report**

President Law provided an update which highlighted the following:

- Research grants for 2024 total 738 million which is 37% higher than the last two years.
- Commencement this week consists of five different ceremonies with almost 4,000 students, representing 42 states and 93 countries. The youngest graduate is 16 years old, and the most experienced graduate is 70 years old. At commencement USF will honor the legacy of the basketball coach, Amir Abdur-Rahim who passed away recently.
- President Law, Vice Chair Griffin, and Don Mullins represented USF in Italy along with the Governor to focus on economic growth opportunities in Florida and to sign a contract for new equipment for reconstructive oncology care. There are only four of these machines available in the United States. USF will be the only one in the Southeast with this machine. They also met with students studying abroad during their time there.
- A new program has just been launched called Leadership USF. Their focus is specifically on USF and its connection with our community. It is a six-month long program where participants will visit all our locations (except for Key West) to see the different types of research, connections and partnerships that we have across the University.
- For the second year straight, the USF football team is eligible for a bowl game and will be playing against San Jose State in Hawaii. President Law will attend the Bowl game on December 24, 2024.
- The Campus Stadium groundbreaking last month was a success and an exciting time.
- USF's student athletes are excelling in academics. The graduation rate has been increasing each year and is currently at 88%, which is an all-time high.
- Regional Chancellor Karen Holbrook will be retiring this month and was recognized and thanked for her history at USF through multiple leadership positions as well as her current tenure at Sarasota Manatee Campus.

- Fell Stubbs was recognized and thanked for his accomplishments over his career at USF beginning in 2005. He has served as the Treasurer and Executive Director of the Financing Corporation and the Property Corporation. He assisted in many projects such as USF Village, Marshall Center, Research Park, Morsani, South Tampa Health Clinics, CAMLS and the On-Campus Stadium. President Law thanked him for everything he has done and wishes him in well in his retirement. Dawn Rodriguez has been training with Fell and will now be the permanent USF Treasurer.

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

### **FL 101 – Approval of Minutes**

1. September 10, 2024, BOT Meeting

There were no questions or revisions to the minutes. Chair Weatherford requested a motion to approve. The motion was given by Trustee Piccolo and seconded by Trustee Patel and was approved.

### **Consent Agenda (FL 102 – FL 108)**

#### Governance Committee Approved Items

#### **FL 102 – USF Direct-Support Organizations – Sun Dome, Inc.**

- a. Name Change
- b. Amendments to Bylaws
- c. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation

#### Finance Committee Approved Items

#### **FL 103 – 2025-26 USF Parking System Budget**

#### Audit & Compliance Committee Approved Items

#### **FL 104 – Approval of Revised Audit & Compliance Committee Charter**

#### **FL 105 – Approval of Revised Internal Audit Charter**

#### **FL 106 – Acceptance of Audit & Compliance Committee (ACC) Performance Assessment**

#### ACE Committee Approved Items

#### **FL 107 – Tenure as a Condition of Employment**

#### **FL 108 – B.S.C.E. In Civil Engineering, CIP Code 14.0801**

Chair Weatherford reported on behalf of the Governance Committee. After a thorough review of the items, the Committee recommended approval.

Trustee Griffin reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. After a thorough review of the items, the Committee recommended approval.

Trustee Horton reported on behalf of the Audit and Compliance Committee. After a thorough review of the items, the Committee recommended approval.

Trustee Horton reported on behalf of the ACE Committee. After a thorough review of the items, the Committee recommended approval.

## **UFF Representative**

UFF President Steve Lang provided an update and highlighted the following:

- Master Plan Amendment New Stadium
- USF Sailing Team hosted the Nationals and one of our students came in 13<sup>th</sup> Nationally. The Sailing team has been invited to the Rainbow Invitational in Hawaii.
- Student athletes
- Collective Bargaining Agreement

President Law commented that we had 300 new faculty members this year and about 38% of them are from other AAU institutions. We are continuing to attract high quality faculty to USF, and we are on a trajectory to reach excellence.

Chair Weatherford thanked Steve Lang for his report.

## **Public Remarks**

There were no public comments.

The Chair requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion was given by Trustee Piccolo and seconded by Trustee Simmons. The Consent Agenda items FL102– FL108 were approved.

## **New Business – Action Items**

### **FL 109 – Tampa Campus Master Plan Amendment**

Vice President Carole Post presented the agenda item requesting approval of the USF 2020-2030 Tampa Campus Master Plan Amendment.

The Statutory procedures/requirements were shown on the PowerPoint presentation as follows:

- Newspaper notice for first public hearing on August 11, 2024
- Public “informal” information session held on August 15, 2024
- Campus Master Plan Amendment document sent out to Agencies for the Statutory 90-day review period on August 21, 2024

- Newspaper notice for second public hearing on December 1, 2024
- Campus Master Plan Amendment presented to BOT for second public hearing on December 10, 2024.

USF has now complied with all Statutory requirements, which includes an informal public information session, published notices and submittal of the draft amendment to the applicable governmental agencies for comment and is seeking the Board's approval.

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

### **BOT Roundtable Discussion**

Trustee Carrere commented on the research funding and thanked the Board for their aggressive direction in reaching our goals.

Trustee Simmons echoed Trustee Carrere's comments and added that it requires strict investments to achieve faculty research success.

Trustee Piccolo recognized and congratulated Chancellor Holbrook on her retirement and commended her for the outstanding job she has done at the Sarasota Manatee Campus.

Trustee Gottipati thanked everyone for the support and the funds which are growing in research and how the University is taking care of the international students and its new global center.

Chair Weatherford made additional comments about the research funding and the direction that USF is headed.

Having no further business, Chair Weatherford thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.