NotesUSF Consolidation Task Force Meeting

November 29, 2018
USF Sarasota-Manatee Selby Auditorium

Present: Dr. Jonathan Ellen, Chair; Alison Barlow, Anddrikk Fra

Chair Ellen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. New Business – Action Items

Minutes from the September 26, 2018 meeting were approved.

III. New Business – Information Items

a. Shared Governance and Transparency Subcommittee Final Recommendations Discussion

Melissa Seixas covered the four major themes that emerged in the subcommittee discussions including: a student-centric focus for governance; unique opportunities presented by geographic location; transparency throughout all university processes; and ensuring that the campuses are positioned to add value to the overall objective of remaining a Preeminent university.

Subcommittee recommendations fell within four overall categories:

University governance including robust dialogue about the designation of the regional campuses as branch campuses. Faculty governance with engaged faculty and equitable campus representation.
General education with appropriate representation from all campuses and ensuring any changes take into consideration a transition period for transfer students.
Student governance. A highlight was the presentation by the student government leaders that exhibited a high level of collaboration within their recommendations for the future of student governance within consolidation.
Budget transparency touched on critical issues of shared governance and student fees, and discussed the feasibility of a differentiated fee structure for students.

Ms. Washington highlighted the importance of enhancing the student experience through expanded access to programming and student activities while also minimizing disruptions to current, prospective, and transfer students. She stressed the importance of clear, transparent lines of accountability and communication regarding changes as they occur. She noted that the

subcommittee focused on the ability to maximize efficiency while ensuring USF is in the best place to serve its communities.

Ms. Rykiel highlighted the subcommittee's student-centric approach in crafting its recommendations, the prioritizing general education and the use of High Impact Practices, strengthening research through student engagement and emphasizing USF's commitment to student affordability.

Dr. Ellen acknowledged that the faculty and students have been very proactive in implementing solutions concerning governance and emphasized the need to be aware of their work and allow that progress to continue.

b. Student Success, Academic Programs, and Campus Identity Subcommittee Final Recommendations Discussion

Mike Griffin reviewed the legislative charge for the Student Success/Academic Program/Campus Identity Subcommittee. The driving factor for the subcommittee's work is student success with a focus on ensuring students are graduating, meeting labor force demands, and continuing the successful programs and activities that already occur throughout USF. Mr. Griffin summarized the high-level takeaways from the subcommittee meetings and hearings, noting that some of the recommendations will require greater investment from the Florida Legislature and the need prioritize the various initiatives and recommendations throughout implementation.

He reviewed the following recommendations:

- Student Success
  - Development of guiding principles for a unified student success movement
  - Initiatives including the new Student Success Committee and the Persistence Committees

- Academic Programs
  - Retain existing academic programs
  - Increase academic programs based on student needs, labor demands and unique campus identities
  - Expand access to graduate programs across the university
  - Critical that the stature of all three campuses grows post-consolidation

- Campus Identity
  - Promote a unified educational mission while leveraging distinctive regional strengths
  - Elevate and empower the identity of each campus under a Preeminent university
  - Support student housing and fostering of cross-campus collaborations

- Research Capacity

Proactive engagement of the Research Office with all faculty and exploration of technologies to enhance research

- Community Engagement
  Leverage geographic strengths and partnerships to enhance student recruitment and inform curricular development

Mr. Piccolo added that there was a great deal of anxiety on the campuses related to academic programs and research opportunities. He supported the approval of the subcommittee recommendations but stressed the need for capital and research investment on all three campuses.

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