Dear Colleagues,

We write to share the semester report on census outcomes with you. The following are highlights of USF’s fall 2023 census:

- **Total enrollment:** Total student enrollment decreased 4.9 percent from 9,666 (fall 2022) to 9,212 (fall 2023). Of 9,212 total students, 5,897 (64.8 percent) are undergraduate students, 1,434 (15.7 percent) are graduate students, and 81 (0.9 percent) are visiting students. Total enrollment is 94.9 percent of the budgeted target (9,712 students), with undergraduate enrollments at 94.7 percent of budgeted targets and graduate enrollments at 94.6 percent of targets.

- **Undergraduate student enrollment:** The size of the matriculating fall class of students (domestic first-year, domestic transfers, international first-years, and international transfers) has decreased from 1,886 to 1,408; and is 82.6 percent of the budgeted target. Domestic and international first-year, first-year, and domestic and international transfer student numbers fell short of their targets.

- **Graduate student enrollment:** In aggregate, the professional schools and the College of Arts and Sciences were budgeted to enroll 3,031 graduate students. As of fall 2023, the university has enrolled 3,434 graduate students. The percentage of international graduate students decreased from 19.9 to 18.3 percent. This fall we enrolled 1,408 new graduate students, roughly flat with last year, and 93.7 percent of the budgeted target.

- **Undergraduate first-year retention:** The first-time, first-year fall-to-fall return rate decreased from 80.7 percent (fall 2021 entering cohort) to 80.1 percent (fall 2022 entering cohort), which is lower than our target of 82 percent. The fall-to-fall return rate of new (Hilltop) transfer students decreased from 78.0 percent (fall 2021 entering cohort) to 78.6 percent (fall 2022 entering cohort).

- **Undergraduate second-year retention:** The proportion of first-time, first-year students matriculating in fall 2021 who returned for the fall 2023 semester decreased from 75.1 percent (i.e., for the fall 2020 cohort) to 70.3 percent.

- **Undergraduate graduation rates:** USF’s four-year graduation rate decreased from 83.8 percent to 81.2 percent. The six-year graduation rate decreased from 74.4 percent to 71.1 percent.

- **Diversity:** USF continues to attract a diverse student body. According to our data for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 6.7 percent of our students self-identify as African American, 12.9 percent as Asian, 12.9 percent as international, 21.8 percent as Latino, 0.3 percent as Native American, 0.4 percent as Pacific Islander, 25.9 percent as white, and 8.2 percent self-report 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, 14 percent of USF undergraduate domestic 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.

- **Discount rate:** The overall institutional discount rate is estimated to increase from 35.3 percent (fall 2022) to 35.9 percent (fall 2023). The first-time, first-year discount rate dropped from 51.1 percent (fall 2022) to 50.3 percent (fall 2023) while the transfer discount rate rose from 34.9 percent (fall 2022) to 40.0 percent (fall 2023). Not all financial aid awarded has been processed and some numbers may change slightly.

- **Budget impact:** Based on the forecast of the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), the university’s annual net tuition revenue is approximately $65.3 million less than budgeted. We also want to note that our enrollment status has an impact on university housing revenue, which we expect will result in approximately $2 million less than budgeted. OPB expects that a combination of university operating reserves and forecasted compensation salvage will largely cover this shortfall. 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 web page.

Thank you to all who have been engaged in the preparations for the census, working in collaboration with the Office of Planning and Budget and the Office of Institutional Research and Analytics (OIRA). OIRA will be updating the census dashboard as they continue to perform quality assurance, graduation, and other essential checks over the two-week period following each census.

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

Sincerely,

April Crabtree
Vice Provost, Strategic Enrollment Management
Rebecca Hong
Vice Provost for Student Success, Inclusive Excellence, and Curriculum Innovation

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[ emojis for poor, fair, good ]

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