

SG moves one step closer to consolidation

Under a consolidated university, Student Government will be split into federal and local levels with the executive, legislative and judicial branches still remaining.



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

With consolidation going into effect July 1, 2020, Student Government (SG) will sustain major changes to its current structure under a single constitution for all three campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee.

This will include changes to the student body president and vice president election during the general body elections.

SG has separate but fully operational governing bodies for each campus with its own constitutions since it was



The Senates of each campus have to vote on a final constitution before the Oct. 25 deadline. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

established.

Tampa senators discussed an amended constitution on Oct. 11., which outlined the structure of a consolidated student

government.

The Senates of each campus have to vote on a final constitution by Oct. 25 before the general body elections in the spring.

During elections, students will vote for candidates from their respective campuses.

According to Tampa Senate President Salud Martinez, the

future of the Activity and Service (A&S) fee is still undecided. He said that the administration hasn't given any updates regarding the fee structure post-consolidation.

"We know that they're probably going to do one big A&S fee, that's what we've been hearing, but we're still waiting on administration," Martinez said.

Under a consolidated university, SG will be split into federal and local levels. The executive, legislative and judicial branches will still remain but with a few additions.

The federal executive branch will consist of one student body president and vice president representing all three campuses, as well as an attorney general, solicitor general, chief financial officer and chief of staff. The elected president will also be appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees.

On the local level, the executive

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The future of Health and Wellness under review



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Tom Miller was appointed interim vice president of Health and Wellness upon Rita DeBate's decision to step down last month.

To say the least, Miller hopes the position remains temporary.

"I am comfortable with leading and providing people with guidance," Miller said. "I want to understand the work and see

what help the department needs.

"But, I'm looking forward to the end of the year — when I won't be doing this anymore."

In this position, Miller will oversee departments such as Campus Recreation and Wellness, the Counseling Center, the Center for Student Well-Being, Student Health Services

and Victim Advocacy.

Miller was in a similar position in 2013 when he was asked to be the interim vice president of Student Affairs. After hesitantly taking the temporary role, he was appointed five months later.

Miller said he feels "flattered" that Vice President of Student Success Paul Dosal has confidence

in his administrative abilities. But at the end of the day, he said he feels unqualified for the position.

"I don't have the body of knowledge that Dr. DeBate has," Miller said. "She's a public health expert who knows about well-being."

But, Dosal would beg to differ.

See MILLER on PAGE 3

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THE ORACLE

MILLER

Continued from PAGE 1

"Tom [Miller] has unquestioned leadership and credentials that make him a natural fit for the position," Dosal said. "He is a key member of my leadership team already so I was grateful that he was willing to step up and fill the position for the rest of the year."

Some of Miller's responsibilities include chairing the Student Persistence Committee, developing predictive tools for students who benefit from extra support and being an associate professor in the college of education.

Because of his inexperience, Miller said he does not want to overstep.

"I am not going to replace the judgment of the people in the department," Miller said. "I am going to do my best to give them permission to be creative and resourceful. I am not a

department meetings 'I'm going to tell you that you matter, that you make a difference here. I'm going to keep saying it until you believe it.'"

With the change in leadership, Dosal said this is a good time to reflect on what has been done and what is needed to do. Specifically, through a strategic review process for the entire department.

This involves bringing in representatives from Keeling and Associates, which is an organization that works to improve the learning and outcomes for students and institutions.

Dosal said Keeling and Associates will be on campus this month with the goal to be finished by Dec. 1.

Dosal said this is not because of any issues within the department. Instead, this will help consolidate Health and Wellness on USF's three campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee — as well

as provide more organization.

"We are not going into this strategic plan because of concerns but more so optimism for what we can do," Dosal said.

DeBate received some criticism through the program EthicsPoint, a web-based hotline that allows members of the USF community to report issues such as misconduct, abuse and fraud anonymously.

As recently reported in The Oracle, DeBate has been accused of being "verbally and mentally abusive to staff within her unit at all levels," according to case number 601.

This is not new territory for



Tom Miller will serve as the interim vice president of Health and Wellness until the end of the year. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

Miller.

"When I took over the [vice president of Student Affairs] role in 2013, it was a similar circumstance with moral problems, but I am good at handling that," Miller said.

Dosal said he does not have any comments about personal issues within the department.

It is unknown at this point if the university is looking for an outside hire or someone already working for the university.

Given the circumstances, Miller said he hopes he can provide as much guidance as he can during the next few months.

"I didn't long for this — I am not dancing in the streets," Miller said. "I correct people when they congratulate me because this wasn't my goal.

"I'll do my best in this role, I want people to look forward to doing their work every day and I want to structure an environment that does that."

SG

Continued from PAGE 1

branch will have three governors representing each campus with the goals to preserve the culture and traditions of each campus while making decisions that best represent their needs.

While the governors will oversee more specific issues on each campus, such as Bulls Blitz — free rides to the USF football home games — and Pastries with the President for the Tampa campus, the student body president will be in charge of making system-wide decisions.

The executive branch will not be the only one seeing changes to its structure.

After consolidation goes into effect, the weekly Senate meetings will be comprised of representatives from each campus, according to Martinez. The federal legislative branch will consist of 60 senators representing all three campuses and each campus will have a guaranteed five seats in the Senate.

The remaining 45 seats will be based on population percentage. This means Tampa will end up with approximately 44, St. Pete with nine and Sarasota-Manatee with seven seats, according to Martinez.

In regards to the election process, Martinez said that there's a chance of not having the elections organized by college since academic departments will be merged after consolidation. Instead, candidates running during elections might be chosen by class.

For instance, a college of arts and sciences senator would instead represent the sophomore

class.

Martinez, however, said no decisions have been finalized.

When asked where the Senate meetings were going to be held, Martinez said that while no decisions have been made yet, there will be a possible rotation system in which each meeting will take place at a different campus each week.

On the local side of the legislative branch, SG will be creating three campus councils in charge of confirming the local executive branch positions, funding local organizations and student outreach to the campus. The council chair has to be a senator and from their respective campus.

In total, there will be 60 senators and 27 council members — nine members per campus.

The federal judicial branch will consist of a chief justice, senior justice and ranking justice. It will consist of nine associate justices from the three campuses — five from Tampa, two from St. Pete and two from Sarasota-Manatee.

At the local level, the judicial branch will have campus circuit courts, in which each one of them will consist of a chief judge in charge of overseeing local issues at each campus, such as parking appeals.

According to Salud, the SG statutes are also being rewritten, with a deadline for January.

"Nothing has been solidified just yet," Martinez said. "We're trying to figure out the basic structure and that's our priority right now. We will get this constitution passed and then work out the kinks with more people involved."

I'm glad I am somewhere where I can make a difference.

Tom Miller, interim vice president of Health and Wellness

licensed psychologist so I can't do Dr. [Scott] Strader's job [as the director of the Counseling Center]. I am not a medical doctor so I can't do Dr. [Joseph] Puccio's job [as the director of Student Health Services].

"I am smart enough to know what I don't know."

However, Miller said he does know how to "make people feel cared for."

He made it a goal to connect with every department head to ensure that everyone feels heard and supported.

"I'm glad I am somewhere where I can make a difference," Miller said. "I used to say in my

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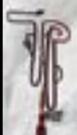
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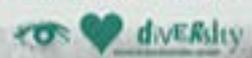
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SCHNEIDERContinued from **PAGE 8**

these days.

Schneider worked with Prokick Australia, an organization that converts Australian athletes into American football punters. Prokick Australia has yielded 75 scholarships and/or professional contracts and 17 All-Americans since its inception in 2007, according to its website.

It's a natural transition for athletes who grew up kicking. After all, the most popular sports in Australia are Australian football and rugby.

"We just grow up punting," Schneider said. "Here, you guys throw a ball in the backyard. We just kick it."

Schneider isn't even the only Australian punter in the state of Florida. Miami's Louis Hedley, who became popular on the internet because of his tattoos, hails from Mandurah in Western Australia. Jeremy Crawshaw from New South Wales committed to

Florida in September.

"I think there's 50-60 of us over here now, and it's only going to get more," Schneider said. "I'd imagine next year or the year after, there's going to be 70-80 of us."

Punting isn't all Schneider does well. Schneider was named to the preseason watchlist for the Mortell Holder of the Year award for his holding ability on placekicks.

His flip to kicker Spencer Shrader on a fake field-goal attempt against UConn on Oct. 5 is arguably what made the play a success.

So the next time a drive stalls causing the offense to come off the field, fans don't have to cheer or be happy.

But it might be nice to appreciate the player who seldom feels appreciation.

TAKEAWAYSContinued from **PAGE 8**

BYU only converted two times in its four red-zone attempts. Both defensive stops were made in the fourth quarter, and the Cougars only managed six points in the red zone.

Running game makes glorious return

Senior running back Jordan Cronkrite had seemingly disappeared prior to last week's game at UConn. Through the first four games of the season, Cronkrite only rushed for 77 yards.

Against BYU alone, he ran for 158 yards and scored two touchdowns.

The running game was fruitful for USF on Saturday, though it mainly stemmed from freshman quarterback Jordan McCloud not being 100 percent.

McCloud was still suffering from a wrist injury he picked up against SMU.

He also suffered another knock midway through Saturday's game, so he told the coaching staff to focus on getting the running game going in order to help him out.

McCloud's request ultimately paid off, as rushing arguably won the Bulls the game.

Still making mistakes

Despite the win, USF showed it still has work to do.

The Bulls accumulated 11 penalties, totaling 105 yards.

After USF's eventual game-winning touchdown, the Bulls decided to go for two to turn what would have been a five-point lead with an extra point into a six-point margin.

McCloud completed his pass to junior tight end Jacob

Mathis in the end zone, however an offensive pass interference penalty was called on sophomore receiver Randall St. Felix.

USF was forced to retry the point after and opted to go for one, given the 15-yard loss. The kick, however, was no good and the extra points were lost entirely.

An entirely avoidable situation kept the lead at less than a touchdown. If USF had not stopped BYU's drive at the end of the fourth quarter, fingers would have been pointed at the conversion penalty to blame for the loss.

Strong emphasized discipline heading into the road trips against Navy next week and ECU the week after.

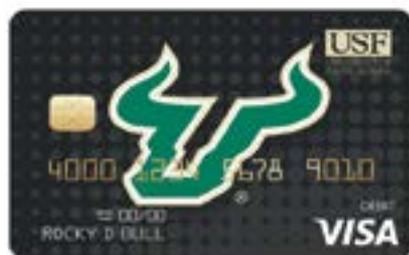
Considering penalties have been rampant this season — an average of 81.5 yards have been lost — managing on-field discipline may make or break the season overall.

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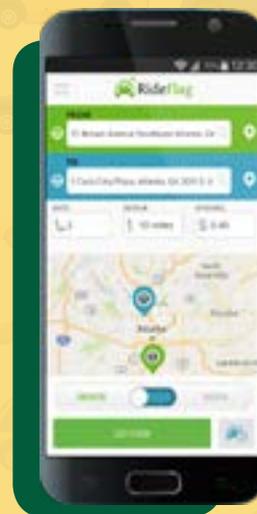


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SG consolidation draft off to a positive start



Nathaniel Sweet

C O L U M N I S T

On Oct. 11, Student Government (SG) discussed a tentative but thoughtful plan to consolidate the three student governments across the Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses.

Largely a draft and still subject to change, the plan offers an elegant strategy for merging the activities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches — namely, by creating federal and local levels for each branch.

The federal level would cover the whole USF system while the local level would have leadership at each individual campus.

At the federal level, all three campuses would vote to elect a system-wide student body president. Each campus would be apportioned a minimum of five SG senators, with the rest being determined by population. The Supreme Court would have five justices from Tampa, two justices from St. Pete and two justices from Sarasota-Manatee. This framework gives each campus ample voice in system-wide decisions.

At the local level, meanwhile, each campus would have a governor, a campus council, and a circuit



The draft framework offers a flexible structure to experiment with local versus system-wide control. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

court, filling local roles similar to the student body president, Senate and Supreme Court, respectively.

The draft plan provides a broad framework that balances representation across each campus. The specific division of labor between the federal and state student governments, however, is still to be decided.

Communicating and coordinating with hundreds of organization leaders in Tampa is already a heavy lift, let alone across campuses. The Senate will have to establish a process for training and communicating with student organizations in St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee.

Another key question involves agencies and services funded by the Activity and Service (A&S) fee. Under the draft plan, the Tampa governor would be responsible for the SAFE Team, Bulls Radio and SG computer services. Less clear is the position of agencies like the Office of Multicultural Affairs or

the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, which could play system-wide roles but are currently only housed in Tampa.

Nevertheless, the draft framework offers a flexible structure to experiment with local versus system-wide control. With careful planning and room for adjustments, the federal SG will be able to focus on providing quality services to all USF students without getting bogged down by campus-specific details. Just the same, local SGs can maintain a direct line with students and focus solely on the needs of their campus.

While the finer details have yet to be revealed, the framework presented Friday is promising. In what has been an often-controversial consolidation process, SG leaders are starting on the right foot.

Nathaniel Sweet is a junior majoring in political science.

LGBT workers deserve protection



Jared Sellick

C O L U M N I S T

The Supreme Court will be deciding in the coming months whether or not the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a law prohibiting employment discrimination based on sex, also protects Americans on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The decision will determine whether millions of lesbian, gay, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) Americans will have job security. This consideration makes it all the more important that Florida and individual municipalities implement these protections on both state and local levels.

It is important that the federal government implements legislation that would broaden workplace protections. For instance, the federal government could implement the Equality Act which would provide protections for LGBTQ Americans.

The Human Rights Campaign organization has proposed this act to Congress with the intent to “amend existing civil rights law — including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Jury Selection and Services Act, and several laws regarding employment

with the federal government — to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics.”

It passed in the House in May 2019 but has sat idle in the Senate ever since.

A Senate unwilling to act shows citizens that the federal government clearly does not take the job security of millions of Americans seriously.

If the federal government fails to protect the interests of its citizens, it is incumbent upon state and municipal governments to implement those changes themselves.

In the Florida Legislature, the Florida Competitive Workforce Act has been proposed which would prohibit employment discrimination in the state.

It has been postponed from being considered by the Florida Senate’s oversight and accountability committee. Considering the lack of federal protections, it is vital that the Legislature approves this measure.

The fight against discrimination is being fought at all levels of government. It is vitally important that these protections are implemented.

If the Supreme Court makes the controversial decision to not broaden workplace protection, it is important for swift action to be taken here at home.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

Wrapping up Homecoming

With the theme "Saved by the Bull", Homecoming brought the USF community together to celebrate a week full of festivities. Events like the Homecoming concert and the Running of the Bulls parade welcomed back alumni to campus and got students showing their school spirit.



The Homecoming carnival attracted hundreds of students with its rides, food trucks and talent show on Oct. 11. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**



Rapper Bryce Vine opened the Homecoming concert on Oct. 10. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**



Gunna delivered a lively performance at the Yuengling Center for the Homecoming concert. **ORACLE PHOTO/DAKOTA SMITH**



Students participated in the Running of the Bulls parade showcasing their excitement and celebrating the Homecoming festivities. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**



President Curral and his wife, Cheyenne, led the Running of the Bulls parade during his first Homecoming. **ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

Football

Schneider's big boot shines in Bulls' victory



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

There may not be a player fans hate to see more than their team's punter.

After all, punters normally only see the field when an offensive drive has stalled.

They even come out to boos sometimes if fans feel the offense should go for it on fourth down.

Simply put, punters are underappreciated at best and dreaded at worst.

But USF fans should take a closer look at their punter, Trent Schneider. The 29-year-old junior from Australia is having quite the season and even played a major role in the Bulls' 27-23

victory against BYU on Saturday.

With a little more than a minute remaining and the Bulls up four, "Aussie," as coach Charlie Strong has nicknamed him, was called upon more or less in the shadow of his own goal post — USF's drive had stalled on its own 13-yard line.

Schneider put boot to ball and the next thing everyone at Raymond James Stadium knew, it went out of bounds 61 yards later at the BYU 26-yard line.

"I knew I had to deliver for the team," Schneider said. "Big punt. If I hit it well, we have to just stop them on defense and we get the win. I did my job, the defense did their job, and we came away with a victory."

The punt was dangerously close to being too good, even.

"Good thing it hit inbounds, then it bounced out so they didn't have a chance to recover," Strong said, "because he really outkicked the coverage. I looked at the coverage and I looked at



USF punter Trent Schneider has set program records for average yards per punt twice this season. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/GOUSF-BULLS

the punt, and I was like, 'Oh, God, don't field this ball because we're about 20 yards away from the returner.'"

The 61-yarder was the culmination of a game in which Schneider set a program record for average yards per punt (52.8), eclipsing the previous record of

51.6 — set earlier this season by Schneider against Georgia Tech.

"He's got a live leg," Strong said, "and he can really let it go."

Schneider has let it go a lot this year. Through the season's first six games, he's punted 36 times, with 15 going more than 50 yards. In 74 punts last season, a

total of 17 went for more than 50.

A lot of the success he's had this year is due in part to the changes he made during the offseason.

It's not that his 2018 season was bad, Schneider said, it's just that he worked on different things heading into this year to improve his game.

"Last year, I didn't have a terrible year, but I wasn't consistent," Schneider said. "And that was the main thing I wanted to change this year. So I focused on ball drops, just doing the little things right — and confidence. So drop the ball and kick through the ball and know I'm going to hit a good ball."

While Schneider's story is unique in a sense — he owned his own construction company in Australia before deciding he wanted to follow his dreams of playing high-level sports — it's not uncommon to see players from his homeland stateside

See SCHNEIDER on PAGE 5

Commentary

USF 27-BYU 23: Postgame takeaways



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

And, breathe. It's over.

USF has won back-to-back games against FBS opponents for

the first time since last October.

The Bulls are almost a year removed from their complete and utter collapse, but after a 27-23 win over BYU (2-4) on Saturday at Raymond James Stadium, USF (3-3, 1-1) looks like it's turned over a new leaf.

Bulls on cloud nine

Soul singer Nina Simone once said, "I'm feeling good." The

Bulls seem to be channeling their inner Simone after Saturday's Homecoming win over the Cougars.

BYU's final drive at the end of fourth quarter, if gone according to plan, could have crushed USF's good feelings.

In three plays, BYU gained 47 yards and breached USF territory. A pass interference call on junior defensive back KJ Sails pushed the Cougars to USF's 12-yard

line, setting up BYU for what felt like an almost inevitable game-winning touchdown.

But by the effort of graduate transfer Devin Studstill, USF managed to stop the Cougars and keep its four-point lead until the final whistle.

The stadium erupted and the players celebrated like never before this season. What can only be described as pure joy radiated from the team.

Defense dominates statistically

USF's defensive stop at the end of the game was the icing on the cake of a solid performance. The Bulls made a total of 83 tackles — 13 for a combined loss of 48 yards.

The Bulls' defense recorded six sacks, its most in a game since 2012, according to a tweet by Joey Knight of the Tampa Bay Times.

See TAKEAWAYS on PAGE 5