



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Office of the President

September 2, 2009

The Honorable Frank Brogan
Chancellor, Florida Board of Governors
State University System
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Dear Chancellor Brogan:

Please consider this letter the University of South Florida's (USF) formal request for Board of Governors (BOG) approval for the addition of lower-level courses and enrollment at the USF Polytechnic campus. This request is subject to final approval of this action by the USF Board of Trustees at their next meeting on September 10, 2009.

This request for approval of lower-level enrollment at the USF Polytechnic campus is directly related to the mission and long-term goals of the university as a whole and of the campus. In order to focus the university's resources in the most efficient manner possible, the USF Board of Trustees adopted a strategic plan for each of the university's campuses. As a component of the strategic plan for USF Tampa, the USF Board of Trustees adopted a focus on growing the proportion of students studying at the graduate—particularly the doctoral—level, while still offering a first-class undergraduate program. At the same time, the USF Board of Trustees adopted the strategic focus of growing the undergraduate enrollment at our regional campuses that have the capacity for such growth and whose mission best fits this important state need.

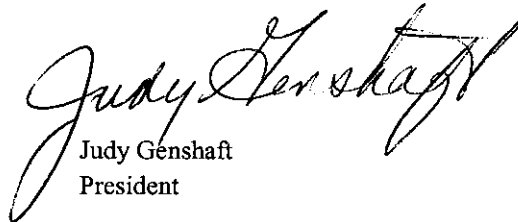
Additionally, the approval of this request will help USF meet the unmet and growing demand for lower-level enrollment at the USF Polytechnic campus. Within Polk County and its surrounding counties, employer demand for workers trained in high-skill/high-wage occupations and student enrollment in local institutions of higher education continues to grow. As the BOG is already well aware, USF Polytechnic will be opening a new campus site and in the process will no longer be primarily collocated with Polk State College, its primary 2+2 partner institution. To achieve optimum student geographic access to higher education, this separation of campuses must be done in conjunction with the addition of lower-level courses at the new campus site. Further, as new degree programs are developed within the campus' polytechnic education model, there is increased likelihood that local Florida College System institutions will not be equipped to offer the appropriate lower-level courses for USF Polytechnic students to progress towards a timely graduation. Finally, it is important to note that our valued partners at Polk State College support this request for lower-level enrollment at USF Polytechnic (see attached letter of support from President Eileen Holden).

As you are also aware, the Florida Legislature appropriated, within the General Appropriations Act for SFY 2009-10, a new \$5 million in recurring base budget funding for USF Polytechnic to support the continued implementation of the campus' Strategic Plan. These funds will be used to hire faculty to support expanded program offerings at both the upper and lower levels and to maximize the use of current classroom capacity. The USF Polytechnic

Campus Master Plan calls for future expansion on the new campus site, which has received nearly \$40 million in state PECO funding and private gifts. Although robust public and private funding has already been provided, it is critical that we receive formal BOG approval for this lower-level expansion prior to moving forward with any corresponding faculty hiring initiatives. Following the BOG's approval and a thoughtful hiring process, the campus can begin to slowly ramp up lower-level FTE with an initial pilot freshman cohort in Fall 2011 and freshman class admissions in Fall 2012 to coincide with the opening of the new USF Polytechnic campus site.

The approval of this request is critical to achieving the strategic goals of the BOG, the USF Board of Trustees and each of our USF campuses. If USF can provide any additional information that would assist you or the BOG members in the consideration of this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your favorable support for this important step forward for USF and our region.

Sincerely,



Judy Genshaft
President

cc: The Honorable John Delaney
President-in-Residence
State University System