

USF Board of Trustees
ACE Committee
Microsoft Teams Meeting
May 13, 2025

ACE Committee Chair Oscar Horton welcomed everyone and convened the meeting.

Chair Horton asked Kiara Gayle to call the roll.

Trustee Charbel Barakat
Trustee Oscar Horton
Trustee Luran Monbarren
Trustee Fredrick Piccolo
Trustee Melissa Seixas
Trustee David Simmons

There were no public comments.

Chair Horton proceeded with the meeting.

Chair Horton introduced the new student government president and member of the ACE Committee Sumit Jadhav. Sumit shared his background in Financial Analytics and Computer Science.

New Business – Action Items

- a. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Horton facilitated the approval of the minutes from the February 17th and April 23rd meetings. Trustee Seixas moved for approval, it was seconded, and unanimously approved.
- b. **Faculty Nominations for Tenure:** Provost Prasant Mohapatra presented the list of faculty nominations for tenure, detailing the rigorous approval process and the outcomes, including 21 tenure and promotion cases, 3 denials, and 1 withdrawal. Chair Horton and Provost Mohapatra discussed the process for faculty denied tenure, explaining that they are given one year to find other opportunities and are not eligible to reapply at USF.

Chair Horton asked if there were any questions regarding the tenure nominations. With no questions raised, Trustee Piccolo moved for approval, and Trustee Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Tenure as a Condition of Employment:** Provost Mohapatra detailed the tenure approval process for senior faculty hires, highlighting the cases of Dr. Christopher Brown and Dr. Chandra Kambhamettu, both of whom bring significant experience and funding to USF.

The Provost highlighted Dr. Brown's credentials, including his tenure at the University of Pittsburgh, his research in auditory perception and psychoacoustics, his success in obtaining NIH funding, and his role in founding the Brain and Auditory Research Initiative.

Provost Mohapatra detailed Dr. Kambhamettu's 25-year career at the University of Delaware, his success in attracting over \$15 million in external funding, and his upcoming move to USF with approximately \$3 million in funding. He will be joining the new Bellini College of AI, Cybersecurity, and Computing.

Chair Horton asked if there were any questions regarding the tenure as a condition of employment. With no questions raised, Trustee Barakat moved for approval, and Trustee Monbarren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Termination of Master's Degree in French:** Dean Elizabeth Spiller explained that the Master's degree in French is being terminated due to low degree productivity and concerns about job placement for graduates. The program has recently lost a tenured faculty member important to the program. She detailed the teach-out plan for the four current students, ensuring they will have the courses needed to graduate in a timely manner without delay. The program will continue as it currently is until the students complete their degrees.

Chair Horton asked if there were any questions regarding the termination of the Master's degree in French. Trustee Simmons commented on the deliberative process and the strategic reassessment of offerings. With no further questions, Trustee Simmons moved for approval, and Trustee Seixas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – Information Items

- a. **New Academic Programs:** Provost Mohapatra informed the board about new academic programs proposed for the 2025-2026 school year, including degrees in Architecture, Artificial Intelligence, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Fintech.

Provost Mohapatra explained the increasing demand for these programs, particularly in the areas of artificial intelligence and fintech, and the strategic importance of offering these degrees to meet workforce needs.

The Provost mentioned that these programs will be proposed for approval from the Board of Trustees during the next year.

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

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