Shaping Our Future, 2007-12

Transforming Higher Education for Global Innovation

Presented to

Board of Trustees
University of South Florida

Renu Khator
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

March 1, 2007
Vision

The University of South Florida envisions itself as a pre-eminent research university with state, national, and global impact, and positioned for membership in the Association of American Universities.
What is the Association of American Universities (AAU)?

Founded in 1900, AAU is an association of 62 of the most prestigious public and private universities (across the U.S., and Canada), distinguished by the breadth of quality of their research and graduate programs.
AAU...

...it is more than a badge of honor.

...it symbolizes the highest level of educational experience, research, and innovation.
What do AAU Universities have in Common?

• They offer some of the best undergraduate and graduate learning experiences anywhere!
• They offer some of the best alumni professional and social networks!
• They offer the most conducive environment for creativity and research, thus keeping competitive advantage in the global economy.
• They are the engines of economic growth and innovation, thus guaranteeing continuous growth and prosperity for the region!
Why is AAU Membership Important to USF?

• It will enhance the educational experience of its students.
• It will enhance professional support and networking for its alumni.
• It will support the recruitment and retention of world class faculty and students.
• It will enhance USF’s competitiveness for federal research funding.
• It will provide USF an opportunity to influence public policy regarding federal research initiatives and undergraduate, graduate, and professional education.
First Things First...

- Carnegie Foundation - RU/VHR
- Carnegie Foundation - Community Engaged
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Association of Research Libraries
- Several academic programs ranked in the Top 50

...these are all viewed as steps on the ladder taking us to the AAU.
How do we get in AAU?

Phase I Indicators

1. Competitively Funded Federal Research Support
2. Membership in the National Academies
3. National Research Council Faculty Quality Ratings
4. Faculty Arts and Humanities Awards, Fellowships, and Memberships
5. Citations
The AAU Imperative (continued).

Phase II Indicators

6. USDA, State, and Industrial Research Funding
7. Doctoral Education
8. Number of Postdoctoral Appointees ✓
9. Undergraduate Education
AAU Indicators: Where Do We Stand Today?

USF Performance: General Overview

Based upon comparative institutional data drawn from the *Top American Research Universities* (2005), for USF and the 34 public AAU member institutions, USF appears to perform quite well in two Phase I indicators (federal research and faculty awards), and in one Phase II indicator (postdoctoral appointees).

AAU Range = $53 M - $655 M
USF = $106 M (28th)

Source: National Science Foundation annual survey of research expenditures
2. Membership in the National Academies.

AAU Range = 3 - 209
USF = 1 (Not Placed)

Source: The National Academies (NAS, NAE, and IOM)
3. National Research Council Faculty Quality Ratings.

TBD

Note: Preparation of an updated NRC assessment is currently underway. Dr. Brent Weisman, Assistant Dean of The Graduate School, is USF’s “point person” on this important initiative.
4. Faculty Arts and Humanities Awards, Fellowships, and Memberships.

AAU Range = 5 - 47
USF = 6 (34th)

Source: AAU list
5. Citations.

TBD

Source: The U.S. University Science Indicators citations database
6. USDA, State, and Industrial Research Funding.

TBD

Source:
7. Doctoral Education.

AAU Range = 185 - 775
USF = 179 (Not Placed)

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, US Department of Education
8. Number of Postdoctoral Appointees.

AAU Range = 127 - 1,292
USF = 127 (34th)

Source: National Science Foundation
9. Undergraduate Education.

TBD

Source: AAU assessment
AAU Membership – The Political Process

Membership in the association is by invitation, is guided by a set of principles and indicators, and must be approved by a three fourths vote of member institutions. In assessing potential new member universities, the evaluation of university profiles based on the Membership Indicators is the first stage of a two-stage process used to identify institutions that may be invited into membership. The second stage involves a more qualitative set of judgments about an institution’s mission, characteristics, and trajectory.

It appears that current “candidate” institutions may include Arizona State, Florida State, University of Georgia, North Carolina State and Virginia Polytechnic Institute.
Challenges Facing USF in Pursuit of AAU Membership

- Establishing a clear connection between undergraduate education and AAU membership.
- Balancing the goals of access and excellence.
- Securing funding for critical investments.
- Staying disciplined and focused internally and externally.
- Managing the political process associated with AAU membership.
What support and advocacy will we need from?

- University stakeholder groups – faculty, students, staff and alumni (including the USF Foundation)
- The local community
- The USF Board of Trustees
- The Florida Board of Governors
- The Florida State Legislature
- National academic and professional organizations
- Others
Next Steps...

- Fully engage the faculty.
- Prepare a “business” plan that includes goals, investment plan and funding sources.
- Align all budget entities and invest resources strategically.
- Track annual progress via USF’s Planning, Performance and Accountability Instrument.
Prepare a Business Plan with Goals, Investments and Resource Targets

A committee comprised of faculty members and university leaders is already working on a benchmarking framework of performance metrics.
Align All Budget Entities and Invest Resources

Once the goals and metrics are set, we will identify the level and source of investments needed to implement the plan.
Track Via USF’s Planning, Performance and Accountability Instrument

The nationally modeled instrument is already in place at USF:

http://www.ie.usf.edu/PPA/
Shaping Our Future, 2007-12

Transforming Higher Education for Global Innovation

Our future is bright!

It will take extraordinary leadership from all to accomplish our ambitious goals!!