2020 Focus on Quality: Big Questions to Answer for the Strategic Plan

1. **Student Success.** What are the top areas to focus on related to student success, the rationale for choosing them, and the strategies that will help USFSM reach our goals?
   
   a. Critical thinking has been chosen as the QEP topic. What role should the QEP play in the strategic plan?
   b. What do each of the enrollment types require to thrive – persist and graduate (i.e., freshmen, transfers, master’s)?
   c. Which student support activities are working well and which need to be enhanced? Should any be added?
   d. Define the type of campus life needed at USF Sarasota-Manatee for students to thrive?
   e. Is a residence hall necessary to student success?
   f. Do classrooms meet student learning needs or should changes be made?
   g. What additional student-centered spaces are needed and how will we measure whether or not adding these spaces assisted students to be successful?
   h. What faculty and staff professional development is needed to ensure reaching student success goals?
   i. What role should the Lifelong Learning Academy have in the Strategic Plan?

2. **Enrollment.** What key areas of enrollment growth should be targeted by USFSM, why, and what strategies will ensure reaching the enrollment goals?
   
   a. How much should USF Sarasota-Manatee’s enrollment grow and how would you prioritize curriculum development and faculty growth to support enrollment?
   b. How much should each level grow – First-time in college (FTIC), Transfer, Master’s?
   c. What are the enrollment targets for domestic and international students?
   d. What role do Student Services, Marketing, and the Colleges play in enrollment growth?
   e. Which programs is USF Sarasota-Manatee offering that have the potential for student growth based on BOG and workforce statistics, but need more resources? What are those resources? How should they be prioritized?
   f. What existing programs can meet student demand and community need by changing course content or a concentration rather than adding a new degree program?
   g. What 2+2 programs and pipeline programs can we articulate with our partner institutions?
   h. How should we grow STEM programs? What other resources are needed?
   i. How should we define successful and unsuccessful programs?

3. **Scholarship/Service.** How will scholarship and service fit into the Strategic Plan, what is your rationale for including them, and what strategies need to be implemented to reach the goals?
a. What is the definition of scholarship at USF Sarasota-Manatee? What role do each of the following play in the definition – theoretical, applied, collaborative, independent?
b. What resources do faculty need to implement grant projects?
c. Should USF Sarasota-Manatee define sectors of research to focus on and recruit faculty based on those research sectors to provide critical mass?
d. What is the role of service at USF Sarasota-Manatee for faculty and for students?
e. Should service be embedded in classroom work, extracurricular activities, or both?
f. What incentives would promote students becoming involved in service?
g. Should more service learning courses be developed? If so, should incentives be provided through tenure and promotion guidelines and instructor promotion guidelines? Should stipends be provided? What definition of service learning should USF Sarasota-Manatee adopt?
h. Should USF Sarasota-Manatee set up the infrastructure, including reporting and rewards, to apply for Carnegie Community-Engaged status in 2018? If yes, what strategies will make the application successful?

4. **Course Delivery.** What mix of Sarasota-North Port-Tampa, face-to-face, online, and blended classes and programs should USF Sarasota-Manatee offer to grow, what is your rationale, and what strategies should be employed?

   a. Over 40% of USF Sarasota-Manatee’s courses are on-line and many serve USF Tampa and USF St. Pete students rather than our own (e.g., Issues in Sport, Spanish). However, the only fully on-line degree program is the Communication Sciences and Disorders bachelor’s. Should other programs become fully on-line, including the Core Curriculum?
   b. Does USF Sarasota-Manatee have adequate technology to facilitate and enhance teaching and learning needs?
   c. What is the role of the off-campus sites in the next five years: North Port, Mote Marine Laboratory, Culinary Innovation Laboratory, New College, and USF in Tampa?
   d. Should special strategies be used to recruit and retain students at off-campus sites?
   e. How should USF Sarasota-Manatee define the success of an off-campus site?
   f. Should USF Sarasota-Manatee add or reduce the number of off-campus sites?
   g. What strategies for faculty development in course delivery should be a part of the strategic plan?

5. **Partners.** What partnerships play a role in the strategic plan, what is your rationale, and how will you know that we reached the anticipated outcomes?

   a. What role(s) does USF Sarasota-Manatee currently play in the USF System, the SUS System and Florida Higher Education (BOG & FLDOE), and the region’s higher education community? Should that change?
b. What are USF Sarasota-Manatee’s unique strengths that can interest external groups in partnering with us?
c. What do students and the community need from USF Sarasota-Manatee?
d. What does the USF System need from USF Sarasota-Manatee?
e. How should we partner with New College, State College of Florida, FSU Asolo, and Ringling College?
f. What other partnerships would be beneficial to USF Sarasota-Manatee and the community (e.g., LECOM, Port Manatee, Benderson, arts groups, etc.)? What is needed to nurture them?

6. **Resources.** What direction should USF Sarasota-Manatee take in the next five years regarding financial and physical resources?

   a. Can USF Sarasota-Manatee stop doing any programs or activities or do them differently to free up funding to focus on strategic plan initiatives?
   b. How should we measure return on investment (e.g., in new programs, faculty development, research support)?
   c. How should USF Sarasota-Manatee diversify our resources?
   d. What is the benefit of giving to USF Sarasota-Manatee?
   e. How should we engage USF Sarasota-Manatee Alumni and USF Alumni living in the region?