



ASUSF Fall Town Hall Breakout Sessions Notes
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 | Xavier Auditorium | 5 - 7pm PT

1. Academic Affairs

Core Curriculum:

- The current curriculum is over 20 years old, current conversations include the introduction of a new core curriculum.
 - From 48 to 36 units and the graduation requirement from 128 units to 120
- The core curriculum is a university wide requirement. What we do is look at the data of jobs that are rising and if needed make a new core curriculum.
- Currently in year 2 (the design base) and by next year they'll start implementation is expected to take multiple years because the old core will still be utilized by current students before the new one can be implemented.
- Plan to give exposure but isn't going to dictate what skills students will specifically obtain.
 - Increased flexibility and freedom for students to choose courses.

Overall Curriculum:

- Process for new courses:
 1. Faculty look at demand and create assignments to teach students that apply what they learned.
 2. It is then submitted to the department for approval. Then the department goes to the curriculum committee if it needs to be approved and checks to see if it meets the standard of the school.
- New majors:
 1. Research into the job market and what is currently in demand is conducted.
 - Ex: Public Health and Neuroscience
 2. The Engineering program is in the works of getting credited and when approved a professor will be hired.



2. Athletic Oversight

Apparel:

- GDE sells merchandise at games but it would be great to increase the amount of options available since students have been purchasing frequently.

Jerseys:

- Able to be sold but there are minimums that need to be met in order to be produced.
- Blank jerseys rather than ones with players' names (bookstore currently offers a baseball version).

Marketing/Engagement:

- **Students get into all home games for free.**
 - Students don't know this, start promoting as soon as possible.
- One home TF meet a year, USF invite, in GGP.
 - Promote this as a big kick off event for next year.
- Adding home games to the Phoenix each week to encourage students to attend.
- Involvement Fair to provide chances for student athletes to join student orgs.
- Current focus is on the ticketed sports:
 - Baseball, mens and womens basketball, mens and womens soccer, volleyball.
- Ways to get students interested in coming to the games:
 - Free food
 - Theme night
 - Student Djs
 - Dons Band
 - Halftime games -> prizes
- **Tailgate** in collaboration with on campus organizations at the beginning of second semester.



3. Development

Meeting structure:

- BOT meetings are closed for public comment (specifically the Investment Committee)

Finance:

- Investment is primarily the endowment (no direct investment)
- How does the committee assess and prioritize funding needs for animal operations vs long-term capital investments.
 - Portfolio is reviewed to make adequate distributions and mitigate investment risk.
- More so invested in private managers, not so much public
- Aware of the funds and students (as far as we know) non-voting members.
 - 2 hour meeting: raise concerns if asked but is primarily for awareness
 - Top funds: 30% Big public companies in the US. (apple, etc) 10-15% smaller companies (most unknown names) 10-15% stocks, international development, emerging markets, and fixed income workers, private equity venture capital (private companies not private stocks).
 - Projects the university looks into but never invests in; student tuition provides the majority of the money and the investments are not reflecting students' needs effectively.

Interim Vice President of Development:

- Fundraising for the university - raise money from corporations and individuals (mainly 80% from alumni). Some allocations include:
 - Scholarships - \$200 million
 - Facilities - \$150 million
 - Faculty, Programs, overall university support (student and emergency funding)
 - Biggest needs? Currently is scholarships because costs are going up (inflation)
 - Dean communicates with the development committee then a donor will mention their efforts and if no one from the school supports that effort, then they cannot accept.
 - Donation achievements: basketball gym
 - Students believe that's where the money is going
 - Increase outreach to academic donors?



Major necessities:

- Anonymous donations did not have a direct location and were distributed accordingly.
- New building: Development is put in charge to raise funds for the new building. development with the goal of having low financial impact for current students.
- Academic donors are the biggest priority not for buildings but for scholarships.
- Endow professorship: attracts the best professors to be in that position.
- Donor and Alumni concerns, such as the reputation of SF, the competitiveness of USF against other schools, etc, can impact donor decisions.

Mascot Transition:

- If it is officially communicated then this will be a thing to bring up to fundraisers.
- Mindful preparations are being made but there is no finalized action set up.

University Funding:

- Sobrato Center (drinks/food/tickets)
- Large percentage of donations come in directed to athletic support
- Proposed focusing on building academic resources before turning attention to building and developing athletics



4. Finance

Investment Committee:

- Large Cap: 30% (big stocks)
- Mid to Small Cap: 10-15%
- Non-US Equity Fund: 10-20% (foreign investments in less developed countries)
- Risk management strategies in place
- Fixed Income Holdings and Private Equity/Venture Capital Investments
 - Own private companies, not just stocks
- Thresholds for university portfolio
- Mitigating risk in holdings
- Allocation considerations for contributions

Management:

- Invest in managers who buy mutual funds and stocks from other companies
- Disclosure limitations due to investment risk management
- Can disclose index funds but not private holdings
- Committee has insight into fund contents
- All students are non-voting members

Current Top Investments:

- Every department should have goals supporting students
- Understanding existing resources and gaps
- Example: Chemistry department's focus
- Emphasis on communication about opportunities

Career Services:

- Need for better communication between Career Services and program leads
- One class to help students understand their career paths
- Each program should have a list of future conferences and opportunities
- Propose student representatives in each department to push agendas
- Transparency among student leads to facilitate communication
- Responsibility to engage with faculty regarding student concerns
- Budget allocation in each department
- Focus on strengthening existing programs before expanding or combining majors



5. Information Technology Strategy

Security:

- All university digital traffic will later be on USF Connect (hopefully next year).
 - Hoping to retire USF Wireless completely by next year.
- Security initiatives have been implemented and will continue to be monitored.
 - Many universities were being hacked at this time (2014-15)

Website Modifications:

- DegreeWorks - is mostly for students
 - A tool can be helpful to show what if you change your minor/major
- New registration model is being tested and should launch this month
- Been upgrading module by module
 - For the last 18 months
- Small windows to do upgrades, usually when classes aren't in session (least disruptive for everyone)

Generative AI

- Broadly speaking a game changer
- Change something that used to be inaccessible to something accessible. Big upgrade and changes now. We are in an early phase now and later on it will be a part of how we interact with software.
- Technology cycle is starting to shrink (software)
- Does ITS plan to bring AI into teaching?
 - Center of Teaching Excellence - sent them and published email with guidelines for use of AI
 - Up to professors to determine what they want their instruction to be with AI
 - Guidelines from other Universities, security teams, best practice teams

Privacy

- Firewalls look for malicious content going back in not out unless it is spam



- Can't see the content just the computer spamming and then block it
 - Data going to the data center - not storing anything in the data center (for example canvas, canvas stores it)
- External firewalls stop 30k attacks a day from coming in to the network
- Technology that scans emails that are leaving the university for sensitive content
- If traffic is on our network - sensitive information (if it is flagged cannot see it, but will be back to the sender).
 - System will automatically respond to the individual, but they cannot see.
 - Student records are kept forever.

Resources:

- Most classrooms are equipped with recording systems to record lectures.
- Some faculty just do not want to do it or call a different organization to get help.
- Echo 360 - electric capture system and have to know how to use that.
- Computer replacement plan every 5 years
 - Student donation program
 - Students can get a free 3-4 year old computer if they did not have a problem
 - 100-200 students each year that demonstrate that need to CASA
 - With Father Paul, students used to use a lot of the computers on the 2nd floor in 2015 and there was a waiting line
 - Many of them were writing papers (they did not have a computer, laptop)
 - Ran that program for about 4 years (now LinkedIn Learning as it is all available to students)
 - Demonstrated need through CASA or to the SF community that need more need
- Students will have access to their email as an alumni email
 - Suspend credentials after 2 years if not being used
 - After 3-4 years it is removed to avoid cyber risks



6. Investment

Divestment:

- Students can bring specific concerns to BOT/Committee representatives and the representatives can take those concerns to the committee meetings.
- Conversation on Divesting from companies that support Israel.
 - Committee worked closely with Father Fitzgerald.
 - A lot of the work that needs to be done to implement changes is being done outside of the meetings.

Communication:

- A commitment was made to make better communication back to Senate/general student population.
 - Original resolution didn't mention creating a task force; however a task force ended up being created.
 - It was communicated to Senate that the task force was supposed to be headed by the Senate, however it no longer is.

Endowment:

- Endowment doesn't make any direct investments in individual stocks; it puts funds into fund managers and the fund managers invest in mutual funds
- Based on the ways that these investments work, it is very difficult to identify what individual stocks USF is investing in
- Committee is aware of everything that's in USF's management funds
- All student members of the BOT/committees are non-voting members
- Senate resolutions can be helpful to create a cohesive statement and generate ideas for change, even though other groups outside of Senate (i.e. BOT/BOT Committees) can ultimately decide not to follow through with the recommendations made by Senate in the resolution(s)
- Even though BOT members were invited to the Town Hall, no admin or voting BOT members were in attendance.



7. Strategic Marketing and Communications & Strategic Enrollment

Enrollment:

- Emphasis is placed on students choosing their own paths here
- Religious affiliation can be attractive to students but is it clearly present in our academics?
- Admission Instagram is relying on student interns and student input to see what trends are popular currently
 - Social media plays a huge role when students are choosing schools

Institutional Concerns:

- Students are transferring because of financial obligations, a goal is to “admit” students and encourage them to reach out to financial aid after.
- Current president will serve through December and there will be a national search held through the spring
- The search for a vice president of development is paused until a permanent president is found



8. Physical Facilities

Updates:

- Facilities have been removing carpets in the residence halls because hardwood is easier to clean, students like it better.
- Windows have been replaced in a few buildings so hopefully the mold problem has gone away; still doing inspections, but don't inspect other places because they haven't seen that level of mold anywhere else.
- Outside doors are locked after hours. However, students should still be able to unlock with One Card.
 - Students report that some rooms are still locked: 214 room lab, Malloy Hall (lowest and 1st level, getting into classrooms)
 - The still-locked locations will be checked on by administration and an update will be provided.

Blood Bank Building:

- Physical facilities committee is talking about a new investment lab because students are very happy about it.
 - It is currently in the early design phase.
- The Blood Bank will be used by the School of Nursing, the Biology faculty, labs for nursing, biology, kinesiology, and other science labs.
- There are no concrete plans for the rest of the space.
- Student input will be taken into consideration when the new spaces are allocated.
 - The Director of Project Management was also made aware of the [resolution by previous senator Wanda Quan](#) on adding an SDS testing space to the Blood Bank.

Plants:

- Native plant garden in front of the library however everything was dying.
- Some native plants on the left side of LM, corner of Parker & Turk, will help maintain those.



- The lawn on most of LM is brown because of the variability of water supply to care for plants.
- The new lawn planted in front of LME is green, but everything else is brown.
- Invite Friends of the Urban Forest to come regularly and give tours of the campus.
 - Also may make a connection with Friends of the Oak Woodlands to work on native plants on campus.
- The most recently taken-down trees were eucalyptus, which are an invasive species.
- In the past, they have tried planting redwoods on the left side of LM, but they got buffeted too much.
- Student input is more than welcome!

Elevators:

- 56 elevators currently on campus (58 including Masonic East).
- Some elevators are compliant as they are, some may not be.
- It takes 3 months to get parts, then they go off; that's why it's typically done over summer.
- The last problem building was the Education Building, sorted that out last semester.
- When modifying elevators, they could also make the more stylistic piece on the edge of elevators smaller; the Director of Project Management will look into that and ADA compliance/sizing requirements and learn more.

Janitorial Staff:

- Due to the change in culture from the pandemic, many faculty are doing work online, and therefore using their office spaces less. Consequently, janitorial staff are cleaning offices more frequently than necessary.
- Planning to reduce frequency of cleaning to save work for custodians.
- University works with a company called ABM to determine how many custodians are needed to clean at the lower frequency.



- University may also be in contact with the custodian union, who are working to resist staff cuts, and working with both the union and ABM to determine the right number of custodians.
- If any staff cuts are made, no custodian should be covering additional areas or be required to work additional hours.

Current Projects:

- The most urgent problems are addressed first. They patch what they can, then replace where necessary; if the gears in an elevator are wearing out, that's a safety issue, not a budgetary problem.
- The secondary service elevator in the UC will be checked to see if it can be made to work for students.
- It is possible to install AC units however there are environmental costs that should be taken into consideration.
 - This is a more long term plan that will be assessed as needed.
 - In general, all project decisions have a short-term cost and a long-term cost. The short-term cost is money, storage, etc., but the long-term cost is damage to the environment, and it is more important to preserve the environment.



9. University Life

BOT & Financial Investment Discussions

- Continuous conversations with the Board of Trustees (BOT) address financial investments and student concerns regarding divestment.
- Recent email from Eileen Fung provided more information. The divestment committee, chaired by Charlie Cross, held an initial meeting to review current investments and policies.
- Three student seats are available on the committee. University Life selected students already serving on the finance/investment committee. Encampment organizers requested an additional representative, selecting a student to join.
- The BOT operates as an independent governing body of the University of San Francisco (USF).

Cultural Resource Centers and Student Concerns

- Erin, director of the Cultural Centers highlighted that understanding students' needs is essential. She referenced the work needed to establish the Black Resource Center (BRC) and similar initiatives. The Latine community is also seeking culturally relevant spaces and solutions.
 - Resource Center Prioritization: Erin and her team are looking at how other universities provide identity-specific centers. However, limited campus resources require careful planning and prioritization.
 - Grant Funding: AANAPISI grants support the AAPI resource centers, allowing for program management.

Campus Housing and Resource Challenges

- Students raised concerns about being required to purchase meal plans when living on campus. Adjustments to dining services are being considered, including allergy accommodations and meal variety.



- There is mixed feedback about juniors and seniors being housed alongside freshmen in Toller Hall, with concerns about community balance and the unique experiences for different class years.
- Discussions on restrooms and menstrual products are ongoing, with facilities aiming to address needs. The choice of products and quality concerns are being reviewed in collaboration with Senate, Health Promotion Services, the PERIOD. Chapter, and the Gender & Sexuality Center.
- Students with Disability Services (SDS) requested quiet rooms and sensory-friendly spaces. Information shared regarding the Romero Room's provision of a multi-faith prayer room and washing station, while the Peace Garden is a newly designated prayer space.

Student Engagement and Campus Accessibility

- Increased security in Loyola Village includes additional cameras and metal plating on doors. Student behaviors, such as propping open doors, have raised security challenges.
- It was expressed that limited 24-hour classroom access has lowered student engagement and satisfaction, with some students expressing frustration over curfew restrictions, especially in Malloy Hall.
 - Restricted access was introduced after incidents of building misuse. There's interest in restoring broader access while addressing maintenance and security needs.