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COPY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ann E. Prentice
Executive Director, Self Study

FROM: H. William Heller *Ann E. Prentice*
Campus Dean and Executive Officer

DATE: November 10, 1992

SUBJECT: Self Study Elements Unique to the Regional Campuses

Thank you for the opportunity to review the SACS criteria statements. It is our opinion that there are no unique applications of these statements to the St. Petersburg campus. There are those which do not apply at all such as the criteria for doctoral programs, intercollegiate athletics and residential students.

There are necessary differences in organization and processes, but the fundamental functions addressed by applicable criteria are served in comparable fashion on the two campuses. That is to say, our programs and purposes are common to the extent that they overlap both campuses. Further, we do not see a need for a separate self study for our campus. A distinct descriptive section in the self study acknowledging the presence of a multicampus system with subsections for each regional campus might be appropriate. This could be similar to but a bit more elaborate than the approach taken in the Planning Commission report, "Shaping Our Future."

Please call if I can provide further advice or information.

STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE

The University of South Florida is a multi-campus, comprehensive, research university strongly committed to the balanced pursuit of excellent teaching, significant research, and useful public service. The University generates and disseminates new insights, knowledge, and forms of expression; it prepares students for their personal lives, professional careers, and contributions to society; and it serves its external communities through the citizenship and expertise of its faculty, staff, students, and graduates.

The University of South Florida is committed to supporting and nurturing the free expression of ideas. It embraces the role of the university as a social critic and conscience and respects and defends the rights of faculty, staff, and students to speak out and act responsibly upon the social implications of their knowledge. The University values an intellectually excellent, culturally diverse academic community of faculty, staff, and students. The University strives to provide an intellectually challenging environment, within and beyond the classroom, that engages students and faculty in a common inquiry into the values of society and gives them a rational understanding of the need to accept and appreciate differences among people and cultures as a foundation for national and global welfare.

The three traditional activities of teaching, research, and public service are the foundation of the University's mission. In the conduct and delivery of its programs, the University recognizes the special characteristics of its students and the opportunities

provided by the location of its campuses in thriving metropolitan areas on Florida's gulf coast. The University gives particular consideration to programs and activities that can build on these advantages to achieve national and international distinction.

As an institution dedicated to excellent teaching, the University's fundamental objective is to evoke in its students a life-long commitment to learning that enables them to become thoughtful, active, productive, and compassionate citizens. The University provides to all undergraduates a strong common curriculum in liberal education that balances the acquisition of general knowledge with the development of intellectual honesty, curiosity, creativity, critical inquiry, and personal values and ethics that include a commitment to advancing the society in which they live. Specialization in the major areas builds upon this strong liberal education and prepares graduates to enter graduate school or to embark directly upon their life's work. Advanced studies at the graduate and professional level enable students to work with faculty at the forefront of their disciplines, to increase their depth of knowledge and personal achievement, and to contribute to the advancement of their professions and the larger society. The University has high expectations of its faculty as inspirational teachers and of its faculty and its students as exemplary scholars.

As a comprehensive research university, the University is dedicated to the discovery of new knowledge, insights, and forms of expression through significant innovative research and other creative activity and to the preservation, organization, analysis, and synthesis of existing knowledge. As a leading publicly supported university, the University

accomplishes its research mission by building on existing program strengths, by fostering effective, cross-disciplinary approaches, and by contributing to the resolution of social, cultural, economic, medical, and technological challenges facing the largely metropolitan populations of our state and country within the international community of the 21st century.

As an institution serving the region, state and nation, the University actively encourages the use of the expertise of its faculty, staff, and students for the advantage of the larger community--to provide intellectual, cultural, health-related and social services; to contribute to life-long learning opportunities; and to function as a catalyst for improvements within its immediate cultural, economic, and social context. USF has the assigned responsibility to provide continuing education for a fifteen-county area.

Within the mission of the total university, the Tampa campus plays the central role. It incorporates a comprehensive range of teaching, research, and service functions and provides essential academic leadership and administrative services for the University's multiple campuses. The missions of the regional campuses at St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Fort Myers, and Lakeland emphasize programs that respond to demonstrated regional need for undergraduate upper level and master's level education. On a selective basis, regional campuses also undertake program initiatives involving special community interests and resources. The special strengths of all five campuses contribute to an integrated, diversified, and comprehensive university dedicated to excellent educational quality and leadership.