

## Looking ahead: Provost Ralph Wilcox's aspirations for USF's future



Leda Alvim

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Provost Ralph Wilcox has dedicated his life toward academia for more than 40 years, and when he first chose his career path in the education field, he did not expect he would one day be leading a university. "When I started going down

this road in higher education, I never planned to be a provost of a top-tier public research university, but I like to think that I've listened and learned from a lot of mentors along the way that saw something in my ability to lead," Wilcox said.

Considered the longest-serving provost in the State University System with a 15-year tenure, Wilcox announced Nov. 8 he will step down from his role next year and dedicate his time and expertise to teaching and spending time with his family.

"Your family and your loved ones are incredibly important,"

Wilcox said. "Much of my success could never have happened without the support of family. So now, I've got grandchildren in my life. They don't quite understand how they can't spend time with grandpa just when they want to."

The decision, according to Wilcox, was also attributed to good timing as the university conducts a nationwide search to find its eighth president.

"I think it's good for the university and it's good for me," he said. "My time at the university has always been guided by the best interests of the university

■ See WILCOX on PAGE 7



Provost Ralph Wilcox is considered the longest-serving provost in the State University System, with his tenure at USF lasting 15 years. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE

## Topiary bull target of vandalism, brings financial burdens

By Leda Alvim  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The topiary bull, located north of the Marshall Student Center (MSC), is a hard-to-miss landmark on campus, especially due to its size and golden horns that stand out from its greenery.

The issue with such an iconic sculpture, however, is the frequent thefts of its horns as part of a prank or a graduation "tradition" which Associate Director of Communications for Administrative Services Aaron

Nichols said costs the university thousands of dollars yearly.

"It is a problem," Nichols said. "I know people might think it's just a harmless prank, but it's the truth — it's vandalism and it costs the university quite a bit of time and money to repair."

On average, the horns get stolen four to five times a year. Nichols said the process to replace the horns takes one to two weeks.

The bull, also known as

■ See TOPIBULL on PAGE 2

## Road improvements under construction around campus' perimeter

By Leda Alvim  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two traffic projects will soon take form on USF's perimeter as a way to improve traffic and pedestrian safety in the area as part of Hillsborough County's Capital Improvement Program.

One of the projects, which is already under construction, includes traffic signals at the intersections of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard and Richard Silver Way, which is the entrance to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, as well as at the intersection of Campus Hill Drive, according to Sandra Gonzalez, the site manager for Hillsborough

County's site manager for the Capital Programs Department.

The county will also build a traffic signal at the intersection of North 50th Street and USF Holly Drive, replace the existing traffic signal at the intersection with Fletcher Avenue and build a sidewalk on the west side of North 50th Street intersecting with USF Holly Drive toward Fletcher Avenue. The project, which is still under the design stages, is set to start construction by mid-2023.

The construction near James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, which broke ground Sept. 1,

includes a 5 foot by 4,400 linear foot sidewalk on the east side of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard from USF Pine Drive to Fletcher Avenue. The construction is estimated to be completed by December 2022 due to a delay with the procurement of the materials, according to Gonzalez.

"To enhance and improve the safety of the users, especially both users being bicyclists or pedestrians along the corridor, it was decided to incorporate the construction and installation of the sidewalk as part of those two intersection improvement

■ See CONSTRUCTION on PAGE 3

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## TOPIBULL

Continued from PAGE 1

“Topibull,” was originally designed by William Robertson, who has done work for Walt Disney World and Busch Gardens. In total, the sculpture weighs around 1,000 pounds and has more than 3,000 welds.

Nichols said the horns were originally made out of metal when the topiary bull was first installed in 2009. The total cost for it was around \$27,000, former Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management Joe Eagan told The Oracle at the time.

The bull is not only made from plants, according to Nichols, as it uses a steel frame filled with creeping fig plants and water-retentive peat moss to make up the bull’s body.

Once the metal horns started getting stolen, Nichols said it significantly damaged the bull due to the force required to pull the horns from the structure. Besides the \$1,500 to replace the horns, the university also had to cover \$500 in damages to repair the sculpture.

Nichols said the material used to make the horns changed from metal to fiberglass as a more affordable option. The fiberglass option requires a more intensive labor, but costs \$500 to produce.

It takes 30 hours of work to shape and then apply fiberglass to the horns, according to Nichols. The team must then let it dry, sand, paint and install them on the bull.

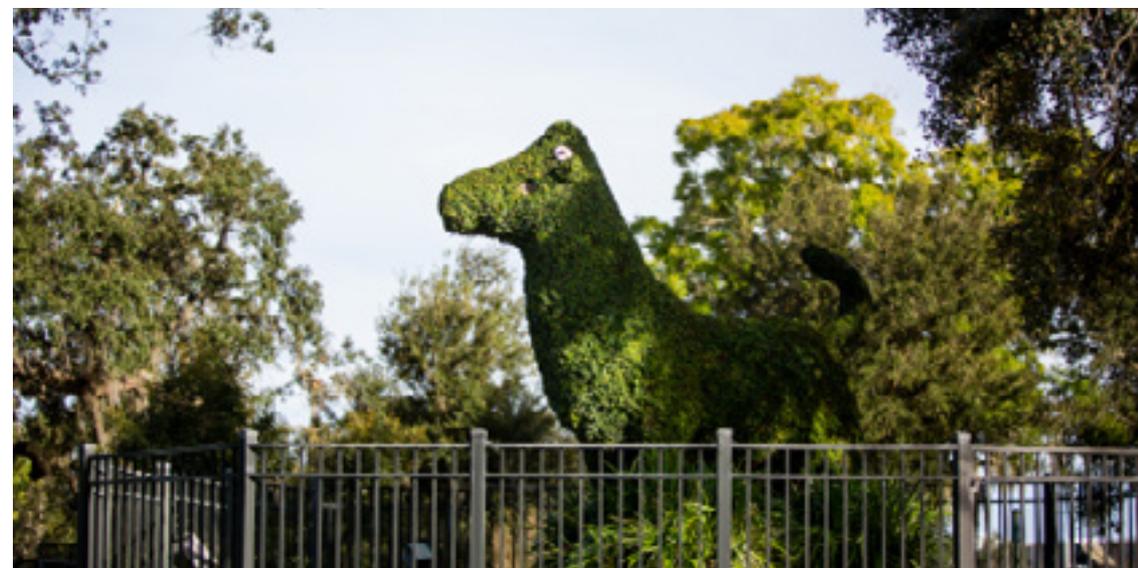
In recent months, Nichols said the grounds team has been working with the engineering department to make the horns using a 3D printer. The process, however, is still as intense, according to Nichols.

The 3D printer takes 24 hours to make a single horn, which totals to 48 hours to make a pair. Since the horns are large in size, the team prints it in three

separate sections and then glues all the parts together.

Nichols estimates the labor cost to produce a pair of fiberglass horns is \$1,350. Replacing the damaged creeping fig plants and the labor required also comes with a hefty price, according to Nichols. Labor costs \$240 to \$275 to replace those plants.

The costs to replace and install the horns are covered through



While it may seem to be a simple prank for students, stealing the horns off the topiary bull costs the university thousands of dollars to replace them each year. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

the grounds team’s maintenance budget. He said such expenses pull money away from essential services around the university.

“That’s an expensive thing,” Nichols said. “Every time somebody does this and thinks it’s a funny joke, it’s really not. And again, it’s an iconic symbol to the university and it’s a shame to us that people in the university community vandalize it.”

The team, he said, ensures the sculpture is taken care of and, when damaged, the crew works to recover to its original form.

“We’ve got a team that takes care of the topiary bull, which also gets damaged when people pull the horns off,” he said. “They do this because they know it’s an iconic symbol, and it’s very meaningful to them. They love the university and they kind of

show it through the gear that they put into that.”

The thefts, according to Nichols, tend to happen in the evening, and University Police (UP) is aware of the issue.

“Unfortunately, when it happens as far as the [grounds team] doing anything about it, it’s after hours, and we don’t have people that we spare to guard the bull,” he said.

“There’s a balance between [if] we’re going to make it hard for the vandals to get the horns off or risk severe damage to the topiary or just know that it’s going to happen and maybe they’re not going to damage the topiary badly,” Nichols said.

“I’m not sure what the solution is because again, if we make the horns harder to steal, then we’re going to risk damaging the

Stealing the horns or damaging the sculpture is vandalism, according to UP Public Information Representative Audrey Clarke. Individuals involved in such actions could face criminal prosecution and/or administrative sanctions imposed through the university.

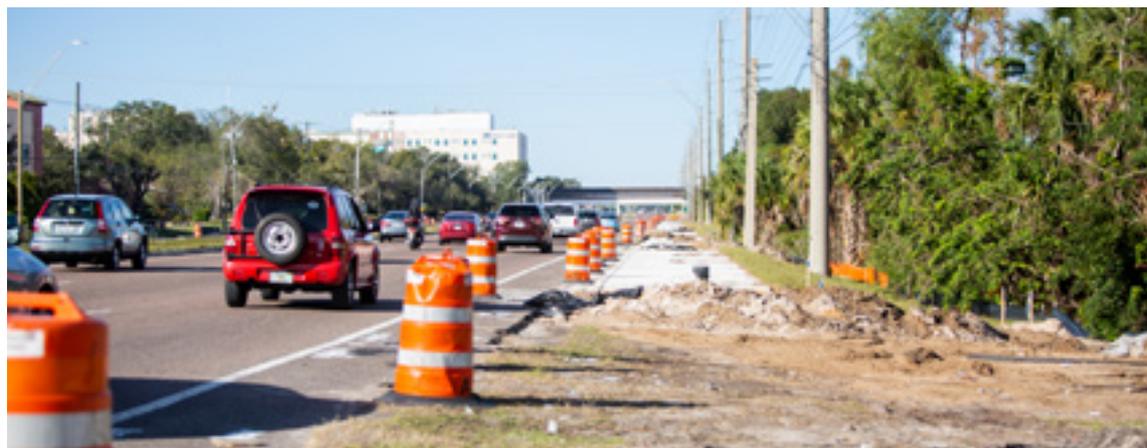
“The topiary bull on Crescent Hill is property of the University of South Florida and its maintenance requires an investment of budgetary and staffing resources,” Clarke said. “Defacing the bull or removing any parts of it are crimes and will be investigated as such.”

A potential solution to the issue was to attach the horns to a metal bar, however, the idea didn’t go through because it could damage the topiary even more if individuals removed it.

topiary. I also [recognize] the fact that we have limited security resources, so we can’t just be there all the time.”

Nichols said the idea of making the plant shaped like horns would be difficult, so there are no plans to implement that idea. With such an iconic landmark, Nichols said there are no intentions of removing the sculpture in its entirety.

“I hope people reading it kind of better understand the impact of things like that, whether it’s taking the horns off the topiary bull or any other things they might consider just pranks or maybe they’ve even become traditions in some areas, but they sometimes do have negative impacts on the university and [its] community,” Nichols said.



Construction of the new sidewalk on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard from USF Pine Drive to Fletcher Avenue is anticipated to be completed by December 2022. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

## CONSTRUCTION

Continued from PAGE 1

projects,” Gonzalez said.

The construction of the sidewalks, according to Hillsborough County Senior Media Relations Strategist Chris Wilkerson, is part of a much bigger intersection improvement project to get people in and out of the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital.

The project, funded by the county and the hospital, is expected to improve pedestrian safety, drainage and reduce traffic congestion in the area.

“Since the traffic signal is going to be serving the veterans hospital, we needed to coordinate with the department of veterans affairs for them to be able to provide construction funding for the traffic signal,” Gonzalez said.

“The sidewalk on the east side was a long-identified need that we had along the corridor, but we were not able to implement it before because there wasn’t any funding available.”

The sidewalk project will cost around \$1.8 million, of which \$113,505 is for planning, \$141,323 for design and land and \$1.5 million for the actual construction.

“A bunch of this was funded by the [veterans’ hospital] because that’s a private road and we wouldn’t normally put in a traffic

light at a private road like that, but there’s a pretty significant need,” Wilkerson said.

The portion of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard is one out of two areas surrounding campus where there isn’t a sidewalk. Gonzalez said one of the reasons behind the absence of such features was due to environmental concerns around building a sidewalk close to Lake Behnke, located north of the USF Botanical Gardens and east of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

“[Before, the area] wasn’t as densely populated as it has become nowadays,” Gonzalez said. “That is one factor. Also, [Lake Behnke] created an environmental concern with [its] presence and not being able to just come with a regular sidewalk project.”

During the design process, Gonzalez said the county had to obtain the required permits and make sure the project was in compliance with state regulations to build the sidewalk alongside the lake.

“An analysis [of the area] has to be made,” Gonzalez said. “Currently, everything is grass, so everything is permeable, so the water can travel without any issues. But in the installation of the sidewalk, it would become impervious.

“We were required to submit an application to the Southwest

Florida Water Management District to prove to them that the installation of this impervious area is not going to negatively affect the flow patterns and the water treatment that is occurring in that lake.”

The project on North 50th Street is set to take place between mid-2023 to mid-2024. The total cost is \$3.8 million, which covers \$584,569 for design and land acquisition as well as \$3.3 million in construction costs.

“There is a lot of traffic back from people that are traveling northbound who may try to go east on Fletcher,” she said. “We’ll be providing some additional turning lanes and additional enhancements on that area. And as part of those projects, a sidewalk will be installed in that area.”

Both projects, according to Gonzalez, will allow the county and surrounding area to have a safer route for both pedestrians and cyclists to use, as well as improve the congestion over such busy roads.

“There has been a lot of redevelopment and housing that has been installed on the west side of Bruce B. Downs Boulevard,” Gonzalez said. “So it’s definitely providing that connectivity between the residential on the west and the campus’ needs on the east.”

## WOMEN’S SOCCER

Continued from PAGE 8

Brown said. “They capitalized [when we lost possession]. When you’re chasing the game, things look a little different. So hats off to NC State. I think they’re a good team. They’re going to do well.”

It wasn’t long before NC State made a breakthrough. In the 24th minute, a through ball caught the Bulls flat-footed and NC State’s Annika Wohner broke the deadlock with a neat finish past junior goalkeeper Sydney Martinez. Despite calls for offsides from a large section of the crowd, Schilte-Brown saw no issue with the goal.

“I saw the video, [Wohner was] not offside,” she said. “NC State was [consistently] dangerous, but I thought we had plenty of chances to score. Like probably 15 different services that we just didn’t put in the back of the net.”

The rest of the first half was more of the same, USF scrambling in defense and a lack of support for the forwards on counterattacks. Junior forward Sydney Nasello, the Bulls’ leading

“

You [have to] go out there and just enjoy the season regardless of whatever happens.

- Senior defender Chyanne Dennis

scorer this season, was isolated against several defenders, whose physical game plan resulted in multiple fouls on Nasello.

“We took three early hits from them that I think were just a little bit late,” Schilte-Brown said. “It definitely set the tone for a physical game, but I think overall, it was a pretty even physical distribution from both teams.”

Throughout the second half, Schilte-Brown introduced a number of players to bolster

the attack, including freshman forwards Kendall Lincoln, Madeleine Penman-Derstine and senior midfielder Meghan Cavanaugh.

The latter made the most immediate impact, surging forward and helping to create a handful of potential scoring chances.

“I thought [Meghan] played really free and had a lot of energy and impact on the game and was very dangerous as she has been all season when she’s had that opportunity,” Schilte-Brown said. “She’s dealt with [several injuries this season]. If we had a consistent [Meghan], I think she would have been a prolific goal scorer for us, but she was dangerous today.”

Despite their best efforts, the 2021 season has come to a close for women’s soccer.

Regardless, conversations about next season have already started for Martinez and other returning players looking to assume a leadership role.

“[Freshman defender Vivianne Bessette] and I had a little conversation about how,

[with Dennis leaving], she’s going to be the big dog in defense next year,” Martinez said. “It’s going to be me and her in the back so we’ve got to step up and be ready.”

Schilte-Brown was appreciative of her tenured players and the effort they’ve given the program over their time in Tampa.

“I’m going to miss my journey with my seniors,” Schilte-Brown said. “And I wish them the best of luck in the future.”

# Highlights from Raymond James

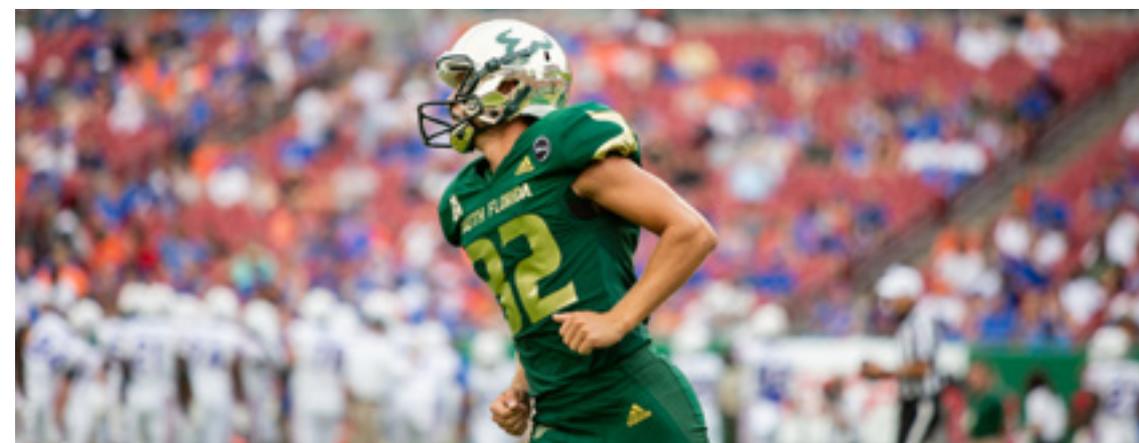
Editor in Chief Leda Alvim and Managing Editor Alexandra Urban photographed USF's home football games throughout the season, including contests against Florida, FAMU, Tulsa, Temple, Houston and Cincinnati.



Sophomore running back Brian Battie returned two kickoffs for touchdowns against Houston during this year's homecoming game Nov. 6. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



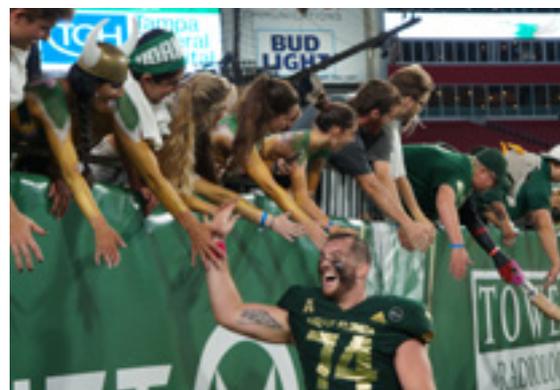
Freshman quarterback Timmy McClain made his first career start in a win against FAMU on Sept. 18. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



Junior kicker Spencer Shrader is 9-for-9 on field goals and 32-for-32 on PATs this season. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



In his first year with the program, freshman wide receiver Jimmy Horn Jr. has hauled in 24 passes for 325 yards and a touchdown. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



The Bulls set a new program record for rush yards in a single game with 421 against Temple on Oct. 23. ORACLE PHOTO/ALEXANDRA URBAN



In the final home game of the season against Cincinnati on Nov. 12, freshman wide receiver Jimmy Horn Jr. scored his first career touchdown on an 80-yard catch-and-run. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

# TAKEAWAYS

Continued from PAGE 8

showed the grit within his team.

“What I’m going to take from this game is our guys having their backs against the wall, first-and-goal at the [3-yard line],” Scott said. “I think at that point they were up 17, so a touchdown pretty much puts the game away [if] they go up [by] 24, [it’s] game over pretty much.”

“First-and-goal at the three against the No. 2 team in the country, our guys fought four straight plays, held them out, got the ball at the 2-yard line and the offense went 98 yards against the No. 3 defense in the country.”

## Half and half

Apart from its two wins against FAMU and Temple, USF has not been able to put together a complete performance through all four quarters. Much of the season has been a tale of two

halves and that was the case once again against the Bearcats.

The Bulls have had first-half deficits of at least 10 points in five of their matchups this season, mostly against teams that at one point were ranked in the top 25.

In other losses, USF wasted strong performances in the first 30 minutes with collapses in the second half. The games against East Carolina, Houston and Tulsa were each prime examples, with the Bulls having the lead going into the half before putting in poor results the final two quarters.

The team will need to learn to string together strong performances for a full 60 minutes if it wants to win one, or both, of its remaining games.

## Pass rush problems

There was a huge divide between the two teams in terms of pass rush talent. The Bearcats

ended with three sacks, three quarterback hurries and had freshman quarterback Timmy McClain scrambling for much of the night.

On the opposite sideline, the Bulls failed to generate much pressure on Cincinnati’s quarterback Desmond Ridder. Sophomore defensive end Tramel Logan sacked Ridder in the second quarter, but there wasn’t much beyond that, as USF didn’t log a single quarterback hurry.

Getting to the quarterback has been an issue for much of the past two seasons for USF. The Bulls have tallied just 15 sacks in their past 19 games, six of those alone coming from senior linebacker Antonio Grier.

## Injury bug bites

The Bulls sustained what appears to be at least some minor injuries in the loss to the

Bearcats.

Senior offensive tackle Donovan Jennings didn’t play on USF’s final drive, junior receiver Xavier Weaver was dealing with a hamstring issue and sophomore running back Brian Battie went down with what looked to be some sort of leg problem, although he was cleared to come back in, according to Scott.

“I didn’t get anything to really know [what happened to Jennings],” Scott said. “They just said he was out [and] could not go back in. Weaver had a hamstring [issue]. Again, it doesn’t make it any better, we lost the game, but just being on the field, being with those guys ... Weaver is over there begging to go back in ... That’s just what I see from this group. In a difficult time, it just gives me a lot of encouragement.”

With an eight-day break until their next game against Tulane on Saturday, the Bulls will look to get healthy and prepare for the

Green Wave.

## Belief in the future

Despite having just three wins over his first two seasons leading the program, Scott’s confidence in the future of his team is stronger than ever, especially given the strong play of the younger players on the roster.

In addition to freshman wide receiver Jimmy Horn Jr.’s first career touchdown reception, the performance of McClain and running backs Jaren Mangham, Kelley Joiner Jr. and Brian Battie, all of whom still have years of eligibility left, gives Scott confidence moving forward.

“We got a lot of guys that are playing and getting some good experience,” he said. “And it’ll be our time at some point if these guys continue to respond the way they have. I’m more confident than I’ve ever been. We got really good things ahead of us.”

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## Technology literacy modules would benefit USF professor's outcomes

By Marcelene Pilcher  
OPINION CO-EDITOR

There's nothing more frustrating for teachers and students alike when the first 30 minutes of class are spent trying to figure out how to use Microsoft Teams.

With the rise of COVID-19 and the popularity of remote learning and asynchronous classes at USF, students and faculty have become more dependent on technology than ever. Canvas and Microsoft Teams are the primary methods of course content delivery and grading.

As such, professors should have yearly mandatory technology modules covering the software that will be used, like Canvas and Microsoft Teams. Digital literacy is a crucial skill for modern professors.

This skill is even more important in the wake of remote learning following COVID-19, as expressed by Turner Lee, a University of Maryland professor.

"I spent more time trying to understand the system than I did the students," said Lee regarding challenges she encountered when teaching a remote course last year in a March 2021 interview with EdTech Magazine.

A simple daylong module brushing professors up on the basics of the technology and software they'll be working with before the start of each year would make the process much smoother for everyone involved.

USF students complete modules during their freshman orientation that include how to navigate Canvas, OASIS and



With technology's growing influence on education, mandating tech modules similar to those at student orientation would greatly benefit the learning and teaching experience at USF.

UNSPLASH/J. Kelly Brito

Microsoft Teams. Teachers should have to go through the same process for the software that they will be utilizing. Their technology literacy is equally as important as students' in this process.

Currently, the only technology resource USF offers instructors is the USF IT help desk, according to USF's remote resources page.

During the pandemic, Vanderbilt University began hosting mandatory one-time technology training sessions for professors. The university plans to continue these sessions on an as-needed basis.

This is a necessity for university faculty members who have to spend time focusing on their areas of expertise, not on learning tech platforms, said Andrew Pass in a March interview with EdTech Magazine. Pass is the CEO of Pass Education Group, a company that helps improve curriculum designs.

"Even if they have great

teaching abilities, their job is not to understand the different learning tools available. They need support in doing that," said Pass.

Professors have a lot on their plate between classes, grading and advising. An hourslong module once a year would save them time spent fiddling with software they don't understand or waiting on USF tech support, while also streamlining their current responsibilities.

While USF doesn't have to implement licensure requirements, a simple training would still benefit the learning and teaching experience at USF.

A module helping professors understand the basics of the tech and software they utilize in a semester would save so much time and frustration for faculty and students alike.

*Marcelene Pilcher is a sophomore studying integrated public relations and advertising.*

## New education budget proposal benefits students, educators

By Neel Kulkarni  
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Ron DeSantis proposed an increase in the Florida education budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year on Nov. 10. The proposal de-politicizes education in Florida, and is a positive step to support educators in the state.

The Legislature should approve the proposal to help support public education. Educators and students would both benefit from increased funding, leading to a stronger workforce in the future.

An online announcement from DeSantis proposed raising teacher salaries from \$40,000 to \$47,500 with additional opportunities for bonuses. The proposal also includes over \$400 million for school safety and mental health initiatives.

DeSantis has taken hard — and often controversial — stances on education throughout his time as governor. Most notably, he banned mask mandates in schools through executive order 21-175 in July and endorsed a decision by the Florida Board of Education to stop the teaching of critical race theory (CRT) in June.

These controversial moves have wrongly politicized education, leading to legal issues in response to his mask mandates and public backlash against his opinions on CRT, according to the Washington Post. In contrast, the recent proposal offers broad support for educators without specification for funding of any political aspect of education.

The funding increase could improve Florida's low ranking in K-12 education funding.

While Florida is third in federal K-12 funding, it ranks 43rd in state funding in comparison to other U.S. states, according to the Education Data Initiative. The state is underperforming in funding student success. Non-politicized actions are desperately needed to progress education in Florida.

Universities like USF can benefit from improvements in compulsory education as they accept Florida students into future classes. With a funding increase, K-12 students can graduate with better preparation for the state's workforce in future generations.

The Legislature should approve DeSantis' education funding proposal. Real progress can be made in Florida education if politicians continue to advance non-partisan legislation. It's time to move away from the controversies of mask mandates and into a new era of prioritizing students over politics.

This budget increase will upgrade the education of students in Florida. Bipartisan support from Congress may finally symbolize a unified attempt to solve an issue in schools without political bias. Until approval, the idea of a pay raise will continue to hang over the heads of educators.

*Neel Kulkarni is a senior studying biomedical sciences.*

## WILCOX

Continued from PAGE 1

and decision making, so I think the timing is right.

“With the new president coming in, and the new strategic plan on the horizon, I think it makes a lot of sense for me to complete the full circle and finish what I started. That was being a professor, teaching and mentoring students which is something I’ve always had a passion for and reengaging with my research and scholarship.”

Wilcox has served as provost and executive vice president of academic affairs since January 2008. Prior to taking on that role, he was a professor and served as vice provost from 2003-07.

He started his journey at USF as a fellow on the American Council on Education from 2001-02, a higher education leadership development program focusing on “Leadership for Change.” As a fellow, he worked directly with the university president and provost on student retention and a campus and communitywide strategic planning process.

Wilcox then further developed his career at the St. Pete campus as interim vice president and campus executive officer from 2002-03. As a professor, he was awarded tenure at USF in 2002.

During his time as provost, Wilcox played a role in increasing the academic profile of incoming freshmen from a 3.86 GPA in fall 2011 to a 4.18 in fall 2021, as well as the four-year first-time-in-college graduation rate from 36% between 2007-11 to 62% for the 2017-21 cohort.

Faculty Senate President Timothy Boaz said Wilcox’s accomplishments during his time as provost became one of USF’s points of pride, and his respect of the role of faculty was well-recognized.

“I feel like as Faculty Senate president, I’ve had a great relationship with Provost Wilcox.



Provost Ralph Wilcox intends to return to teaching and spend more time with his family after he steps down from his current position next year. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF

We haven’t always agreed on everything, but he’s somebody who really was ready to have a conversation with me and with the faculty about issues of concern, and I think he listened to what we had to say and took it seriously,” Boaz said.

A scholar at heart, Wilcox’s expertise focuses on cultural studies and globalization. He earned his bachelor’s degree from St. Luke’s College of the University of Exeter, his master’s degree from Washington State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Alberta.

While he plans to return to his teaching roots next year, he is still unsure which college or area he will focus on as a professor.

“I think that’s going to be in conversation with the next president and provost,” Wilcox said. “I’m going to do my best to serve the needs of the [university] wherever they need me, and that will include teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level, mentoring students and again, continuing my research.

“I’m going to keep an open mind on that and see where I

can best meet the needs of the university and our students.”

The news of Wilcox stepping down from his role as provost came during a transitional period in the university’s leadership team, with an ongoing presidential search as well as the new appointment of USF’s interim vice president of research. Wilcox said he will stay in his role until next year, and his last day will depend on when a new president is chosen.

“**Much of my success could never have happened without the support of family.**

– Provost Ralph Wilcox

“I’m going to work with our next president to transition the programs that she or he selects to be their next chief academic officer, and then I’m going to get out of the way,” Wilcox said. “I’m staying until such time that those appointments have been made so there’s a seamless handoff, if you will, of academic leadership.”

While the news took United Faculty of Florida USF Chapter

Secretary Greg McCole said by surprise, he said it’s expected as the university “transitions to a new place.”

“I suspect that since we’re at the end of semester, that the reality is really going to take a little while, like a month or so before people really internalize what the situation is,” he said.

“It’s very different from President [Steven Currall’s] departure. He left all at once, where as the provost is remaining

for a transitional period of some kind, so it’s not that big of a surprise. It’s not that much of a shock, but it’s happening on top of everything else. It’s another shoe falling.”

The timeline of Wilcox’s decision to step down is part of a standard operating procedure when a university is hiring a new president, according to McCole. He said it’s ideal for the next

president to oversee the search for a new provost as they will be directly working together.

“If the provost is departing, you certainly would not want to hire the president and then say, ‘Oh, by the way, we’ve already decided on the provost.’ Some presidents would refuse to take the job under those circumstances,” McCole said.

Boaz said Wilcox’s decision to step down will allow the next administration to choose someone with aligned goals and aspirations.

“When a new president comes in, often they bring in a new provost and that’s because they have someone in mind that they think will implement the sorts of policies that they feel need to be put in place or emphasized,” Boaz said.

As Wilcox will soon become a part of the university’s faculty community, Boaz said he looks forward to seeing the contributions he will make in his new role.

“I really valued that relationship quite a lot,” Boaz said. “Now, he’ll be a member of the faculty after he steps down, so maybe he’ll be joining us in the Faculty Senate, and then we can look forward to him continuing to make a contribution.”

Wilcox is not yet done contributing to the USF community. Whatever direction he takes in his future role, Wilcox said he is excited to see the milestones the university will achieve in the coming years.

“There’s so much more work to do. We have high aspirations,” Wilcox said.

“Now, we have a real opportunity to serve as the catalyst to lift the broader Tampa Bay region from Sarasota to St. Petersburg to Tampa and all communities in between, and we really believe that, together, [we] can do great things.”

## USF's season ends in first round of NCAA tournament



Alberto Camargo

STAFF WRITER

The USF women's soccer team was eliminated from the NCAA tournament on Sunday in a 2-0 loss to NC State, ending the Bulls' season and the collegiate careers of several staples of the program.

After the final whistle, emotions were running high on the field at Corbett Stadium.

"This was just a really special group of girls," coach Denise

Schilte-Brown said. "It's never the same in college. You have a new class coming and one leaving, so it's always a special journey each season and this was a great one for us. It was a tremendous group of girls that I enjoyed immensely."

Even senior defender Chyanne Dennis, USF's captain and stable presence in defense for the last five seasons, was choked up reflecting on this year's team.

"It was a great last season [for me and the seniors]," she said. "You [have to] go out there and just enjoy the season regardless of whatever happens. Just enjoy everyone's presence because it's certain people's last years and you'll probably never get that



Junior forward Sydney Nasello put one shot on goal against NC State on Sunday. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

moment again with them." Dennis believed this team was capable of making a deep

run in the tournament with the opportunity to play fourth-seeded Pepperdine in the second

round. She thought the team performance was up to par, but the result left much to desire.

"I don't think we played badly," she said. "I think it was just more the little adjustments that we needed to make ... We're just excited that we got the chance to spend it with each other."

The Bulls (12-4-3, 6-1-1 AAC) were on their heels within the first 10 minutes of play. The Wolfpack (9-8-2, 4-6 ACC) deployed an intense high press on the USF backline, forcing errant passes and winning possession in dangerous areas of the pitch.

"[They started the game] a little bit different than we had originally anticipated," Schilte-

■ See WOMEN'S SOCCER on PAGE 3

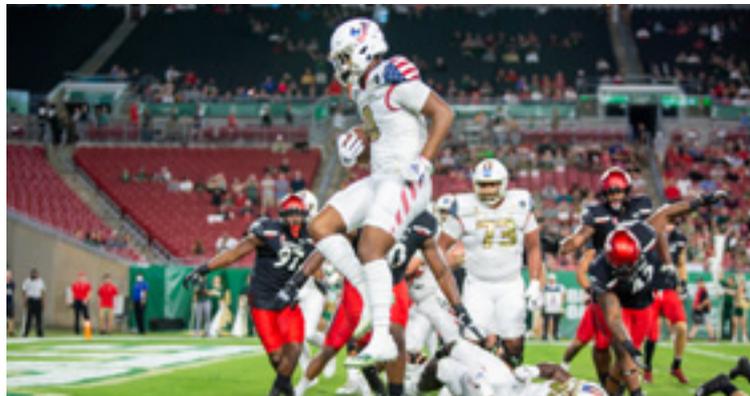
## Takeaways: Bulls show grit, keep up with No. 5 Cincinnati in second half



Lanie De La Milera

STAFF WRITER

In its final home game of the season, USF football was unable to mount an upset against the No. 5 Cincinnati Bearcats following



Junior running back Jaren Mangham scored his 14th and 15th touchdowns of the season against Cincinnati. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

a subpar first half that left the Bulls with too big of a hole to climb out of.

USF went into the locker room down 17 to one of the best teams in the nation, but managed to keep pace with the Bearcats in the second half with both teams scoring 21 points apiece over the final two quarters.

Ultimately, however, it wasn't enough as Cincinnati didn't allow the deficit to get below 10 points. Here are a few takeaways from

the 45-28 loss.

### Strong effort despite big deficit

Being down 24 points in the second half to a team ranked as high as Cincinnati isn't ideal, but the Bulls never took their foot off the gas in their pursuit of a comeback.

Specifically, a goal-line stand in the third quarter stuck out to coach Jeff Scott as a play that

■ See TAKEAWAYS on PAGE 5