

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

June 18, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Reclassification of the University of South Florida Sarasota – Manatee Regional Campus and Implementation of a Full Range of General Education and Lower Level Courses

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider approval of the reclassification of the University of South Florida Sarasota – Manatee regional campus to be a Type II Campus and the implementation of a full range of General Education and Lower Level Courses.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution; Board of Governors Regulation 8.009

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of South Florida (USF) is requesting the reclassification of the Sarasota-Manatee regional campus from a Type III Campus to a Type II Campus in accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.009 (1). New data indicate that the campus has achieved and remains above the 1,000 FTE threshold necessary to be classified as a Type II Campus. In addition, the campus has demonstrated its ability to deliver complete degree programs and a full array of student services when it received separate SACSCOC accreditation in 2011 with no recommendations or follow-up. Reclassifying USF Sarasota-Manatee as a Type II Campus will be revenue neutral.

As a safeguard for statewide 2+2 articulation, Board Regulation 8.009 (2) requires Board of Governors approval for a regional educational site to offer lower level courses beyond 25 percent of its total student FTE or to offer a full range of general education and lower level courses. At this time, USF Sarasota-Manatee offers a limited number of lower level courses in agreement with the local Florida College System institution. The University is requesting approval for USF Sarasota-Manatee to offer a full range of general education and lower level in order to better serve the needs of its freshmen and sophomore level students.

The Florida Legislature mandated that USF Sarasota-Manatee seek separate SACSCOC accreditation in 2001 through Florida Statute 1004.34. In achieving separate accreditation, the campus had to demonstrate that it had complete control over its program offerings and student services. The campus typically serves a different

population in its lower level courses than that served by the Florida colleges, and requires first-time-in-college students to meet the admission standards set state-wide for the State University System of Florida. Nearby State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota continues to provide open-access to higher education and developmental courses. Approval of the USF request is not expected to negatively impact the transfer of Associate of Arts graduates into USF Sarasota-Manatee, and a letter of support has been provided by the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

Currently the USF St. Petersburg campus is the only other regional educational site in the State University System separately accredited by SACSCOC (also as required by state law). It is already approved to offer a full range of general education and lower level courses.

The USF Board of Trustees approved the proposals for reclassification of USF Sarasota Manatee and the full range of general education and lower-level courses on March 5, 2015. If approved by the Board of Governors, the reclassification and authorization of lower level courses will be effective Fall 2015.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:**

Information located in the Academic and Student Affairs Committee materials