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**April 22, 2008**



## USF re-affirms commitment to gender, race studies

Despite historic budget cuts at the University of South Florida, its president and provost today re-iterated support for degree programs, faculty and departments in gender, race and ethnic studies. “Our highest priority is preserving course offerings for our students,” USF President Judy Genshaft said. “That means retaining tenured and tenure-earning faculty, and refusing to cut majors. At the same time, we have historic reductions in funding from the state, which will mean substantial re-organization of the university.”

USF will continue to preserve academic authority for smaller departments, Provost Ralph Wilcox announced. “Studies of gender and race are critical to a modern research university. We need to organize these departments for success, not cut them. There's no question that the study of gender and race has played an enormous role in the development of modern universities.”

As a result, USF will retain the departments of Women’s Studies, Africana Studies and others, while working with those departments to create a stronger organizational structure.

### Where did the controversy start?

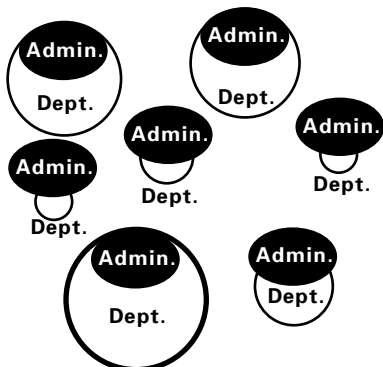
A Faculty Task Force review in the Fall of 2007 began the controversy over small departments. That review indicated that small departments often had administrative expenses of larger departments, but did not have a critical mass of faculty. The review looked at quality, sustainability, demand and strategic priority for every department in Academic Affairs.

“This was an important peer review of our programs,” said Provost Ralph Wilcox. “But there has never been a plan to eliminate smaller departments.”

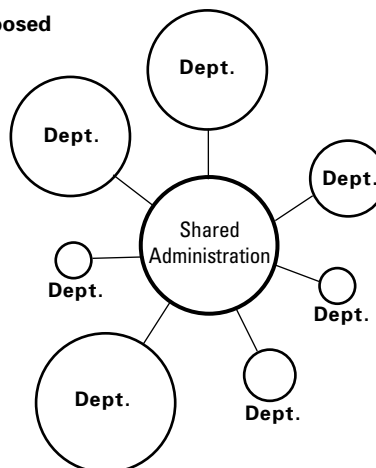
### What is USF’s proposed re-organization?

USF’s Division of Academic Affairs, directed by the Provost, proposes to consolidate the administrative expenses of smaller departments into shared hubs, where HR, budgeting and finance can be borne across small units. The departments retain academic authority over faculty recruitment and course offerings, research strategy and promotion.

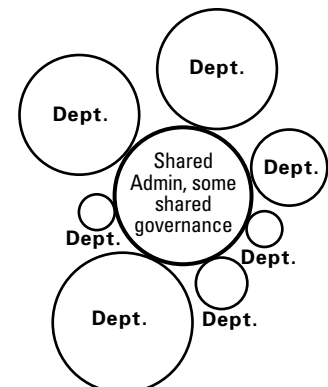
**Today**



**Proposed**



**Future**



USF proposes moving small departments into a hub system for shared administration to reduce cost. Over time, this may include shared governance to strengthen interdisciplinary teaching and research.