AY 2005/2006 Faculty Senate Shared Governance Resolution

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Whereas orderly governance in a University is best achieved when the structure and responsibilities of the various elements of the governance system and limits and extent of their powers be articulated in a Constitution; and

Whereas the absence of such a Constitution at the University of South Florida inhibits and retards the achievement of shared governance at the University, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate adopted a Resolution in 2003 that assigned high priority to the establishment of true shared governance at USF, it is important that the explicit governance documents, including a University Constitution, be developed at all levels of the University’s governance, and

Whereas the report of the USF Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Shared Governance (October 2005) indicated that there may be many USF academic departments that do not have written governance documents available to faculty within their departments, or they have documents that have not been reviewed in many years; and

Whereas the majority of the USF Faculty Senate affirm the importance of having written departmental governance documents that are deemed satisfactory by the members of each academic department;

Be it therefore known that we, the members of the USF Faculty Senate, hereby request that:

1) The President of the Faculty Senate and the President of the University appoint a joint committee to review existing guidelines for shared governance including those proposed by the Faculty Senate in 2003 and those included in the above mentioned report of the Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Governance, to compose suggested protocols for construction, content and promulgation of both a University Constitution and of departmental governance documents. It is further requested that this committee be appointed by December 1, 2005, and the guidelines for departmental guidelines be presented to the Provost and Vice President for Health Sciences for approval by March 15, 2006. Guidelines for a University Constitution be presented for an early discussion no later than August 2006.

2) The Provost and the Vice President of the Health Science Center instruct the departments within their respective units to compose or
update departmental governance documents, new or revised
documents to be presented to the Deans and Provost/Vice President
for Health Sciences by the end of the fall semester 2006, to be posted
on the respective USF academic departmental websites. In those
departments that have already adopted Bylaws the process of
updating, should the department deem it necessary, must conform to
the Bylaws revision processes as defined in the existing Bylaws.

Adopted this 19th day of October, 2005 by the University of South Florida Faculty
Senate.