

January 20, 2005

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to present you with the final version of the document entitled *Inter-Campus Academic Relations Among USF Tampa, USF Sarasota/Manatee, and USF Lakeland* (ICAR) for your careful consideration and implementation. As you know, the process of updating the USF *Inter-Campus Academic Operating Guidelines* (IOP, 1991) has extended well over one year as we have taken great care to consult with all stakeholders on all campuses. I would like to extend my appreciation to members of the IOP Re-Write Committee who have demonstrated remarkable leadership and patience in considering input from many constituencies throughout their crafting of the final document. The outcome is a significantly revised set of operating guidelines that has been endorsed by the Provost, Regional Campus CEOs, and the USF Faculty Senate.

This is an important agreement in the continuing evolution of our USF System of higher education, a multi-campus university comprised of USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, USF Sarasota/Manatee and USF Lakeland. Moreover, the approval and implementation of this document is essential to meeting the needs of our students; guaranteeing that all faculty, regardless of their “home” campus, share the same rights, privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities; ensuring that each one of our campuses is positioned to address the distinct needs of the communities it serves; and providing a shared understanding, and common set of practices, with regard to academic affairs at USF – a university accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Of particular importance, the ICAR reaffirms that USF has one President, one Provost, and one Board of Trustees.

While most of the sections in this document will be implemented immediately, I do recognize that some matters (such as Tenure and Promotion review of faculty whose principal place of employment is USF Sarasota/Manatee or USF Lakeland) will need to be implemented beginning with the 2005-06 academic year since past practices are well advanced for this year.

The new *Inter-Campus Academic Relations Among USF Tampa, USF Sarasota/Manatee, and USF Lakeland* document will necessitate some changes, intended to strengthen the University’s academic processes and to ensure that USF continues to function effectively as a seamless system of higher education. Furthermore, we will be provided the opportunity to review and assess the effectiveness of this document in the coming years. For now, I believe that this document will further strengthen USF as we rise into the ranks of the Top 50 Public Research Universities within the next five years.

Sincerely,

Judy Genshaft  
President