



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 17, 2025

**VIA email delivery**

Board of Governors  
State University System of Florida  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Board of Governors:

I am submitting for your review and confirmation the draft Extension of the Amended Presidential Contract (the “Extension”) for President Rhea F. Law, as required by Florida Board of Governors Regulation 1.001(5)(d). On March 11, 2025, the USF Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Extension, pending confirmation by the Board of Governors.

Under President Law’s leadership, USF has reached remarkable milestones. The university was invited to join the Association of American Universities (AAU), becoming part of an elite group of the top 3% of universities in the United States and Canada. In each year of her tenure, USF has been ranked among the top 50 public universities in America by *U.S. News & World Report* and has been recognized as the “best value” among all Florida universities for the past two years. President Law’s leadership has also contributed to historic achievements, including USF’s record-breaking research funding of \$738 million in fiscal year 2024, a 5% increase in undergraduate student applications for Fall/Summer 2024 (totaling more than 68,000 applications), and a record \$168 million in philanthropic contributions from over 54,000 donors in fiscal year 2024. President Law has been exceptional in leading USF to unprecedented levels of success during her time as president, and she has the full confidence and support of the USF Board of Trustees that she will continue to do so through the duration of the Extension.

On February 17, 2025, President Law announced her plans to step down after a national search is conducted and a successor is selected. Her current Amended Presidential Contract (the “Contract”) is set to expire on March 31, 2025; therefore, the USF Board of Trustees approved the Extension, which shall continue in effect until the first day of employment of the permanent University president. The Extension is valid for up to one year, and any subsequent contract extensions will be subject to confirmation by the Board of Governors and limited to one-year terms.

The Extension also provides for the USF Foundation to continue contributing to a deferred compensation plan established for President Law’s benefit equal to 25% (twenty-five) of the annual Base Salary for year 2025. This percentage of base compensation was approved

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

University of South Florida | 4202 E Fowler Avenue, | Tampa, FL 33620-4301  
813-974-1678 | [usf.edu](http://usf.edu)



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

by the USF Board of Trustees on September 10, 2024 as part of her Contract. The Extension simply preserves this benefit, which would otherwise expire with the Contract.

Except for the modifications outlined above, all other terms and conditions of the Contract shall remain in effect and are not altered by the Extension.

The University of South Florida hereby respectfully requests confirmation by the Board of Governors for President Rhea F. Law's Extension of the Amended Presidential Contract. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will Weatherford".

Will Weatherford  
Chair, USF Board of Trustees

cc: USF President Rhea F. Law

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

University of South Florida | 4202 E Fowler Avenue, | Tampa, FL 33620-4301  
813-974-1678 | usf.edu