

University of South Florida
Board of Trustees' Workgroup on Academics and Campus Environment
January 23, 2004

Issue: Progress report on USF's ranking among *The Top American Research Universities*

Proposed Action: For information

Background Information:

TheCenter at the University of Florida has recently published its 2003 report on *The Top American Research Universities*. The 2003 report includes an interesting 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, 2002-200* (November 20, 2003). While gains have 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 associated with student profile.

Criterion I: Total Research (2001) ↑

USF performance:	\$171,550,000
USF rank among public universities:	43 rd
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	47 th (2002); 51 st (2001); and 54 th (2000)
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:	62 nd
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	64 th (2002); 67 th (2001); and 70 th (2000)
USF rank among all national research universities:	95 th
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:	59 th
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	58 th (2002); 64 th (2001); and 61 st (2000)
USF rank among all national research universities:	157 th
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:	63 rd
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	78 th (2002); 58 th (2001); and 92 nd (2000)
USF rank among all national research universities:	106 th
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:	64 th
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	63 rd (2002); 61 st (2001); and 61 st (2000)
USF rank among all national research universities:	104 th
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:	66 th
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	85 th (2002); 51 st (2001); and 50 th (2000)
USF rank among all national research universities:	103 rd
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:	55 th
USF rank among public universities – historical trends:	59 th (2002); 70 th (2001); and 67 th (2000)
USF rank among all national research universities:	83 rd

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 public universities – historical trends: 91st (2002); 84th (2001); and 88th (2000)
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 public universities – historical trends: 124th (2002); 126th (2001); and 83rd (2000)
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.

Supporting documentation: *The Top American Research Universities* spreadsheet (November 2003)

Prepared by: Ralph C. Wilcox, Vice Provost, 813-974-5543