

Memorandum

To: Judy Genshaft, President
Renu Khator, Interim Provost
Carl Carlucci, Executive Vice President

From: Ralph Wilcox, Vice Provost

Date: December 12, 2003

Subject: USF's rankings among The Top American Research Universities

The Center at the University of Florida has recently published its 2003 report on The Top American Research Universities. Please find attached a spreadsheet that outlines USF's performance (including historical data drawn from the 2000, 2001 and 2002 reports) across the nine criteria used to rank research universities, along with the performance of selected institutions across the following referential groups:

- Big East (public) universities
- Peers (submitted to DCU in 1999)
- Aspirational peers (1999)
- Alternate peers
- SUS research universities

The 2003 report includes a 78-page study entitled "The Sports Imperative in America's Research Universities".

The following summary of findings is provided as a complement to USF's *Strategic Planning Progress Report, 2002-2003*. While progress has been generally quite impressive there appear to be some major detriments to USF's rise among the ranks of the nation's top public research universities – the most marked being student profile.

Criterion I: Total Research (2001)

USF performance:	\$171,550,000
USF rank among public universities:	43rd
USF rank among all national research universities:	65 th
Ahead of selected universities:	Arizona State University Carnegie Mellon University Indiana University, Bloomington Florida State University Georgetown University Princeton University Stony Brook University University of Miami University of Notre Dame University of Virginia

Criterion II: Federal Research (2001)

USF performance:	\$58,826,000
USF rank among public universities:	62nd
USF rank among all national research universities:	95th
Ahead of selected universities:	Arizona State University Brown University Florida State University Indiana University, Bloomington University at Albany

Criterion III: Endowment Assets (2002)

USF performance:	\$245,803,000
USF rank among public universities:	59th
USF rank among all national research universities:	157th
Ahead of selected universities:	Arizona State University Louisiana State University Oregon State University University of Oregon Virginia Commonwealth University

Criterion IV: Annual Giving (2002)

USF performance:	\$40,819,000
USF rank among public universities:	63rd
USF rank among all national research universities:	106th
Ahead of selected universities:	Carnegie Mellon University University of Houston, University Park University of Louisville Syracuse University Washington State University

Criterion V: National Academy Members (2002)

USF performance:	3
USF rank among public universities:	64th
USF rank among all national research universities:	104th
Ahead of selected universities:	Louisiana State University University of Louisville University of Miami University of Notre Dame University of South Carolina, Columbia

Criterion VI: Faculty Awards (2002)

USF performance:	5
USF rank among public universities:	66th
USF rank among all national research universities:	103rd
Ahead of selected universities:	University at Albany University of Houston, University Park Scripps Research Institute Wellesley College Williams College

Criterion VII: Doctorates Awarded (2002)

USF performance:	165
USF rank among public universities:	55th
USF rank among all national research universities:	83rd
Ahead of selected universities:	Kansas State University Oregon State University Syracuse University University of Alabama, Birmingham University at Albany University of Louisville University of Miami University of Notre Dame University of Oklahoma, Norman Washington State University

Criterion VIII: Postdoctoral Appointees (2001)

USF performance:	71
USF rank among public universities:	77th
USF rank among all national research universities:	115th
Ahead of selected universities:	George Washington University Georgia Institute of Technology Syracuse University University of Houston, University Park

Criterion IX: Median SAT Score (2001)

USF performance:	1045
USF rank among public universities:	185th
USF rank among all national research universities:	678th

Summary and Observations:

- Generally, USF's performance has improved, with higher rankings in 6 of the 9 measures over the previous year. Declines were realized in "Endowment Assets" (from 58th to 59th), "National Academy Members" (from 63rd to 64th), and "Median SAT Score" (from 124th to 185th).
- Overall, USF was placed in the same grouping as Clemson University, Oregon State University, Temple University, and the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.
- USF is a long way from the top category of public research universities that includes the University of California, Berkeley, UCLA, the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- USF claimed 17 National Merit and Achievement Scholars in 2002, ranking it 51st among public research universities and 111th nationally. This number exceeded that found at the College of William and Mary, Indiana University, Bloomington, the University of Alabama, Birmingham, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Louisville, and the University of Pittsburgh.
- Compared to other SUS research universities, USF fell short of UF in all measures, bettered FSU in two, UCF and FIU in eight, and FAMU in nine of the nine criteria.
- Median SAT score (which appears to have been on a serious downward spiral at USF since 2000), % of graduate enrollment (at 21.6% only the University of Arizona, the University of Houston, University Park, Rutgers University, and all SUS research institutions were lower), and % of part-time students (at 42.3% only FIU and Wayne State University, among referential institutions, were higher) suggests a profile other than that of a premier, national research university. This indicates the need for immediate and significant management of enrollment if USF is serious about raising its status among the referenced institutions. There is cause for optimism in the knowledge that the Median SAT score for 2002 will be reported at 1056 and 1084 for 2003.