





**There was additional information requested on a single scholarship along with implications**

**iii. Measuring diversity:**

**Cecil Howard, USF Chief Diversity Officer, provided an overview of USF's commitment to diversity – “committed to maintaining a diverse student body.” The challenge is measuring diversity – it is not just quantitative but an overall qualitative community. Mr. Howard reviewed a number of graduate headcount for the last 4 years**

**USF will continue to look at processes to continue to attract students to the university through Student Support Services, College Reach Out Program and Upward Bound**

**There was discussion regarding limitations on diversity goals. Mr. Howard confirmed that USF cannot engage with goals based on race or gender or make decisions based on those factors. As long as USF continues to engage in outreach activities that are focused on certain demographics, diversity will organically increase**

**iv. Best practices for informing and preparing first time in college (FTIC) and first generation applicants**

**Laurie Meggsin, Executive Director of the Florida College Access Network, provided an overview of ways to support students at a young age and reach college**

**She said that low income Florida high school graduates enroll in college at much lower rates than their non low income peers, and face higher obstacles in**

**families According to a recent survey commissioned by the Helios Education Foundation, only 32% of Floridians believe that college education is affordable to them and their families, and only 19% believe it's affordable for all Floridians. Not only that, but when asked about the biggest barrier facing today's college students, the top answer by a landslide was student debt.**

**So, although tuition in Florida is among the lowest in the country, Floridians see the cost of college as a significant barrier. Students who don't have adults in their families who have been to college are also at a disadvantage with the college-going process, such as choosing a school and degree program that's a good fit for their interests, understanding the value of a degree in the workforce, and navigating college applications and financial aid.**

**Although school counselors do their best to support students, at a ratio of over 400 to one, they can't provide the level of support students need without community help.**

**There are many ways in which community partners like USF can help.**

**Continue to participate in local college access networks, including LEAP in Tampa Bay, Reach Mantee, the Talent@Tomorrow Partnership in Saasdale, and Polk Vision.**

**Foster education ecosystems.**

**Host more campus visits.**

**Participate in efforts that help students explore their interests and career options, and learn of the multiple education pathways available, like FUSE.**

**Last-dollar promise scholarship programs are also a strong access tool.**

**Consider adopting more evidence-based scholarship models that help low-income students persist and complete their degrees.**

**Support schools participating in FCAN's College Ready Florida series of**

**She provided some recommendations for engaging Latinos**

**Invite Latinos for a collegenight**

**Create a culture of inclusivity- programs to practice English prior to college**

**Special FUSE programs for Latinos**

**Create events that include Latino families**

**Scholarships for Spanish speakers/ Latinos**

**Hiring practices need to include bilingual and bicultural staff**

**There was discussion on SAT prep and how that is handled at USFSM. Unidos Now incorporates it into their Future Leaders program, but USFSM also plans to provide this service once a semester on campus in person**

**v. Technology's role in breaking barriers to access**

**Dr. Cynthia DeLuca, Associate Vice President for Innovative Education, provided an overview of USF Online Education. The USF System allows flexibility in taking courses online or in person. Regional campuses presented overviews of innovative education on**

campus experience, but consolidation could provide that opportunity to be apart of the entire campus environment

**Laura Roberts**- College and career advisor at Bayshore High School shared top barriers to access Better preparedness at elementary and middle schools, including parents about advanced courses (AP, dual enrollment), especially for the traditionally underrepresented student. The increase in academic profile is a concern and FAFSA completion is a challenge for many families along with ACT/SAT prep. Ms. Roberts recommended community sessions inviting families onto campus. Summer Bridge is so important to acclimate students to college courses and community.

**Mark Huey**, president of Sarasota Economic Development Corporation, highlighted that USFSM, as a regional research university, is an economic driver locally. USF Consolidation provides an opportunity for alignment and participation on the diversification of our economy locally. Four things play into that idea and where USF could step up

1. **Attitude and culture** Provide thought leadership in the challenge of diversifying the economy.
2. **Agility** USF has responded to community needs and align curriculum with business needs
3. **Innovation disciplines** Excited about the STEM building need more engineering and computer science to drive innovation in business
4. **Conduct to connect to business with innovation assets** (all of them- students, faculty, etc).

**Bart Stuber**, coordinator of Orientation for USFSM, questioned regarding access and why do our students choose USFSM. He wanted to know if the new bus have access to data that shows why students choose one or the other and if they are using that to drive recommendations

#### d. Open Discussion

Members noted that the data is available to all members and that the data is not confidential. The data is used to improve the student experience and to provide a better understanding of the student body.

**Finally, the member noted that access will affect all walks of life in the region and there is an opportunity to break down barriers that separate accreditation has created**

### **III. Adjournment**

**With no other discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:41pm**