

## **Board of Trustees**

Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
9:30 AM

### **MINUTES**

Chair Will Weatherford welcomed everyone and convened the December meeting of the Board of Trustees.

#### **Chair Weatherford's Comments**

The Chair commented that it's an exciting time of the year. One of the great pleasures of serving as a Board member is having the opportunity to work with other incredible members of the Board.

Chair Weatherford reported that Trustee Rick Piccolo was announced by the FAA as the Airport Administrator of the year. We are honored to have such a distinguished member with credibility on our Board.

Chair Weatherford attended an event at the Academy Prep Center of Tampa in honor of Trustee Oscar Horton, who was awarded the 2023 Fred Ridley Grand Oak Award. Not only does Trustee Horton run a successful business, he and his family have given back to the community and to USF for many years. The Chair commended Trustee Horton for giving back to education, caring about this community and for serving on the USF Board of Trustees.

Chair Weatherford and President Law made comments regarding the attacks in Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup>. A full transcript of the remarks can be found [here](#).

Chair Weatherford asked Kiara Gayle to call the roll.

#### **Kiara Gayle called the roll.**

Trustee Sandy Callahan- Not in attendance  
Trustee Mike Carrere  
Trustee Rogan Donnelly  
Trustee Cesar Esmeraldi  
Trustee Mike Griffin

Trustee Oscar Horton  
Trustee Jenifer Jasinski Schneider  
Trustee Lauran Monbarren  
Trustee Shilen Patel  
Trustee Fredrick Piccolo  
Trustee Melissa Seixas  
Trustee Will Weatherford

#### Student Presentation –Julio Figueroa

Julio provided a power point presentation and shared his story.

Julio Figueroa, a senior majoring in business analytics and information systems in the Muma College of Business. While working as a bartender in Key West in 2011, he met Special Operations Forces soldiers who inspired him to take the unexpected path of joining the U.S. Army and serve as a “night stalker,” a role nicknamed for its dedication to nighttime operations. He was deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Guatemala as an avionics technician and leader of the downed aircraft recovery team. Figueroa is now giving back to the veteran community by volunteering in the USF Office of Veteran Success. He also interns at SOFWERX, where he conducts market research to find resources or experts to collaborate on innovative solutions serving U.S. Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force base.

Chair Weatherford thanked Julio for serving our country with honor and distinction. He also commended him for being an ambassador for the 1400 plus veterans who attend USF. The veteran community and the University of South Florida are intricately linked more so than any other university in the country. Chair Weatherford commented that Julio is a great representation of what it means to be a Bull and USF is honored to have him.

Chair Weatherford mov (d m)-2 (od)-4 (ed)TJ0 T4 (xp)-10vetulexpv(unt)-2oeiCr3.8 sh 0 Td[. F)6 (3 (c)4c Tc 0

resita wo thaed Julio for issaer irices. orvervin(xp)-10do (e)4 (s)-1 f(C)-7 (or)3 ( t)-2 (he)4 ( U)2 (ni)-2 (ve)4 (r)3 (s)-1 (i)-2 (t)-2

The USF Bulls – The USF football team has qualified to play in a bowl game. The bowl game will be held December 21<sup>st</sup> in Boca Raton against Syracuse. The President commended Coach Gole



Sylvia Thomas as the next

Trustee Horton reported on behalf of the ACE committee. After a thorough review of the items the committee recommended approval.

**FL 108** – Tenure as a Condition of Employment

**FL 109** – Institutes & Centers 7-Year Reviews

**FL 110** – USF Regulation 10.114 – Morsani College of Medicine Faculty Restrictive Covenants

Chair Weatherford requested comments from UFF President Steve Lang.

Dr. Lang commented on the following:

- The







- The USF Federal Credit Union gift of \$6 million to rename the credit union Champion's Way -Special thanks to Rich Skaggs for his support.
- Champions Walkway
- \$43 million raised

Mr. Fred Haynes, leader of the ownership rep team provided information on the following:

- The ability to provide a stadium that will provide the best experience for the athletes, students and fans.
- Fiscal responsibility
- Global supply chain
- Football training facility to open in 2026
- Timeline -The on-campus stadium to open by 2027
- DNI Process

Vice President Kelly thanked the Board members, the steering committee, the university staff and others, for their support in getting us to this point. This is tremendous progress that he was delighted to share.

Vice President Kelly provided an update on the vision of what will happen during the days and months ahead. He highlighted the following:

- An overall sight plan
- Location – The stadium will be located where the first USF football team practiced 27 years ago.
- East west orientation of the field- maximizing shade and comfort for our fans and team
- A parking lot with

- Premium space and vision – A rooftop patio
- Incorporate classroom and lab space
- Conceptual blimp view from the North East
- Pre cast concrete concept for stability
- Enhance our ability to have future expansion for facilities

Vice President Stroman commented that the plan is to use natural turf however, synthetic is not ruled out. The naming rights fit into the financial model displayed earlier in

Chair Weatherford's comments concerned USF being recognized as a world-class academic institution. We want to be world-class in everything we do. Our stadium will be a nice and unique facility. It will be more modern than anything constructed in the State of Florida.

Chair Weatherford thanked the donors who have already committed tremendous resources towards the on-campus stadium, and he encouraged those who may want to consider giving a gift towards it. This will transform the University of South Florida.

### **Round Table Discussion**

Chair Weatherford opened the floor for the round table discussion.

Trustee Schneider's comments were on issues pertaining to the passing of Senate Bill 266. On behalf of the USF faculty and the Advisory Council Faculty Senate, Trustee Schneider submitted feedback to the BOG concerning the regulations and corresponding laws. Her comments were specific to DEI prohibited expenses and the removal of a Sociology Course.

Chair Weatherford thanked Trustee Schneider for her comments and her commitment to the USF faculty. We appreciate the faculty members and the important roles that they play. The Board has no control of the policies that are set forth by Tallahassee and Washington DC. USF remains and will always be committed to diversity for everyone.

Chair Weatherford announced that after today's meeting former BOT Chair John Ramil and his family will be honored by naming the courtyard at the Alumni building the Naida and John Ramil Courtyard. John was the longest standing BOT member in USF history. The Ramil family has been friends and supporters of USF for a very long time and are most deserving of this prestigious honor.

Chair Weatherford encouraged everyone to attend the USF Bowl game in Boca Raton. Having no further business the Chair wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and adjourned the meeting.