Element 1:

Introduction
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1. Introduction

(In previous reports, this section was Element 1, Academic Mission of the University. Academic Mission is no longer a required element per FL BOG Chapter 21 and has been deleted as a specific chapter in this USFSM 2010-2020 Master Plan Update. See Chapter 3, Vision Statement, 3.1, USFSM Strategic Plan of this report for the University’s Institutional Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals and Strategies.)

The University of South Florida System

The University of South Florida (USF) System is a young and emerging system that currently includes four institutions: USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, USF Sarasota-Manatee and USF Polytechnic. The first three institutions are separately accredited; USF Polytechnic is in the process of becoming separately accredited. All four institutions have distinct missions with their own detailed strategic plans and campus master plans.

The University of South Florida System was formed to bring these four institutions together, so that collectively and collaboratively they could serve the region and beyond in optimal ways, resulting in a stronger presence and a distinctiveness that provides an unstoppable competitive differentiation. In addition to having a strong and unified voice for higher education, the USF System seeks to find and capitalize on synergies and economies of scales among its institutions that are of benefit to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and communities.

The University of South Florida System offers over 232 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialist and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The USF System has a $1.8 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of $3.2 billion, and serves more than 47,000 students.

The University of South Florida System Strategic Plan 2010-2015, the first comprehensive plan for the USF System, complements the institutional strategic plans and provides a blueprint for the future. Goals defining the future academic mission of the University have been established as part of the University’s strategic planning process.

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee

As a thriving institution within the University of South Florida System, USF Sarasota-Manatee brings the resources of a major public research university to Sarasota and Manatee Counties. USF Sarasota-Manatee offers course work at two sites: USF Sarasota-Manatee located in Sarasota and Manatee Counties and USF Sarasota-Manatee North Port located in the City of North Port.

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee is a regional institution that provides upper level junior, senior and graduate course work leading to baccalaureate and master’s degrees, as well as undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. USF Sarasota-Manatee has a $22 million annual budget, offers 34 academic programs and certificates, and serves more than 4,600 students annually. The institution is proceeding with plans to enroll lower level undergraduate students in 2012.
Accreditation

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award baccalaureate and master’s degrees.

Historical Context

The University of South Florida, founded in 1956 in Tampa, initiated limited course offerings in 1974 at two public high schools in the Sarasota-Manatee area to serve local residents, with particular attention to community college graduates and school teachers.

The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee was established in 1975 by legislative mandate in response to the public demand for greater access to higher education. Concurrent with the establishment of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, New College, a private liberal arts college located in Sarasota, became affiliated with the University of South Florida with the title of New College of the University of South Florida.

In 2000, the Florida Legislature established a revised governance structure for public universities which took effect on July 1, 2001. This revised governance structure required that all universities be governed by the Florida Board of Governors and appointed Boards of Trustees for each individual university. The revised governance structure also granted operational autonomy to the regional campuses of the USF System, including USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee, through separate Campus Boards for each regional campus. It also established New College of Florida as the eleventh public university within the State University System, thereby ending its affiliation with the University of South Florida.

In 2003, USF Sarasota-Manatee and New College of Florida executed a Joint Relocation and Use Plan to relocate the USF Sarasota-Manatee academic programs, administrative offices, and physical facilities to a nearby 28.5 acre tract of land, and to also maintain a limited number of shared-use facilities for the benefit of both universities.

During the years 2002-2005, the State legislature approved $30 million for master planning and construction of new facilities to house USF Sarasota-Manatee. This appropriation was supplemented with $7.5 million from community private donations and State of Florida matching grant funds. The new facilities were completed and opened in August 2006.

The USF Sarasota-Manatee campus also includes facilities located on a 3.3-acre tract of land located approximately ¼ mile south of the main campus, commonly referred to as the “Viking Campus”. The Viking Campus buildings were constructed in 1959 and operated as a motel prior to their purchase by the State of Florida in 1983 for future campus expansion, and have a limited useful life expectancy.

USF Sarasota-Manatee also maintains access to several buildings as shared-use facilities pursuant to the 2003 USF Sarasota-Manatee and New College of Florida Joint Relocation and Use Plan. These shared-use facilities include a campus library, a conference center and a counseling and wellness center.

In addition to the previously described properties, in 2004, the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus Board established an instructional site in southern Sarasota County to better serve the those residents, including the cities of Venice and North Port. The USF Sarasota-Manatee North
Port Instructional Site opened in August 2010, and is currently is located in leased facilities in the City of North Port.

**USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Master Plans**

The 2000-2010 USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Master Plan was initially adopted by the USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Board in April 2003. That master plan was challenged through a legal action by a group of local residents on the grounds that the plan violated due process and on the basis of disputed content. The dispute was adjudicated with a Final Order issued by the State of Florida Department of Community Affairs Administrative Commission in March 2004. USF Sarasota-Manatee revised the master plan to incorporate all of the items required by the above referenced order, and that revised plan was adopted by the USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Board and USF Board of Trustees in 2004.

As a result of the 2000-2010 Campus Master Plan, USF Sarasota-Manatee entered into a Campus Development Agreement (CDA) with Manatee County, Florida, to affirm the development plan set forth in the Campus Master Plan through June 2012. USF Sarasota-Manatee allocated $683,591.00 from the State University Concurrency Trust Fund to pay for improvements to public facilities and infrastructure to support the growth of USF Sarasota-Manatee.

The 2005-2015 USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Master Plan Update was adopted by the USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Board in April 2008 and by the USF System Board of Trustees in June 2009. That master plan update reaffirmed the goals, objectives and policies of the 2000-2010 Master Plan; and further defined redevelopment opportunities for the Viking properties, evaluated future property acquisitions, and identified the need to accommodate the rapid enrollment growth in south Sarasota County.

This 2010-2020 USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Master Plan Update is presented as the legislatively mandated five-year update to the 2005-2015 USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus Master Plan.