

February 14, 2012



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The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
State of Florida
Plaza Level 5, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President
Florida Senate
409, The Capitol
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Dean Cannon
Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
420, The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: Resolution regarding the University of South Florida and USF Polytechnic

Dear Governor Scott, President Haridopolos, and Speaker Cannon:

Because of the vital importance of education to Florida's economic success, the Florida Council of 100 has had a long-standing interest in the governance and performance of the State University System and its constituent institutions. It is in that spirit that the Council has adopted the attached resolution calling on legislative leadership to table SPB 7100 and the Governor and said leadership to publicly endorse the Board of Governors approach to, and authority over, USF Polytechnic governance change, which comprehensively and constitutionally lay the foundation for both a strong, fiscally whole University of South Florida and a new, vibrant independent polytechnic institution within the State University System.

Sincerely,

Steve Halverson
Chair, Florida Council of 100

Susan Pareigis
President & CEO, Florida Council of 100

Enclosure

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cc: **The Honorable Jennifer Carroll**, Lt. Governor, State of Florida
The Honorable Will Weatherford, Speaker Designate, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Don Gaetz, President Designate, Florida Senate
The Honorable J.D. Alexander, Chair, Budget Committee, Florida Senate
The Honorable Denise Grimsley, Chair, Appropriations Committee, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Evelyn Lynn, Chair, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Florida Senate
The Honorable Marlene O'Toole, Chair, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Steve Oelrich, Chair, Higher Education Committee, Florida Senate
The Honorable Bill Proctor, Chair, Education Committee, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Erik Fresen, Chair, K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Kelli Stargel, Chair, K-20 Innovation Subcommittee, Florida House of Representatives
Mr. Dean Colson, Chair, Florida Board of Governors
Mr. Mori Hosseini, Vice Chair, Florida Board of Governors
Mr. Frank Brogan, Chancellor, State University System of Florida
Dr. Judy Genshaft, President, University of South Florida
Mr. David Touchton, Interim Regional Chancellor and Campus Executive Officer, USF Polytechnic

Resolution



WHEREAS, Since 1961, The Florida Council of 100, a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing key business leadership in Florida, has promoted the economic growth of Florida and a high quality of life for its citizens.

WHEREAS, Since inception, the Florida Council of 100 has had a vital, ongoing interest in improving Florida's education system, publishing such reports as Review of the A+ Plan to Improve Education in 1999, We Must Do Better! in 2004, and Closing the Talent Gap in 2010.

WHEREAS, The Florida Council of 100 has declared that the following 10 principles should drive discussion of all talent-related issues and be a lens through which policies and programs are evaluated and alternatives assessed:

- Market-determined need: Supply and demand must drive program creation, expansion, and contraction.
- Access: A person's circumstances (demographic, geographic, economic, or otherwise) must not be a barrier to full participation in the education system.
- Highest expectations: Performance standards must be established and maintained at the highest levels, nationally and internationally.
- Accountability: All participants and providers must answer for their performance.
- Rewarding performance: Superior results merit superior benefits.
- Cost-effectiveness: Resources must be allocated where they have the greatest impact.
- Administrative efficiency: Front-line funding must be maximized.
- Leveraging resources: Private and federal monies must be brought to bear whenever possible.
- Partnership: Cross-organizational synergies must be fostered, institutionalized, and capitalized.
- Data-driven decision-making: Objective analysis must drive policy.

WHEREAS, Based on these principles, on November 4, 2011, the Florida Council of 100 sent a proposal to the chairs of the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, regarding "Proposed Decision Points for Creating a New University or Increasing an Existing University's Campus Status."

WHEREAS, On November 9, 2011, the Board of Governors approved the concept of USF Polytechnic becoming a freestanding institution contingent upon meeting criteria substantially relating to the Florida Council of 100's education reform principles and decision points.



Resolution



WHEREAS, On February 10, 2012, the Florida Senate Budget Committee filed Proposed Committee Bill 7100 that would bypass the Board of Governors process for establishing the independence of USF Polytechnic and, thus, violate the policy-making powers of the Board of Governors under section 7 of article IX of the Florida Constitution.

WHEREAS, The Florida Constitution provides that the Board of Governors “shall operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system,” and that “these responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, defining the distinctive mission of each constituent university and its articulation with free public schools and community colleges, ensuring the well-planned coordination and operation of the system, and avoiding wasteful duplication of facilities or programs.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Florida Council of 100 commends the Board of Governors for its measured, data-driven approach to facilitating the independence of USF Polytechnic.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Florida Council of 100 calls on the Florida Senate to respect the constitutional powers and expertise of the Board of Governors by laying Proposed Committee Bill 7100, or similar legislation, on the table and allowing the Board of Governors approval process to proceed without delay.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Florida Council of 100 calls on Governor Scott and leaders of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives to publicly endorse the Board of Governors’ approach to, and authority over, USF Polytechnic governance change, which comprehensively and constitutionally lay the foundation for both a strong, fiscally whole University of South Florida and a new, vibrant independent polytechnic institution within the State University System.



**Passed by the Executive Committee
of The Florida Council of 100
February 14, 2012**

Steven T. Halverson, Chair

Susan Pareigis, President & CEO

