



To: Brian Lamb, Chair, USF Board of Trustees

Harold Mullis, Chair, USF BOT Consolidation, Accreditation & Preeminence Committee

From: The Faculty Senates of USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee

Date: February 28, 2019

In response to the February 22, 2019 letter from the USF Tampa Faculty Senate regarding consolidation, the Faculty Senates of USFSM and USFSP reaffirm our commitment to the new USF. In the spirit of the recommendations offered by the Consolidation Task Force and the state legislators who have recently introduced an education bill requiring branch campus status for USFSM and USFSP, we believe we are best positioned to contribute to USF as SACSCOC-designated branch campuses. We have enjoyed close and longstanding connections with our local communities, donors, and students, and we believe that maintaining some degree of campus autonomy is essential to our ability to serve their needs in an experience-based and effective manner. We would like to move forward with collegiality and mutual appreciation for the strengths and perspectives of each campus. With each part of the university contributing all that it can to the new USF, we can work together to ensure a bright future for a consolidated university that exceeds our metrics as one geographically distributed preeminent university.

On behalf of the USFSP and USFSM Faculty Senates,

Ray Arsenault,
President USFSP Faculty Senate

Mike Gillespie,
President USFSM Faculty Senate

USFSM FACULTY SENATE
USFSP FACULTY SENATE