Dear Colleagues,

We write to share the semester report on census outcomes with the campus community. The following are highlights of the fall 2022 census:

- **Total enrollment**: Total student enrollment decreased 3.4 percent from 10,034 (fall 2021) to 9,688 (fall 2022). Of 9,688 total students, 5,986 (61.7 percent) are undergraduate students, 3,622 (37.3 percent) are graduate students, and 86 (0.9 percent) are visiting students. Total enrollment is 96.4 percent of the budgeted target (10,047 students), with undergraduate enrollments at 99.0 percent of budgeted targets and graduate enrollments at 96.9 percent of targets.

- **Undergraduate student enrollment**: The size of the matriculating fall class of students (domestic first-years, domestic transfers, international first-years, and international transfers) increased from 1,779 to 1,896 and is 105.1 percent of the budgeted target. Domestic and international first-time, first-year, and international transfer student numbers exceeded budget expectations. Domestic transfers fell five students short of the target.

- **Graduate student enrollment**: In aggregate, the professional schools and the College of Arts and Sciences were budgeted to enroll 3,887 graduate students. As of the fall 2022 census, the university has enrolled 3,622 graduate students. The percentage of international graduate students increased from 17.2 to 20.2 percent. Most graduate programs across the university were short of their targets.

- **First-year retention**: The first-time, first-year fall-to-fall return rate decreased from 88.3 percent (fall 2020 entering cohort) to 80.9 percent (fall 2021 entering cohort), which is lower than our target of 85 percent. The fall-to-fall return rate of new (HIDrop) transfer students decreased from 82.1 percent (fall 2020 entering cohort) to 79.8 percent (fall 2021 entering cohort).

- **Second-year retention**: The proportion of first-time, first-year students matriculating in fall 2020 who returned for the fall 2022 semester increased from 70.3 percent (i.e., for the fall 2019 cohort) to 75.1 percent.

- **Graduation rates**: The institution’s four-year graduation rate fell from 63.6 percent to 62.3 percent. The institution’s six-year graduation rate decreased from 75.6 percent to 74.4 percent, suggesting that pandemic-related delays may be continuing to impact progress toward graduation.

- **Diversity**: USF continues to attract a diverse student body. According to our data for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 7.1 percent of our students self-identify as African American, 22 percent as Asian, 14 percent as international, 21.2 percent as Latinx, 0.3 percent as Native American, 0.4 percent as Pacific Islander, 26 percent as white, and 8.3 percent self-reporting as more than one ethnicity. It is important to note that ethnicity for IPEDS reporting is defined narrowly in some instances and broadly in others. For example, 15 percent of USF undergraduate students identified as Black, which differs from the IPEDs definition. In addition, the IPEDs category for students who identify as Asian also includes students who identify as Asian American. Our offices will be working on ways to report about our diversity that is consistent with our strategic goal of inclusive excellence.

- **Discount rate**: The overall institutional discount rate is estimated to increase from 34.3 percent (fall 2021) to 34.9 percent (fall 2022). The discount rate for undergraduate students is anticipated to increase from 40.5 percent (fall 2021) to 41.5 percent (fall 2022), against a budget target of 41.1 percent. The first-time, first-year discount rate increased from 48.6 percent (fall 2021) to 51.1 percent (fall 2022) while the transfer discount rate rose from 32 percent (fall 2021) to 34.9 percent (fall 2022). Not all financial aid awarded has been processed and some numbers may change slightly.

- **Budget impact**: The current forecast of the university’s annual net tuition revenue is approximately $549 million, which is within the university’s budgeted operating reserves of $10 million. When finalized, the first-quarter operating forecast will be made available on the Office of Planning and Budget website.

The enrollment information summarized above is available to the USF community as a dashboard on the census reports website.

We are grateful to Nathan Cain, Joe Henson, and Reshae Hines of the Office of Institutional Research and Analytics (OIRA) for their rigor and hard work in analyzing and summarizing this crucial information for the university. The census dashboard will be updated by OIRA, as the office continues the quality assurance, graduation, and other checks during the two-week period after every census.

We are grateful to all the members of our community who have brought talented students to USF and who have played a vital role in educating, advising, and supporting students during the challenges of the past year.

Sincerely,

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