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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Greek life funding allocation at risk



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

After years of irregularities on the use of the Marshall Student Center (MSC) Security Fund, Student Government (SG) established new limitations for student organizations.

The new clause, however, raised concerns to Fraternity and Sorority Life after they were restricted from utilizing the funds for its events throughout the year.

The MSC Security Fund is allocated from the Activity and Service (A&S) fee to provide security for public events in the MSC. Dean of Students Danielle McDonald said \$68,400 was allocated this year for the fund.

With the new clause, the MSC can only allocate money from the fund for events hosted by A&S-funded organizations on campus.

When filing the forms to reserve a space at the MSC, a risk assessment is taken to determine whether or not additional security is required for a certain event, such as events with a large rate of attendance and ones open to the public.

Without the fund, non-A&Sfunded student organizations would have to pay out of their budget to have security presence during their events at the MSC. According to University Police's website, the rate per hour to have an officer during an event is \$47.

Interfraternity Council President Jacob Lenamond said

However, Elan Pavlinich, a

visiting professor and English

graduate student, said he believes

USF Dining Services is not being

held to that same standard with

Dining Services accountable for

violating the ethical standards

that all students, faculty and staff

have to follow," Pavlinich said.

"Students need to be informed

where their money is going

when they spend money in the

"I would like to hold USF

its affiliation with Chick-fil-A.

the councils felt at a disadvantage when the clause first passed as they were not involved in any discussions regarding the future of the fund.

"Losing the MSC security funding would put us in a situation where our events would have to move off campus or take place somewhere else, which gives no exposure to people that aren't in the community to see it," Lenamond said. "I think it'd be a shame to not have that opportunity to showcase it in front of the MSC where we'd like to celebrate that community together."

In addition to lack of representation, Lenamond said the change would affect each chapter financially.

As each Greek chapter is not A&S-funded, part of their budget comes from member fees. With



The clause is pending the approval of Student Government Body President Britney Deas, who has the power to either approve or veto. ORACLE PHOTO/ LEDA ALVIM

the change of the clause, they would have to allocate money from their budget in order to request an officer's presence at their events. "It's not something that's not in our budget to handle those kind of funds," Lenamond said. "It's been expected to be covered

n See SG on PAGE 3

Dining Services grilled over Chick-fil-A expansion



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

USF's Commitment To Honor states that the university respects "the dignity and intrinsic value of all persons." [Marshall Student Center] or [USF] Library."

Pavlinich was prompted to email a letter to students asking them to boycott Dining Services. He instead encouraged students to dine in at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore Cafe or bring a lunch to campus because the money spent at Dining Services could end up at Chick-fil-A.

In Pavlinich's letter, he is referring to the controversies Chick-fil-A has faced from

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LGBTQ organizations.

This includes Chick-fil-A's donations to organizations that fund anti-LGBTQ efforts such as the activist group Family Research Council.

The organization was labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center in 2010, according to Business Insider. The Family Research Council has statements on its website about homosexuality being "harmful" and "unnatural." However, the article continued by saying that Chick-fil-A has ceased its donations to all political groups and those organizing against LGBTQ rights in 2012. But, the \$1,653,416 Fellowship of Christian Athletes donation and the \$150,000 Salvation Army donation have raised criticisms in recent years because the groups have been accused of being against same-sex marriage.

The movement has also n See CFA on PAGE 3

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NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019 THE ORACLE

CFA

Continued from PAGE 1

expanded worldwide recently as the first Chick-fil-A in the U.K. closed last week, six months after opening, because of LGBTQ protests.

Pavlinich said he wanted to join the similar efforts of students from the University of Kansas (KU) who are trying to have the Chick-fil-A banned from their campus.

In the KU letter, it states: "While we recognize that contractual obligations did not allow the complete removal of the brand from campus, we are outraged that they have been allowed to move from the Wescoe Underground to a new, bigger, more central location on the University of Kansas campus."

Sound familiar?

Last summer, Dining Services expanded the Chick-fil-A in the MSC to be a full-service location. Marketing Director Jessica Cicalese said this was done to expand the menu and be more customizable to students.

Now, Chick-fil-A is the most popular single retail location on campus with an average of about 9,000 guests weekly, according to Cicalese.

Pavlinich said he does not believe removing the Chickfil-A would be a feasible option so instead he would like to see Dining Services donate to LGBTQ organizations.

Cicalese said in an effort for Dining Services to show its commitment and dedication to USF's mission, it stands with USF Student Affairs' Love over Hate Campaign, which is meant to promote positivity around campus.

"We want everyone to feel

welcome when they walk through all of the dining locations across campus," Cicalese said in an email to The Oracle. "USF is a strong and inclusive community and we want to assure our meetings and sharing our best practices around the composition of our workforce and offerings," Cicalese said. "We discussed partnering on staff training, similar to the many other



Chick-fil-A is the most popular single retail location on campus with an average of about 9,000 guests weekly. **ORACLE PHOTO/HALEY WIRTH**

operations on the USF Tampa campus respect these values. We want to make it clear that our sole focus is on providing a quality dining experience at USF."

Cicalese said Dining Services met with representatives from USF P.R.I.D.E. Alliance, — a LQBTQ organization on campus — the Committee on Issues of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (CISOGI) and Dean of Students Danielle McDonald about being more inclusive on campus.

"In this meeting, we discussed guests speaking at USF P.R.I.D.E

departmental/operational trainings that are issued to the USF team."

Pavlinich said he hopes his letter is able to spread to more parts of campus to show students how harmful he thinks Chickfil-A is.

"If you are going to tell USF students that they have to abide by ethical standards, it is problematic that Dining Services would expand [the Chick-fil-A] space and even more so support that franchise."

SG

Continued from PAGE 1

in the past in the same way that room reservations for chapters work, no one's budgeting for the expenses for that."

The bill was discussed and approved by the SG Senate on Oct. 15, with 39 votes in favor and three votes against it.

Student Business Services (SBS) and MSC administration brought to McDonald's attention the irregularities being made regarding the use of the MSC Security Fund by non-A&Sfunded organizations.

The irregularities were noticed in April by the MSC administration. Ever since then, non-A&S-funded organizations have not been granted access to the fund.

The clause was supposed to be discussed during the summer, according to McDonald. However, due to changes in Senate leadership, the meeting was postponed to the fall semester.

"I think the fund is really important, otherwise all student organizations would have to get their own insurance and would have to pay for that security on their own, which could then limit the types of events that the students have," McDonald said.

Senate Pro Tempore and author of the bill, Hernan Benavides, said that prior to the addition of the clause in Title 8 of the SG statutes, there were no regulations regarding the use of the MSC Security Fund.

The clause is pending the approval of Student Government Body President Britney Deas, who has the power to either approve or veto the clause.

"So the conversation has really come down to where we're talking to Deas to see what would be more efficient and effective as we also want them to be able to promote the compliance and unification of their documents," Lenamond said. "We don't want this to hinder any processes, we just don't want to lose our representation on campus."

Benavides said regardless of Deas' decision, he will work towards a clause that is more inclusive to all parties involved. However, if she vetoes it, Benavides said he will draft a new clause and have it by the first week of November.

"We are trying to make it available for all student organizations regardless of its A&S eligibility status," Benavides said. "We're trying to find a solution to these two things that I didn't foresee to happen when writing the clause. But now we will work on a solution that both parties will be comfortable passing."

Discussions have been held between Fraternity and Sorority Life and SG to find a common ground regarding the use of the fee, according to Benavides.

Among the changes being discussed, the MSC Security Fund may become available for all student organizations regardless of their A&S eligibility status, according to Benavides.

"We just want to maintain the standard we've already had with the security funding and I think that's something that is bare bones and reasonable," Lenamond said. "If the university asks us to provide safe and secure public events, we just want to be able to maintain that ability to do so on campus without having to remove our heritage, tradition and culture from campus that anyone can attend and witness."



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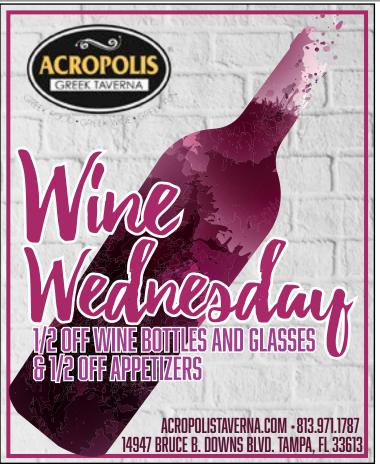


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OPINION

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for

OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Chick-fil-A

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boycott begs need LGBT student support

UNIVERSITY



Nathaniel Sweet

COLUMNIST

In late September, an open letter began circulating around campus asking students to boycott USF Dining Services for expanding its on-campus Chick-fil-A. The company has long been criticized for the political activities of its founder and foundation, both of which have donated large sums to organizations either unfriendly or outright hostile to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people.

Those organizations include groups like the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which suggests its employees avoid "homosexual acts," and Exodus International, which promotes conversion therapy, which is a pseudoscientific and dangerous practice that attempts to force people with other sexualities to be heterosexual.

Whatever the motives behind the expansion, it sends the message that the administration wants to have it both ways when it comes to diversity, talking up inclusion until it conflicts with a popular brand. Mixed signals like these alienate LGBTQ students and erode campus climate. More broadly, the Chick-fil-A boycott



Research on USF policies highlights the need for stronger practices across campus for LGBTQ students. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE**

is an indicator that USF needs further progress on LGBTQ inclusion.

USF currently offers a handful of LGBTQ resources, like Safe Zone inclusivity training through the Office of Multicultural Affairs, student organizations like the P.R.I.D.E. (People Respecting Individual Diversity and Equality) Alliance and Trans+ Student Union, a LGBTQ-themed Living Learning Community called Stonewall Suites and academic resources through the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

Each of these resources provide valuable support. Still, research on USF policies highlights the need for stronger practices across campus life.

Campus Pride, a nonprofit focused on LGBTQ issues in higher education, released an index that rates colleges and universities on their LGBTQ inclusion. Each score is based on a survey completed by the school's diversity office, answering questions about which policies, resources and services are available. USF received a 3.5 out of 5 stars — not terrible, but if the index was a college class, USF would have gotten a C-minus.

UCF, our Orlando rival, received a 4.5 out of 5 stars. Per Campus Pride, UCF provides training to faculty, staff and campus police on sexual orientation and gender identity issues. It also has gender-inclusive housing across all residence halls, LGBTQ-friendly roommate matching and a mentoring program that specifically helps LGBTQ students transition into academic life. USF, by comparison, meets none of these criteria.

Applicants to USF residence halls, for instance, can indicate roommate preferences around smoking, room temperature and hours awake, but no such matching exists around gender identity or sexuality.

As a symbolic matter, USF should reconsider its contract with Chick-fil-A. Symbolic changes, however, are not enough. Administration needs renewed focus on LGBTQ inclusion, implementing new policies like those on the Campus Pride Index.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

Microplastic in Tampa highlight global crisis

THE ORACLE



OCTOBER 28, 2019

Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

Researchers found over four billion pieces of microplastic in the Tampa Bay in a July 2019 study from USF St. Pete and Eckerd College.

This study highlights the amazing scientific research done at USF and why our investments in research make us stronger as a university.

This research echoes the global problems that currently exist in every ecosystem around the world and demonstrates that the way we live is unsustainable.

Humanity has managed to significantly alter nearly every ecosystem on Earth with plastic fibers in exchange for less than 100 years of human convenience.

Lead author of the study, Kinsley McEachern, explained that "A plastic bottle that gets into the Bay today will last for 400 plus years, even greater than our lifetimes," as reported by WUSF News.

Each one of those billions of pieces of microplastic has the potential to be eaten by an organism which could drastically alter our environment for the worse.

The study found that Tampa Bay had a similar concentration to other "industrialised bay ecosystems," but was significantly higher than a sample taken from the open ocean.

USF and many other Tampa Bay area institutions have rather intensive recycling programs. However, even the best recycling programs still leave a lot of plastic discarded into the ocean. According to the research publication Our World in Data, only 9 percent of all plastics have been recycled from 1950-2015.

If we really do want to push less plastic into the ocean we need to incentivise industry to make products out of less harmful materials.

There needs to be a huge investment in different forms of packaging if we are to save our ecosystems. USF should not stop with simply identifying the source of the problem for the Tampa Bay ecosystem, but should research ways in which we can find alternatives to plastic.

The source of the problem is clear. We need to invest in new designs that reduce microplastics and help save our ecosystems. There have been examples of biodegradable containers, but they have yet to be widely implemented.

If USF, along with other research colleges around the world, develop ways to make biodegradable containers more cost-efficient, the onslaught of microplastics would be greatly reduced.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

NOTEBOOK

Continued from PAGE 8

appeared under center in a sort of wildcat formation seven times in the first half, rushing for a net of 99 yards and completing one pass for 2 yards.

"He came out here and did a great job," senior running back Jordan Cronkrite said. "He gives us a different dynamic. It's great to have."

Evans left the game late in the first half with what coach Charlie Strong described as a "headache," but not before putting together a performance that drew praise from McCloud.

"He did really well today," McCloud said. "All week, he was just learning. He was a receiver at first, and then he came back. So it was just a hard transition for him, but he did it really well."

McCloud was the starting guarterback but left the game with an ankle injury late in the second quarter, though both Strong and McCloud said he was healthy enough to come back to the game if needed.

"I could have went back in, but coach just decided no point," McCloud said. "We've got a hard November coming up, so we just want to keep me healthy."

Rygol finished the game, going 6-of-12 for 74 yards and a touchdown. Getting Rygol reps this week was key in his ability to hold his own, according to Strong.

"If you put him in at practice and then get enough reps, they can understand and they can execute the offense," Strong said.

A pair of season bests

The Bulls' offense posted season highs in rushing (347) and total (525) yards.

USF posted 248 rushing yards in the first half alone, taking a 35-10 lead into the break. It was the first time the Bulls posted at least

since Oct. 28, 2016, against Navy. Six different rushers totaled the 347 yards, with three of USF's

35 points in the first half of a game

six touchdowns coming on the around.

"We just came out here with an attitude: being the hammer, not the nail," Cronkrite said. "Obviously we had a few mistakes out there ... but just a great job all around."

Cronkrite's big day

Cronkrite logged his third 100plus yard output in four games.

The senior ran for 129 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries.

After posting just 77 yards through the season's first four games, Cronkrite has ran for just under seven times that number (511 yards) in the following guarter of the season.

Despite the big night, Cronkrite kept things in perspective.

"I'm just happy that we won," Cronkrite said. "I'm not really about the 100-yard rushes and all that. I'm just happy that we won."

St. Felix rises to Strong's challenge

In his weekly press conference last Monday, Strong said he challenged his receivers to start making big plays.

Sophomore Randall St. Felix took the challenge to heart.

St. Felix caught five passes for 79 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown.

"I actually took it as disrespect," St. Felix said. "When I feel disrespected, that's when I step up to the plate and I do what I had to do. I worked hard in practice, and I was making catches like I made in the game in practice.

"You practice how you play, so I showed up today."

ECU made it to USF's 1-yard

and endless training, but in the end, it boils down to the mental fortitude of the defense.

But the question remains: can USF's defense consistently perform well in the following weeks?

Penalties rear their ugly heads ağain

Well, if there's one thing USF can consistently do it's tally up penalties.

The Bulls have lost an average of 84.75 yards per game this season.

Against the Pirates, the Bulls totaled13penaltiesfor124yards.

It's not a big deal against a team like ECU, which is now 0-4 in AAC play, but against the gauntlet of teams remaining on USF's schedule — Temple, Memphis, Cincinnati and UCF - that will probably result in a loss.

Coach Charlie Strong even said as much after the game.

"There's no reason for it." Strong said. "We've got to get it corrected, because when you play a good team, you lose that game."

line before a level-headed

defense made three rushing

stops and forced an incomplete

A feat like that takes skill

pass on fourth down.

USF's victory against East Carolina on Saturday keeps the possibility of bowl eligibility very much alive. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/GOUSFBULLS

plank yet Perhaps most importantly, the Bulls' win keeps the hope of bowl eligibility alive, at least for

another week. USF needs to effectively steal

Bowl eligibility hasn't walked the

two of its final four games to qualify for its fifth straight bowl.

Fortunately, three of those games come at home, and the fourth is only a short trip up the road to UCF.

It's a less than ideal circumstance to be in, but it's completely reasonable to think the Bulls can pull off an upset in one — if not more — of the home games then play inspired football on Black Friday against their rivals.

A December game is still very much possible, and that's the most important takeaway from USF's blowout win on the Inner Banks of North Carolina.

TAKEAWAYS

six attempts and scoring

his first career touchdown, it

Continued from PAGE 8

seems like Evans' potential at the wildcat position has been unlocked. It's just a matter of time now.

Whether it be the remainder of the season or beyond, the future looks promising.

Defense comes back from the brig

After hiding underground last week at Navy, USF's defense is back. And, honestly, it was just as good as it's been when at its best.

Bentlee Sanders, Nick Roberts and Devin Studstill all made nine tackles, the most of any defensive player on the field.

The Bulls limited the Pirates to 3-of-6 on red-zone attempts, with only one ending in a touchdown very late in the fourth quarter.

This also included a defensive stop that led to a turnover on downs in the third quarter.

SPORTS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019 THE ORACLE

Football

AAC Commish: UConn replacement unlikely for now

InBrief

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Don't expect USF's conference to find a replacement for UConn after the Huskies depart — at least for the foreseeable future.

The NCAA granted the AAC a waiver to continue playing a conference championship game without 12 members for the 2020 and 2021 seasons, and it doesn't sound like the league is looking for a new team at the moment.

"There are only a handful of schools out there — and I'm not going to start getting into names — that I think would enhance the brand of this league," AAC Commissioner Michael Aresco said to reporters before the USF-East Carolina game Saturday. "The last thing we need to do is water down the brand — take a school that really doesn't fit what we're trying to do."

Aresco added that the conference could apply to extend the waiver after 2021, though he did not seem optimistic about that or press for legislation to make the waiver permanent.

Without a waiver, the AAC would have to play a roundrobin format to hold a title game, requiring each member to play each other every season, similar to the Big 12.

"The round robin was completely impractical for us because there was no way we were going to play 10 conference games," Aresco said. "That would eliminate a lot of our nonconference games."

UConn will leave the AAC at the end of the 2019-20 academic year.



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Behind three quarterbacks, its biggest offensive output of the season and some breakout performances, USF defeated East Carolina 45-20 on Saturday at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Trio of QBs

Entering Saturday's game, there was a bit of uncertainty at quarterback for USF.

Redshirt freshman Jordan

Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

someone were to look at USF's

45-20 win over East Carolina on

Saturday and think, 'Hey, that's

a pretty good win,' they'd be

exactly right.

It was a good win.

GREENVILLE, N.C. — If

McCloud was clearly hurt last week against Navy, meaning there was a strong chance walkon sophomore Kirk Rygol would

have to start.

Ultimately, both saw action, but so did true freshman Jah'Quez Evans.

Running game takes all the gold doubloons

There's no putting it lightly,

the Bulls plowed through the

Pirates mainly due to USF's

running game. Senior running

back Jordan Cronkrite put up 129

Keep in mind, Cronkrite's

performance made up 37 percent

of USF's total rush offense, which

means there was much more than

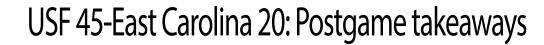
iust his contribution to the Bulls'

347 ground yards.

yards and two touchdowns.

Evans, who changed his position from quarterback to wide receiver during fall camp, n See **NOTEBOOK** on **PAGE 7**

Commentary



In fact, it was arguably the biggest win against an FBS opponent in a very long time.

Take note of where USF was last week in its 35-3 loss to Navy. When comparing the two games, the Bulls look like a completely different team.

A lack of consistency has been the overarching theme of the Bulls' season. Keeping any momentum has been difficult.

But after such a resounding win on Saturday and a bye week approaching, keeping momentum is of the utmost importance.

The offense overall put up its

best performance of the season with 525 yards. Based on the impact of the running game on that total yardage, it's something worth getting excited about.

It's also exciting to think of the future this run-heavy offense can bring.

Quarterbacks Jordan McCloud and Jah'Quez Evans ran for a combined 148 yards, with the redshirt freshman McCloud averaging over 12 yards a run and the true freshman Evans averaging 16.5.

After running for 99 yards in

n See **TAKEAWAYS** on **PAGE 7**

Bulls' offense has big game against ECU



Jah'Quez Evans (14) and Kirk Rygol (17) each saw time under center for USF in the Bulls' 45-20 victory against East Carolina on Saturday. **ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB**