

USF Board of Trustees Governance Committee

Tuesday August 25, 2020
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Call to Order and Comments

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stephanie Goforth at 11:17 am. She asked Dr. Cindy Visot to call roll with the following members present: Stephanie Goforth, Chair; Sandra Callahan, Les Muma, John Ramil, Nancy Watkins, Jordan Zimmerman.

Dr. Visot stated that there were no requests for public comments.

New Business – Action Items

a. FL 101 – Approval of May 14, 2020 Minutes

Chair Goforth asked if there were any changes to the minutes, there were none. Trustee Muma moved for approval with a second from Trustee Callahan. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

b. FL 102 – Approval of President’s 2020-2021 Goals

Chair Goforth explained to the committee that per the President’s contract, he must propose yearly goals and objectives based on the university’s strategic plan to the Board and Board Chair. She noted that she and Board Chair Zimmerman had reviewed these goals with the President beforehand. It is then presented to the Governance Committee, and if approved, will be presented to the full board. She also noted that the board would like to see these accomplished but it is important to consider the current situation and may need to be amended at any point, if necessary.

President Steve Currall began by discussing language in the preamble of the document that reaffirms that his goals are guided by the pursuit of comprehensive institutional excellence and he has benefitted from the input of Trustees Goforth and Zimmerman. He thanked his executive leadership committee, who also contributed to the early drafts of the document. The President stated that USF continues to maintain aspirations such as a top 25 university, AAU membership eligibility, commitment to performance-based funding and preeminence metrics, as well as language that goes beyond metrics. He acknowledged that there is a broader commitment that the university should provide “in service” to society and the community. As a research university, USF is also committed to the research and discovery process. He then gave an overview of each of the following categories:

- Research and Innovation
- Financial Stewardship
 - Budget and Finance
 - Fundraising
- Success of the Consolidated “One USF”
 - Work Environment
 - Faculty Excellence

- Staff Success
- Student Success
- Strategic Initiatives
 - USF
 - Strategic Partnerships

President Currall concluded his presentation by asking for the thoughts and feedback of the trustees.

Trustee Les Muma commented he was pleased with the goals, but suggested that there needs to be a way to track each one so that they are measurable. He recommended including a note about metrics that can be used to measure every goal so that it can be looked back upon without any gray area.

Trustee Nancy Watkins agreed and asked that the President describe what defines success.

President Currall stated that he tried to make them easily seen as “did or did not” reach the goals with goals that could be counted or indicated.

Trustee Watkins commented that the indicators should have been included in the presentation.

Trustee Zimmerman recommended that there be a baseline where USF “is” and where the goal would be reached.

President Currall stated that he would go back through each item and ensure that they all have a written, measurable assessment.

Trustee Sandra Callahan asked about weighting of the goals, as some are equal to one another, but others may want to be weighted as more or less important than others in regard to success. Trustee Zimmerman noted that in the past, they have put the goals in order of importance.

Trustee Ramil commented that weighing is a good idea, and it should also be considered what will happen when one is achieved beyond the goal and another is not. He further commented that he believed the goals really cover s all areas and holds leadership accountable, especially in supplier diversity. He recommended that something similar be added to the work environment section to hold leadership accountable for creating a culture of diversity, inclusion, and respect.

Trustee Mike Carrere commented that President Currall addressed increasing frequency of meeting with government officials and suggested that is also be added to the financial section. He commented that USF needs more support from legislature. He also requested an update on the goals in a few months instead of waiting until next year to report on status of goals. Trustee Goforth agreed and suggested that the goals be revisited around January to ensure they are still relevant and realistic.

Chair Goforth asked for any further comments, and with none, Trustee Muma moved to approve the goals with the agreement that President Currall will return to the committee with specific ways to measure each goal. Trustee Watkins seconded the motion and with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

c. FL 103 – Approval of USF Institute of Applied Engineering (IAE) Board of Directors

Chair Goforth called on Dean Bob Bishop to present the item. He shared that the IAE has an agreement with Hillsborough County, and the agreement provides up to \$5.3 million to assist with funding. The agreement also requires that the county administrator (or his or her designee) to serve as a member of the IAE Board of Directors. The previous administrator retired in June 2020, and the current administrator, Bonnie Wice nominated Ronald Barton for a three-year appointment. Dean Bishop stated that he is the architect of the grant agreement so he is very familiar with the IAE.

Trustee Watkins moved to approve the appointment with a 2nd from Trustee Ramil. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

d. FL 104 - Approval of Foundation Board of Directors

Chair Goforth called on Jay Stroman to present the item to the Board.

Mr. Stroman presented five members for reappointment to the Foundation Board of Directors. He then presented seven new members that were selected through a rigorous process through their nominations committee.

Trustee Muma moved to approve the reappointed members and new members, seconded by Trustee Watkins. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

e. FL 105 – Approval of Research Foundation Board of Directors

Chair Goforth called on Dr. Paul Sanberg to present the item.

Dr. Sanberg presented one reappointment and two new members.

Trustee Watkins moved to approve the reappointed member and new members, seconded by Trustee Muma. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

f. FL 106 – Approval of Sarasota-Manatee Campus Board Members

Trustee Goforth called on President Currall to present the item.

President Currall recommended the reappointment of Dr. Anila Jain to the Sarasota-Manatee Campus Board as well as the new appointments of Lisa Carlton, Diana Michel, and Ernie Withers.

Trustee Shinn commented that Lisa Carlton was instrumental to the facility funding at the Sarasota-Manatee campus in the early 2000's and has a great history and deep roots with them. He stated that they are all great picks for the campus board and encourages the other board members to get to know the new appointees.

Regional Chancellor Dr. Karen Holbrook gave her support for the appointees and stated that there was a lot of time spent making sure they knew the university.

President Currall stated that he had been thinking about a new onboarding process to help the new campus board members get adjusted and acquainted with the university. He stated that he will work with Dr.

Holbrook to do that and arrange time to spend with the new appointees. Trustee Goforth recommended that the St. Petersburg members be included as well.

Trustee Muma moved to approve the motion and it was seconded by Trustee Watkins. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business – Information Items

a. Board Self-Assessment Review

Chair Goforth

Trustee Goforth noted that Section IV of the SACSCOC 2018 Principles of Accreditation states that the board needs to regularly define and evaluate their responsibilities and expectations as a board. She stated that USF is currently going through reaccreditation process so it is likely that SACSCOC will be looking for this. She thanked the members for participating and thanked Dr. Valeria Garcia and her staff in the Office of Decision Support for implementing and analyzing the data from this survey.

Trustee Goforth stated that it is important for the trustees to have a baseline to see how they have improved by the next self-assessment, which takes place every two years. She asked that Trustees bring forward anything they may want to see on the survey in the future and she will continue to work with Dr. Visot and Dr. Garcia to adjust it appropriately. She also asked Dr. Visot to include the Board calendar for the next 18 months in the portal so that trustees can see what needs to be done in the timeframe.

She shared a few takeaways from the results:

- Board shares a climate of openness and members feel able to share their thoughts, opinions, and concerns
- Members exhibit a strong sense of commitment and a strong code of ethics
- Members want a clearer understanding of USF's fiscal conditions
- Members want to be more engaged with the legislative and state agencies such as the Board of Governors
- Effective committee structure with open discussions
- Members feel the board has appropriate protocols for responding to the citizens and media

She shared a few areas that the board wants to accomplish in the next two years and improve performance:

- Keep focus on preeminence and performance based funding metrics while building up branch campuses
- Be more engaged in the strategic renewal process, advocating goals on all levels
- Align financials with strategic goals (Preeminence, AAU aspirations)
- Include an enterprise risk assessment
- Reassess committee structure to ensure its relevance to today's issues
- Actively participate in board recruitment and work to enhance diversity of appointments
- Reaching out to community leaders to bring new knowledge and expertise to the board
- Once returning to in-person meetings, hold more meetings on the branch campuses
- More presentations from top faculty, researchers, and students

Chair Zimmerman gave thoughts about alignment at the state level through a “buddy system” to engage members of the Board of Governors and legislature. He also requested Mark Walsh work with the President to create key talking points to get more legislative support.

Trustee Watkins noted the importance of being physically present at meetings in Tallahassee to create stronger relationships. She continued that not just the president being there, but trustees as well. The trustees discussed ways to bring legislators to campus when they can while also being mindful of Sunshine Laws. They want to connect through the campus and showing off USF’s assets.

Trustee Goforth noted the retirement of Helen Levine from the St. Petersburg campus and thanked her for all that she has done for USF, leaving huge shoes to fill for the legislative team.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.