
Campus Board: Minutes

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10-22-2001

Campus Board Meeting : 2001 : 10 : 22 : Minutes

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
REGIONAL CAMPUS BOARD MEETING
USF ST. PETERSBURG, DAVIS HALL, ROOM 130
MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2001**

Minutes

Attending: Rick Davis, Ann Duncan, Judy Genshaft, Bill Heller, Gus Stavros, David Welch, Dennis Zank. Jeff Huenink attended the meeting via conference call.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Board members introduced themselves and Chairman Duncan invited Dr. Heller to introduce his staff present. In her introduction of President, Chairman Duncan expressed gratitude for the fine job that President Genshaft has done since arriving at USF and for her continued support of USF St. Petersburg and the community in Pinellas County .

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Genshaft reported that she believes the current arrangement for USF St. Petersburg arising from the rough times of the past year is in the best interest of the campus as well as the region and for the students. Her wish is that the USF St. Petersburg Regional Campus Board take a trip to a campus such as ASU West as she believes that all would benefit from viewing how it has successfully achieved autonomy but remained very involved and connected with the main campus. She is pleased that there is an opportunity to shape the campus as she is aware that St. Petersburg and the region want USF St. Petersburg to be larger and more comprehensive, full of student life and activities. The President emphasized her desire to see this happen and reiterated that her efforts with the Legislature last year were intended to reach this goal and this first Campus Board meeting was evidence that these efforts are on track.

The university has responded in an appropriate way to the September 11 national tragedy. There have been prayer vigils and blood drives - with students waiting to donate blood for up to 11 hours. The university has established a USF Cares website to share the many ways in which USF is responding. President Genshaft shared the events that began on September 25 with regard to Professor Sami Al Arian. Dr. Genshaft urged the Board to read her op-ed piece (a copy of which is attached). Her underlying goal is safety for all students, faculty and staff.

Despite all of the disruption, USF continues to make great progress. Both USF as a whole and USF St. Petersburg have achieved the highest enrollment to date. Currently there are approximately 37,000 students enrolled at USF - second only to the University of Florida in the state university system. There has been a remarkable increase in diversity - a 39% increase in African-American freshmen and 36% in Hispanic freshmen. The university has hired 280 new faculty - a number that will do a lot for economic development in the area. USF St. Petersburg has hired 31 new faculty bringing the total to 101.

The University Board of Trustees is operating well and will soon begin the process of strategic planning to establish values, vision, mission and goals. Chairman Duncan and Vice President Heller with both be a part of that process.

Currently the state university system is experiencing a major budget shortfall. The legislative special session starts today. There is expected to be a 6% cut throughout all USF campuses - about \$17 or \$18 million university-wide.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duncan explained that the existence of the Campus Board is a unique opportunity. The state experienced an overhaul in the university governance system and the legislature mandated each university have a governing board. USF is unique within the state university system as it also has regional campus boards. The Campus Board should rely on the administrators to approach the Board with issues where direction is needed. The Board should set policy and address issues related to campus planning and resources to assure that the campus achieves its greatest potential.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President & CEO Bill Heller thanked the Board members for their willingness to serve the University and USF St. Petersburg. He added that the Campus Board represents an opportunity to touch the future of USF St. Petersburg in a very significant way. Vice President Heller thanked President Genshaft for the outstanding positive leadership she continues to provide.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

Ms. R.B. Friedlander, Interim General Counsel and Ms. Debbie King, Senior Counsel presented on the following:

Florida Public Records Law
Public Meetings Law
Florida Ethics Law
Florida Administrative Procedures
Legal Status and Role and Responsibilities of the Campus Board

Members of the Board were provided with a handout outlining the specifics of these laws and obligations.

USF ST. PETERSBURG ORIENTATION

Vice President and Campus Executive Officer Bill Heller presented an orientation of USF St. Petersburg including highlights of its 36-year history, the campus's academic mission and strategic goals, academic programs, student enrollment and the campus's organizational structure.

Herman Brames, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a financial overview. Topics discussed included the Florida budget process, details on campus funding and expenditures, operating budget, facilities and the campus's legislative budget request and priorities.

No votes were taken on the budget proposal for the campus since its budget had already been completed and submitted prior to the official appointment of the Campus Board. However, the

Board did express its support for the operating budget and the capital request which places acquisition of the Fountain Inn as a major priority for the campus.

NEW BUSINESS

Contingent upon scheduling, the Board agreed to plan a visit to the campus of ASU West.

The Board will hold regular meetings quarterly, with a possible special meeting called following the legislative special session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Duncan adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:
Donna Knudsen
Coordinator, Administrative Services

Minutes approved by:

Ann Duncan, Chairman
USF St. Petersburg Campus Board