

USF campus leaders aim to maintain traditions post-consolidation



Alyssa Stewart

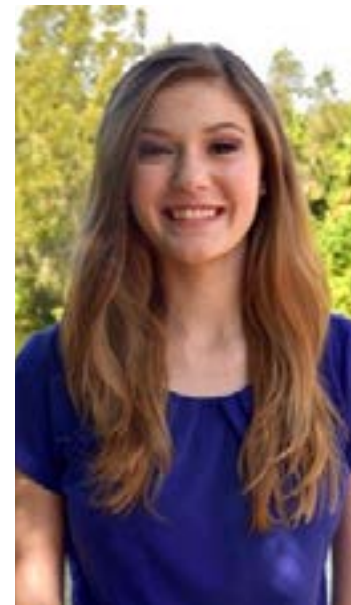
EDITOR IN CHIEF



St. Pete Student Body President Jazy Duarte.
SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE



Tampa Student Body President Britney Deas.
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Sarasota-Manatee Student Body President Isabelle Starnier.
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“Bull Pride.” She also expressed that she didn’t want the close-knit community to fade away.

“It’s the little things that we have created [at Sarasota-Manatee] that we don’t want to lose,” she said.

St. Pete Student Body President Jazy Duarte said she is making it a priority to voice her opinion to representatives and elected officials about keeping the traditions at the St. Pete campus.

“Campus culture doesn’t just stem from traditions, it comes from the community we built,” Duarte said in an email to The Oracle.

Although both branch campus presidents had concerns about its traditions, they are both satisfied with the finalized constitution.

The constitution was

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is best for the student body, so we are very happy with where we are

right now,” Starnier said. One of the traditions Starnier

said the campus does is wear green on Wednesdays to show

To consolidate or not to consolidate: Campus colleges given the choice



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In compliance with the Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2018, signed by former governor Rick Scott, USF is required to consolidate all three campuses — Tampa, St. Pete and Sarasota — under a single accredited university by July 1, 2020.

However, some departments have other plans in mind.

One example is the future of

the USF journalism program, currently being administered at both the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications in Tampa and the Department of Journalism and Digital Communication in St. Pete, which has decided not to consolidate its programs and remain as separate institutions.

After mutual agreement from both departments and

in compliance with state laws, they have decided not to consolidate as a way to preserve and maintain accreditation by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) at St. Pete.

The decision was unveiled in a universitywide email by President Steven Currall on Oct. 17 containing the latest updates

on consolidation.

St. Pete’s Department of Journalism and Digital Communication has been accredited since 2004, while Tampa, on the other hand, had previously been accredited in the ‘90s but, with the idea to grow its curriculum, has decided not to further pursue accreditation.

Every six years, the ACEJMC n See CONSOLIDATION on PAGE 3

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CONSOLIDATION

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accredits programs in journalism and mass communications at universities in the U.S. and internationally. There are currently 112 journalism programs across the world with full accreditation status, including in St. Pete.

According to the Interim Director of the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications Kim Golombisky, the Tampa campus made the decision to not seek accreditation as it would limit their curriculum due to restrictions from the accrediting body.

"Not being accredited here allowed us to bring our curriculum into the 21st century," Golombisky said. "Not being an ACEJMC-accredited program here was not a loss for us, instead, it was a gain because the accreditation was so restrictive on our curriculum."

"We have no interest in that accreditation whatsoever... Our curriculum blossomed over here when we let accreditation go."

St. Pete administration believes otherwise.

Department Chair of the School of Journalism and Digital Communication in St. Pete Casey Frechette believes that it's important and relevant for the university to maintain all of its professional accreditations, including ACEJMC.

"It became a vital part of our identity as a program and it's kind of a mark of distinction for us," Frechette said. "The accreditation process has been very helpful to us. Because it requires this self study, it requires

this report.

"It's also very valuable because it kind of forces us to be reflective about what we're doing and then be accountable for what we are doing to an outside independent body."



The Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications in Tampa and the Department of Journalism and Digital Communication in St. Pete have mutually agreed to not consolidate. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

Although consolidation is state mandated to align programs over all campuses of a university, the departments have found a legal alternative.

At any public university in the country, each academic program contains a CIP code that works as an identifier for the respective program.

With consolidation going into effect, there could be no duplication in zip codes across the three campuses, meaning that a department either need to align its curriculum or create

a new zip code for the specific program in order to preserve its existence.

Frechette said that the zip code duplication between both departments had a significant influence on the department's

decision to consolidate.

"Part of the consolidation process for us in St. Pete was to apply for a new zip code for our undergraduate program so we wouldn't have that duplication anymore with the Tampa programs," Frechette said.

"It made a lot of sense to go for this new zip code because we were also concerned about the accreditation and the departmental structures. So we figured that we might as well be looking at separate academic units."

SG

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voted on by 1,340 students across all three campuses last week. Specifically, 1,156 (86 percent) people voted yes and 184 (14 percent) voted no.

However, these are the uncertified results as there may still be paper ballots in need of counting on the St. Pete campus, according to Tampa Student Body President Britney Deas.

Duarte said the St. Pete SG went through a line-by-line reading of the constitution draft to fully understand the content.

"The questions raised during the meeting stemmed from unfamiliar terms due to the differences between vocabulary across campuses, and how this would look in the future," Duarte said.

To limit any issues with autonomy, Deas said it was agreed upon to have governors represent each campus and there will be a federal and local system in place.

Deas said one of the main priorities for the Tampa campus was making sure there was equity throughout.

Because of that, there had to be some compromise.

Based on percentages for dividing the SG nine associate justices, the St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee campuses each made up less than one percent, which would have equated to less than one seat.

This would have meant that there would have been seven justices at Tampa, one at St. Pete and one at Sarasota-Manatee.

"In that way, [the campuses] didn't even make up one seat," Deas said. "It is well-known that Tampa has the most amount

of students so we wanted to make sure there was an equal opportunity."

Instead, the SGs decided on five at Tampa, two at St. Pete and two at Sarasota-Manatee.

Deas and Starner said they have not received any concerns yet from the student body, but the same could not be said for Duarte.

"A lot of students who expressed concerns were more so confused, they weren't sure of what consolidation does to them and just wanted some answers," Duarte said. "There were a lot of logistical questions that students had that affected their day-to-day life at the institution."

One consolidation decision that is still up in the air is student fees, and all student body presidents don't know yet what is to come.

For just the Tampa campus alone, about \$17 million in Activity and Service (A&S) fees — a flat fee of \$7 per semester and \$12 per credit hour — are distributed to student organizations every year.

St. Pete students pay \$25.63 in A&S fees and Sarasota-Manatee students pay \$20.19 per credit hour, both with no flat fee, according to the Board of Governors 2019 Tuition and Fees Report.

"It is most likely going to be one pot of money and not separate but, then again, none of this is confirmed," Deas said. "I only have heard about what is most likely going to happen instead of what will actually happen."

Duarte is basing her assessment of student fees on USF President Steven Currall's



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SG

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version 2.0 of the consolidation draft which says that the regional chancellors will have authority over their own budget on each campus.

"... We're just hoping that we can still have the opportunity to split our fees to where it'll benefit our student body at [St. Pete]," Duarte said.

Since the constitution passed, SG is working on statutes to implement which will be voted on by the Senate in the future.

"This is all very new for everybody," Deas said. "We can plan it out but we don't really know how it will be until people are in their functioning roles next year."

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CONSOLIDATION

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USF Provost Ralph Wilcox said the choice to not consolidate certain departments was to preserve their own elements of distinction and programs that are unique to each specific campus.

"This is probably the most important benefit of consolidation for students because our communities, whether they are in Tampa, St. Pete or Sarasota, they all have been hungry to provide an array of degree programs," Wilcox said.

Similar to the department of mass communication, the department of marine biology will no longer consolidate with the other campuses as a way to preserve its unique program at the St. Pete campus, according to Wilcox.

With consolidation, each major college, including the College of Arts and Sciences and the Muma College of

Business, will only have one dean who all three campuses report to.

Wilcox said in addition to the dean, a campus-based leader will be assigned in order to delegate some of the responsibilities consistent with departments, college and university governance policies.

The consolidation plan will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees (BOT) on Dec. 3 and submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in early 2020.

"I think it is a positive decision because it will allow for some of these unique and distinctive programs that, in the past, were limited to students enrolled on one campus only, the potential to be delivered on all three campuses," Wilcox said.



Department Chair of the School of Journalism and Digital Communication in St. Pete Casey Frechette does not want to consolidate due to professional accreditations.
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Big corporate tax loopholes strain Florida budget



Nathaniel Sweet

OPINION EDITOR

On Nov. 13, the Orlando Sentinel published a bombshell finding about Florida's corporate tax system: All told, only 1 percent of all corporations in the state paid any income tax in 2018.

According to data from the Florida Division of Corporations and the Florida Department of Revenue, there are about 2.5 million registered corporations in Florida.

Only about 220,000 filed corporate income tax paperwork in 2018, and less than a fifth (28,334) of those corporations actually owed any income tax to the state.

There are a variety of reasons why this is the case. One big loophole, for instance, allows companies to pass profits upward to an out-of-state umbrella company and avoid corporate tax altogether.

Another comes from the fact that "pass-through" entities, businesses that directly send profits to shareholders, are exempt from state corporate income tax.

Since corporate tax filings are confidential, there are no clear-cut numbers on how much Florida loses from these loopholes, but estimates put



Florida's large corporations make millions in tax-free profits while college students struggle to scrape by. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

them at a high price tag.

A 2019 report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, for instance, examined data from the IRS and Congressional Budget Office, estimating that Florida loses \$1.1 billion annually from state corporate tax loopholes.

\$1.1 billion might seem small compared to the state's \$90 billion budget, but even small funding changes can have big impacts.

The entire Florida university system, for instance, received \$5.1 billion from the state in the 2019 fiscal year.

Lost revenues from loopholes have direct impacts on college students. Florida higher education funding has been tight for years — state funding fell after the 2008 recession and hasn't recovered since.

A 2019 study from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) found that, when adjusting for inflation,

per-student higher education funding in Florida was 13 percent lower in 2018 than it was in 2008, a cut of \$1,300 per student.

As state higher education funding has faltered, said the CBPP, costs have been passed on to students.

Over the same time period, college tuition increased 60 percent at an additional \$2,300 annually.

Taken together, these two trends paint an unsettling picture: in Florida, large corporations make millions in tax-free profits while college students struggle to scrape by.

This coming legislative session, the Florida Legislature should put students first. The time is now to close these corporate tax loopholes and fully fund higher education.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

Students should not pay for application mistakes



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

A USF student was recently charged for on-campus housing despite never living in a dorm on campus this semester.

Melissa Moreno, a freshman chemistry major, was notified in August that she owed the university \$3,750 for an on-campus dorm room that she never intended to live in, according to a Nov. 22 report from 10News WTSP.

The mishap took place when Moreno indicated that she was interested in on-campus housing in her initial online application, which was not her intention.

A simple mistake is not just cause for such exorbitant fees. This story is a clear indicator that there should be additional safeguards in place in order to ensure that students are not being overcharged.

After 10News reached out to the university, Moreno's fees dropped to \$1,500. This adjustment shows that the university obviously felt that the initial fine was too high.

For some students, online applications can be confusing, especially if no one is there to walk them through the application process. There should be a system in place that

notifies the applicant of any potential mistakes.

Perhaps a good solution to preventing these potential mistakes would be to increase clarity on housing during the orientation process. Counselors should be available to discuss with students their housing options and should clarify their current financial commitments to the university.

Additionally, tuition is due after the first week of classes of any given semester. If a student has not arrived at student housing during that first week, there could have been some type of miscommunication between the student and the university.

For many families, an unexpected fine of \$3,750, or even \$1,500, can have a profound impact on their financial life. Fees can play an effective role in deterring students from signing up for housing they do not intend to live in. However, this method should not be overused.

USF should use this situation as an opportunity to re-evaluate their system of enrolling students in on-campus housing and should make a good-faith attempt to fix any potential mistakes made on applications.

For students who may have questions about the housing policy at USF or a specific question about their status, they should reach out to the Housing and Residential Education department.

Jared Sellick is a senior studying political science.

FOOTBALL

Continued from PAGE 8

started in place of senior running backs Jordan Cronkrite and Trevon Sands. Joiner Jr. ran for a net of 115 yards, the first 100-yard rushing game of his career.

There's no other way to put it: After its first drive, USF put up one of the worst offensive performances in program history.

The defense disappeared, too

Go to McDonald's and order a fountain drink.

Take the drink back with you to your car with liquid still in the cup.

Let the cup sit in your cup holder for a few days.

Come back and remove the cup — notice how the bottom completely fell out of it.

That's what happened to the USF defense.

The Bulls held Memphis to back-to-back three-and-outs before the Tigers scored their first touchdown.

KJ Sails and Daquan Evans, respectively, ended the next two Memphis drives with interceptions.

Then the liquid broke through the bottom of the cup.

The Tigers scored touchdowns on six of their next seven drives, including two streaks of three-straight scores.

Sure, the offense didn't do its job when it had the ball, but even if it did, if the defense isn't making any stops, it doesn't matter.

Memphis ran a staggering 89 plays for 560 yards because the Bulls were unable to remove the cup from the cup holder.

The kicking game

Freshman kicker Spencer Shrader had a game to forget Nov. 16 against Cincinnati. He missed 4-of-5 field-goal attempts, including a late go-ahead kick that hit off the right upright.

Shrader was replaced on field-goal attempts Saturday by junior

Coby Weiss, who went 1-of-2, but continued to kick off.

Shrader wasn't particularly good on kickoffs, though, kicking both of his high into the air, ultimately being fair caught each time on the Memphis 30-yard line.

The Bulls never had to worry about kicking off after Shrader's second, so it's unclear what they're thinking going forward regarding kickoffs.

Shrader's worst enemy may be his own head right now. He may be better served not kicking off Friday against UCF.

Not going bowling for the first time in a half-decade

USF's bowl streak is over with the loss. The Bulls have nothing tangible — other than the War on I-4 trophy — to play for Friday evening against UCF at Spectrum Stadium.

The Knights have nothing to play for either, as, despite being bowl eligible, they can't win the AAC East anymore.

Yet the game will be shown in prime time on ESPN for the first time since 2015, when it was played on Thanksgiving night.

Granted, that was the season UCF went 0-12, so this game shouldn't be as difficult to pull in neutral viewers as that was.

Regardless, since USF won't be playing in December for the first time since 2014, this is the Bulls' de facto bowl game.

"That's our rivalry game. We take that real serious," sophomore linebacker Dwayne Boyles said. "We're going to go out there and compete and we'll get back this week and we're focused on UCF right now."

Whether that will be enough to bring the War on I-4 trophy back to Fowler Avenue for the first time since 2016 will be seen later this week.



USF women's soccer's season ended Sunday in the Sweet 16. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/GOUSFBULLS

SOCCER

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to score more than they did," Megrath said. "I think that maybe they underestimated our intensity.... It was for sure a team effort. Katie's ball was amazing. I think that if I wouldn't have been there, I had girls right behind me who are going to put it in."

FSU clogged the midfield shortly thereafter, making it difficult for the Bulls to get any kind of meaningful attack going. At halftime, the Bulls only had 34 percent of possession, and of that, only 5 percent came in their attacking third.

Meanwhile, the Seminoles had chance after chance, recording six shots in the first half, including a 45th-minute goal by Jaelin Howell, tying the game seconds before halftime.

"I think we just slipped," Megrath said. "I think it was a lack of discipline in the last 10 minutes. We got too comfortable. I mean, that's hard, but no one to blame. It was just a team effort of getting too loose."

In the 53rd minute, Blethen

was called for a foul in the penalty area. FSU's Deyna Castellanos lined up and beat USF sophomore goalkeeper Sydney Martinez, who went left when the kick went right.

From there, the Seminoles shut down any chance of a USF comeback, not allowing the Bulls to record a shot in the second half until the 76th minute, when sophomore forward Sydney Nasello sent one out to the left of the goal. Nasello's shot was USF's only shot of the second half and first since the 31st minute.

The Bulls' four shots were a season low and Sunday was only the second time all year the Bulls were outshot, with the other instance coming in Friday's 2-0 win against Washington.

The loss was unfamiliar territory for the Bulls, who, despite the results, usually were statistically the better team all season.

"To be honest, we haven't been in this situation all season," Schilte-Brown said. "We've been the stronger team for all of our games this year in terms of possession and having

the ball. ... We absolutely did everything we could to try to get back in the game.

"Listen, this program is amazing. Florida State won a national championship last year — the only reason we were out — and I have a good feeling they're probably going to win it again."

Still, the seniors wanted more.

"I think we're always wanting more," Hauksdottir said. "I think no matter where we go, we always want more. Yes, we made history, but — we wanted to win. We wanted more."

But it'll be a season Schilte-Brown will never forget.

"For me, this was like the hardest year in my life," Schilte-Brown said. "I lost my dad. My kids went to high school. And these girls endured that with me — they helped carry a team. They didn't just play on a team, they helped a team mature, they helped lead the team. Honestly, we wouldn't be here today if we weren't all in on this."

"It was an amazing group and an amazing journey, and I don't have any regrets."

InBrief

Bulls trample Saint Francis

USF women's basketball (4-1) found little trouble against Saint Francis (Pa.) on Sunday in its 62-23 victory over the Red Flash.

Three Bulls scored 10 or more points — freshman Elena Tsineke (13), junior Shae Leverett (12) and senior Tamara Henshaw (10).

Leverett also registered 13 rebounds, recording her first double-double of the season.

Tsineke made her USF debut after being unavailable due to NCAA qualification issues. She was the Bulls' best player at the free-throw line, going 4-of-5.

The Bulls outshot the Red Flash from the field, shooting 44 percent from the field compared with Saint Francis at 14 percent.

The largest lead for USF came with less than six minutes left in the game. A free throw by Tsineke cemented a 40-point lead, the Bulls' largest against any team this season.

USF outrebounded Saint Francis 39-29. The Bulls have now outrebounded every team they've faced this season.

From the second half of the second quarter through the beginning of the third, the Bulls went on a 17-0 run, their largest run this season.

Next up for the Bulls is the Cancun Challenge later this week. USF begins its three-game trip with South Dakota State on Thursday, followed by Florida Gulf Coast on Friday.

The Bulls round out the trip with a game against last year's NCAA Tournament runner-up Notre Dame on Saturday.

Commentary

Memphis 49-USF 10: Postgame takeaways



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

Let's be real.

Expectations heading into Saturday's Senior Day matchup with No. 18 Memphis weren't exactly high.

USF hasn't looked good all season, with the exception of games against bottom-tier teams like UConn and East Carolina.

Additionally, Memphis came in as the third-best scoring offense in the AAC, averaging more than 40 points.

But, still, the Bulls' 49-10 loss at Raymond James Stadium was staggering.

Women's Soccer



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

TALLAHASSEE — It's the end of an era for USF women's soccer.

With the No. 11 Bulls' 2-0 defeat Sunday in the Sweet 16 of

What in the world happened to the offense?

The Bulls' offense started strong, scoring a touchdown on its first drive, which went for 75 yards.

From there, USF recorded only five first downs and three drives that went for double digits. The Bulls totaled 170 yards, their fewest since Week 1 against Wisconsin.

Per Joey Knight of the Tampa Bay Times, USF's five first downs and 44 passing yards were the fewest in program history.

The incredible lack of protection from the offensive line in turn led to the dismal performance from the quarterbacks. Redshirt freshman Jordan McCloud was 5-of-14 for 45 yards and sophomore Kirk Rygol, who replaced McCloud at various points in the second half,



USF's loss to Memphis was one of the worst in program history. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

was 1-of-4 for -1 yard.

Each quarterback was sacked twice.

"We just never got back and were able to protect the quarterback enough to make the throw downfield," coach Charlie

Strong said, "because we had guys open, but just couldn't get the ball to them."

The one bright spot was freshman Kelley Joiner Jr., who

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Bulls fall to No. 5 FSU in Sweet 16

the NCAA Tournament to No. 5 FSU, the winningest senior class in program history has played its last game.

Evelyn Viens, Rebekah Anderson, Andrea Hauksdottir, Brianna Blethen and Aubrey Megrath are moving on from the program after its deepest postseason run ever.

"It's such a growth, those four years," said Viens, who set numerous records, including the program and AAC career goal record (73). "You come here a

teenager, and after you finish as a woman. ... I'm just so proud we did the Sweet 16 this year. Four years ago, we were unable to get into the final of our conference."

The game itself was chippy. Actually, that might be an understatement.

USF was shown six yellow cards — including one to assistant coach Ibán López in the 74th minute — and was whistled for a program-record 29 fouls.

"It's just a reflection on the authority of the ref," head coach

Denise Schilte-Brown said. "He gets a hold of the game, then you don't have that foul count. A lot of frustration from both sides in terms of that, but that's not what we want to focus on when the game is over. Two good teams stepped on the field and gave everything they had."

The Bulls struck first after junior midfielder Katie Kitching found Megrath inside the 18-yard box in the fifth minute.

"I think we went out wanting

See SOCCER on PAGE 7