Colleagues:

Thank you for yet another great year. Among the highlights of the year are the increase in the number of national merit scholars, our continued classification in Carnegie’s top research category, our Women’s Basketball Team making it to the NCAA tournament, and our campus being graced by Desmond Tutu. It is clear that you are doing a truly outstanding job in raising the bar of expectations and achievements for USF! As you leave for summer, here is the latest academic update for you:

**How did we do in the Legislature?** A mixed report!

**Tuition Increase:** Resident undergraduate tuition will increase by 3%. Our Board of Trustees has the authority to raise tuition for out-of-state, graduate, and professional students.

**Enrollment Growth:** There is mixed news! The State University System (SUS) admitted 7,448 new students this past year, which generated over $135 million in new funding for the state’s 11 public universities. The BOG asked for $80 million or partial funding of the formula. The legislature funded $54.5 million, which is 40% of the funded formula. The good news is that the legislature gave some of the remaining 60% back in salary increases (see below). Please know that this is not the final budget because it is yet to be approved by the Governor and Governor has the line item veto authority.

**Salary Increases:** A 3% salary increase to faculty and staff is provided, effective October 1, 2006.

**Major Gifts** – All private endowment and capital construction gifts are matched fully.

**Construction** – The following are this year’s allocations. All projects with the exception of St. Pete building will receive additional funding next year to complete.

- Visual and Performing Arts at USF-Tampa ($12.2 m)
- Interdisciplinary Sciences at USF-Tampa ($19.9m)
- Science Building at USF-SP ($9m)
- New Campus at USF-Lakeland ($ 1.7m)

A full summary is posted on the Office of Budget Home Page and we will update it when the Governor approves the budget.
**Carnegie’s New Rankings and We are on the Top:** There are benchmarks and then there are benchmarks! Carnegie is certainly a benchmark that declares that we have arrived! Under the new classification released early in March, there are 95 institutions placed in the “very high active research” category, a group that is heavily populated by the elite private and flagship public universities. Well…we made it there. Please note that Carnegie’s classification is based on the breadth of research…in science and engineering but also in humanities and social sciences. For us to be classified in the top category is a matter of enormous pride but also of significant responsibility. We will have to stay focused to remain there. Congratulations to you all…it is all your hard work! You can always find news like this on the Provost’s Office Home Page.

**Top 50: Are We There Yet?:** As you know, USF’s strategic goal calls for us to be in the Top 50 National Public Research Universities. We have made great strides in many areas, but so have other universities. The moving target continues to move ahead of us. So, we are still ranked 64th among public research universities. You may want to know that FSU is also ranked 64th.

**Faculty Governance:** I am disappointed to see that only 8.8% faculty chose to vote in the Faculty Senate elections this year. Some colleges had no votes cast and senators from those colleges had to be seated by default. If you believe in the power of your voice, then you must participate because your representatives are advising us on your behalf.

**Executive Search Summary:**
- Dean of the College of Business – Filled
- Dean of the Graduate School – Filled
- Dean of International Affairs - Filled
- Dean of the College of Marine Science – Committee has been charged.
- Dean of FMHI – Dean Shern, after 11 years of stellar service, resigned last week to become President of National Mental Health Association. We will begin the process shortly.
- VP for Advancement – Pool is being built currently
- CEO and VP Lakeland – Filled
- AVP for Enrollment Planning and Management – Open
- ED for Patel Center – in process

I hope you have a relaxing summer! *Money* (May 2006) has rated “college professor” as the second best job to have in America today…make sure you find time to feel it true.

*Renu Khator*
Provost and Vice President
University of South Florida
813-974-8347
[http://www.acad.usf.edu/provosts+office/](http://www.acad.usf.edu/provosts+office/)