
Campus Board: Minutes

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**USF ST. PETERSBURG
CAMPUS BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2003**

Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Duncan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. In attendance were: Ann Duncan, Jeff Huenink, Gus Stavros, David Welch, Dennis Zank, Ralph Wilcox. Absent was Ric Davis.

Recognition of Jeff Huenink

Chairman Ann Duncan recognized the outstanding efforts on behalf of USF St. Petersburg and the University of South Florida of outgoing Campus Board member Jeff Huenink. Mr. Huenink was presented an engraved wall clock in appreciation of his service. Mr. Huenink will continue his service to the University as a full-time lobbyist.

Introduction of Gus Stavros

Chairman Duncan introduced incoming Campus Board member, Dr. Gus Stavros. Dr. Stavros recently stepped down from the USF Board of Trustees. His desire to serve on the Campus Board is an extension of his long-time service in support of USF St. Petersburg. Dr. Stavros was presented with a welcome gift.

USF Report

In President Genshaft's absence, Chairman Duncan provided the USF Report. The University Board of Trustees has been dealing with the very difficult issue of Dr. Sami Al-Arian for more than a year. Last Thursday, Dr. Arian and others were arrested on 50 federal accounts alleging terrorist activities. Fourteen months ago the Board of Trustees made its recommendation to President Genshaft regarding Dr. Al-Arian. Chairman Duncan praised Dr. Genshaft for her wise and prudent path with regard to this issue and expressed her hope that this represents the beginning of closure to this case for the University of South Florida so that the University can continue to focus on outstanding research, excellent teaching and meaningful service.

USF St. Petersburg Report

Interim Vice President and CEO Ralph Wilcox presented the report for USF St. Petersburg. This has been an extraordinary week for the University of South Florida St. Petersburg as it sought to be a good neighbor and served as host to the St. Petersburg Grand Prix. Dr. Wilcox acknowledged the fine efforts of John Collins who coordinated the Grand Prix activity on campus. In addition, the campus hosted the Nation of Islam's Savior's Day Event and Dr. Wilcox acknowledged the hard work of Steve Ritch and his staff toward ensuring the success of that event.

Dr. Wilcox thanked Ann Duncan and the USF St. Petersburg Campus Board for their continued strong support during his interim appointment and expressed his gratitude for the service of Jeff

Huenink and welcomed Dr. Stavros. Dr. Wilcox also introduced the Interim Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gary Olson.

Highlights of Dr. Wilcox's written report include:

The campus is moving forward with its pursuit of separate accreditation. SACS concerns expressed early in the summer were responded to in September and the campus is still awaiting a reply. Meanwhile, the campus expects to complete a compliance audit by the middle of May, an integral and required component for separate accreditation.

In an effort to more successfully share the story of USF St. Petersburg with the outside community, a publication has been developed that highlights some of the fine contributions that USF St. Petersburg and other USF-Tampa affiliated units (Marine Science and the College of Medicine's Pediatric Department) to this community. The draft publication entitled *Partners in Progress: The University of South Florida's contribution to the City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County* was shared with the Board. Dr. Wilcox asked the Board to assist the campus in communicating the University's contributions to the community.

In December, the campus identified four Programs of Distinction that will serve as the foundation in seeking greater distinctiveness and recognition for the campus. Those programs include Environmental Science and Policy, Florida Studies, Social Responsibility in Corporate Reporting and Journalism and Media Studies. The Journalism and Media Studies Program of Distinction will be presented later in this meeting. In addition, Dr. Olson is chairing a steering committee that will conduct a feasibility study by the end of the current semester that will explore the possibility of expanding the arts at USF St. Petersburg.

Space issues to accommodate student and faculty growth continue to be a primary concern. Parking consultants, Chance Management from Philadelphia, are on campus this week. Their recommendations on how best to deal with parking challenges will be brought to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Dr. Wilcox appeared before the St. Petersburg City Council on January 30 and shared concerns on behalf of the Campus Board and USF St. Petersburg campus community. His presentation spoke to concerns about campus safety, concerns regarding limited opportunity for vertical growth, and concluded with an endorsement of the Mayor's plan. Dr. Wilcox's remarks of January 30, 2003 to City Council are included in the Campus Board meeting packet.

Student enrollment this semester is up 11% over enrollment last spring's semester. This underscores the need for student housing on campus. Last Thursday the University Board of Trustees unanimously approved USF St. Petersburg's conceptual plan for Phase I of Student Housing set to open Fall, 2005. Dr. Wilcox introduced Cedric Howard, Student Affairs, as the point person for the student housing project.

Sixty-one searches for faculty and eleven for executive positions are currently underway or completed. This will effectively provide this campus with a completely new leadership team beginning Fall 2003.

Dr. Wilcox shared the impact of the Governor's proposed budget for higher education, for the University of South Florida and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. The Governor's proposed budget represents a \$150 million cut for public higher education in the State of Florida.

This includes a cut of slightly over \$111 million to general appropriation revenue account and is balanced with a mandated 7.5% tuition increase with a local determination of up to an additional 5% more for in-state undergraduate tuition. The Governor's budget provides no new funding for enrollment growth. USF St. Petersburg currently has 156 unfunded student FTE. As we continue to grow, the campus will be delivering education to more students without adequate funding provided by the State. The budget also includes no funding for faculty or staff salary increases in the coming year and no funding for new construction for public higher education in the State of Florida with the exception of the new law schools and new medical schools.

A budget planning process has been implemented for USF St. Petersburg to prepare for its share of a budget reduction if the Governor's plan is approved. A 5% budget reduction would equal a base budget cut of \$1.45 million for USF St. Petersburg. This does not take into account the additional obligations that the universities would be required to take on such as the difference in current Bright Futures Scholarship awards and rising tuition costs. While the budget future looks grim, the campus feels comfortable in its ability to pursue and fund the 61 faculty searches and the 11 executive searches.

Chairman Duncan encouraged the Campus Board to make calls this week prior to the start of the legislative session to local legislators to remind them of the importance of the impact of these budget issues, particularly to USF St. Petersburg. Dr. Stavros also urged members of the Board to attend the legislative reception at the Vinoy tomorrow at 5:30 to address these issues and the importance of matching funds. Chairman Duncan pointed to the use of the University's strategic plan to illustrate the negative impact the Governor's proposed budget will have to the University and USF St. Petersburg in accomplishing the University and campus strategic goals.

Dr. Welch asked if, given the current economic climate, it is realistic for USF St. Petersburg to be hiring all of these new positions or could the money be used to provide a 3-5% increase in faculty salaries. Dr. Wilcox responded that the campus has no choice with regard hiring the leadership positions in order to meet SACS accreditation requirements. He reminded the Campus Board that there is a significant cost involved with seeking separate accreditation and increased autonomy. The faculty positions are going to be essential to meeting the needs of the increasing student body and to position the campus as a complementary regional campus of a Research I institution. Dr. Wilcox also assured the Campus Board that should unallocated funds be available in the current budget, enhanced faculty salaries and hiring of support staff are the top priorities. The budget planning process will be critical in identifying all possibilities. USF St. Petersburg is further along in its budget planning process than others university-wide. The planning process is outlined later in the Campus Board meeting materials. Chairman Duncan concurred with Dr. Wilcox that USF St. Petersburg is much further along in the planning process and Campus Board member Ric Davis will participate in those planning sessions.

Dr. Stavros expressed his displeasure that universities are being required to cut into their budgets to cover the tuition increases that the Bright Futures program will not cover. Dr. Stavros is a

member of the Council of 100 and they are discussing a recommendation that the Bright Futures program needs to be changed to benefit only those high achieving students that are in financial need. Chair Duncan added that the state universities are currently using a coalition approach to address the Bright Futures and other issues.

A proposed budget for next year will come back before the Campus Board for approval once the campus is notified of its state appropriation for the upcoming fiscal year.

USF St. Petersburg VP/CEO Search Update

Dr. Mark Wilson provided an update to the Campus Board regarding the progress of the search for a permanent Vice President and Campus Executive Officer for USF St. Petersburg. January 29, 2003 the Committee met to discuss the search criteria. Fifty- five applicant packets were reviewed and interview strategies were developed. The Committee met again on February 10, 2003, reviewed additional applications that were received subsequent to the January 29 meeting and requested off-site interviews with 11 of the 65 total candidates. These off-campus interviews will be conducted over the next two days on February 25 and 26. The advisory committee will then request additional background checks on select candidates and once completed will invite 4-5 candidates to USF St. Petersburg for on-site interviews in late March. The interviews will be a day and a half in length and will include sessions with all campus constituencies. The Committee will then submit to the President those names (unranked) that the Committee feels are ultimately qualified for the position. The goal for forwarding a recommendation to the President is early April. Chairman Duncan expressed her concern that the Board have not been contacted for their input on the ideal characteristics, competencies, experience and attributes possessed by the successful candidate. Dr. Wilson will provide the criteria and a summary of the process to the Board.

USF St. Petersburg Student Government Report

USF St. Petersburg SG President Cassie Hawkins provided an update of Student Government activities. Highlights of her report included:

- USF Day in Tallahassee is scheduled for March 20, 2003. USF St. Petersburg Student Government will be represented at the Capitol that day and is excited to be participating.
- USF Student Government conducted a study beginning approximately 18 months ago regarding the need for an enhanced student health services program and is hopeful for further discussion with the Campus Board regarding this item.
- USF St. Petersburg Student Government would like to express its support for the Mayor's plan of a one-runway airport at Albert Whitted.
- USF St. Petersburg Student Government would also like to express to the Legislature its concerns to the legislature regarding the funding cuts to higher education.
- USF St. Petersburg Student Government continues its participation in campus-wide task forces and committees.

USF St. Petersburg Faculty Council Report

Dr. Robert Dardenne, Chair, USF St. Petersburg Faculty Council provided an update on behalf of the Faculty Council. Highlights of his report included:

Dr. Dardenne recalled a past meeting of a few years ago which one faculty member advised that during what was considered an especially difficult time that the faculty should concentrate on "finding opportunity in chaos." Currently the faculty is heeding that advice. One example, among many recent successes, is the Programs of Distinction. Dr. Dardenne cautioned however that the faculty is being taxed by the many hours serving on task forces and search committees in addition to their regular teaching loads, book publishing, etc. Further aggravating is the grim state of the budget. Dr. Dardenne explained that the newer, younger faculty will be facing additional anxiety regarding their efforts toward attaining promotion and tenure, of which research is weighed heavily. He asked for the Board's understanding of these tensions and expressed his appreciation to Drs. Wilcox and Olson for their understanding. Dr. Stavros stated his recognition of the enormous task ahead for USF St. Petersburg and his appreciation for the outstanding efforts of the faculty at USF St. Petersburg.

USF St. Petersburg Campus Advancement Council

Michael VanButsel, Chair, Campus Advancement Council reported that he has been encouraged by his experience while serving on the President's Advisory Committee for the USF SP Vice President/CEO Search. He is impressed by the quality of the candidates and he expressed his gratitude to Dr. Wilson in his role as Chair of that Committee.

Michael VanButsel also serves as Vice President for the St. Petersburg Grand Prix Foundation and on behalf of that Foundation, Mr. VanButsel thanked the University for the remarkable cooperation over the past several weeks. Formerly named the Campus Advisory Board, the Campus Advancement Council is being reconstituted to support USF St. Petersburg in the following three areas: legislative and public advocacy, development and fundraising, and college advisory councils. The kick-off event for the new Campus Advancement Council is Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m. Members of the Campus Board were encouraged to attend. Dr. Stavros commended Michael VanButsel and thanked him for his many years of support for USF St. Petersburg. Dr. Wilcox presented Michael VanButsel with the gift of a chair engraved with the seal of the University inscribed acknowledging his service as Chair of the Campus Advisory Board.

Action Item 9.1 Approval of Campus Board Minutes recorded on November 18, 2002

Motion moved by David Welch, seconded by Dennis Zank. Approved unanimously.

Action Item 9.2 Approval of USF St. Petersburg Strategic Planning Statements

Campus Board members were provided with the university-wide strategic planning document for review. USF St. Petersburg has revised its mission, vision, values and goals in a campus-wide effort engaging all members of the campus and broader communities. At the beginning of the current academic year, the Campus Planning Task Force began its work on establishing a strategic direction for USF St. Petersburg. The planning statements were reviewed in draft form

by all campus constituents and individual with members of the Campus and USF St. Petersburg leadership in February, followed by an open forum for community input on February 12. Dr. Mike Killenberg, Co-Chair of the Campus Planning Task Force presented the campus's mission, vision, values and goals to the Campus Board.

Motion for approval made by David Welch, seconded by Gus Stavros. Approved unanimously.

Action Item 9.3 Approval of Four USF St. Petersburg Programs of Distinction

Chairman Duncan entertained a motion to approve and endorse the four named Programs of Distinction for USF St. Petersburg: Environmental Sciences & Policy, Florida Studies, Journalism and Media Studies, and Social Responsibility and Corporate Reporting

Motion presented by Gus Stavros, seconded by David Welch. Approved unanimously.

Information Item 10.1 Information Item - Presentation for Journalism Studies Program of Distinction

Dr. Mike Killenberg presented a preview of the Journalism Studies Program of Distinction.

New Business

Action Item 9.3 above (Approval of Four USF St. Petersburg Programs of Distinction)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Donna Knudsen
Coordinator, Administrative Services

Minutes approved by:

Ann Duncan, Chair
USF St. Petersburg Campus Board

Date