

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Higher Education Committee

BILL: SB 186

INTRODUCER: Senator Alexander

SUBJECT: The University of South Florida Lakeland

DATE: March 17, 2008

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Harkey	Matthews	HE	Favorable
2.			HI	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

This bill designates the Lakeland campus of the University of South Florida as the “University of South Florida Lakeland.” The University of South Florida Lakeland would be a separate organizational and budget entity from the University of South Florida.

This bill creates s 1004.345, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The University of South Florida Lakeland (USF Lakeland) campus was established in 1988. USF Lakeland serves over 2,000 students and offers over 20 complete undergraduate and graduate degrees through the areas of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, and Information Technology. USF Lakeland partners with Polk Community College, South Florida Community College and Hillsborough Community College-Plant City to provide a 2+2 education whereby students obtain their Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from the local community college and complete their baccalaureate and/or graduate degree through USF Lakeland. The campus also supports a number of individual classes, electives, web-based courses, certificate programs and program partnerships with the main campus in Tampa.¹

USF Lakeland would be the third USF campus to be established as a separate entity. The 2001 Legislature established the University of South Florida St. Petersburg² and the University of

¹ See http://www.lakeland.usf.edu/about_usf_lklnd.html

² s. 1004.33, F.S.

South Florida Sarasota/Manatee³ as separate organizational and budget entities.⁴ In 2006, USF St. Petersburg earned separate accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill designates the Lakeland campus of the University of South Florida as the “University of South Florida Lakeland.” USF Lakeland would be a separate organizational and budget entity from USF. The bill requires USF Lakeland to have a campus board and a campus executive director. The campus board would be comprised of four residents of the Lakeland campus service area appointed by the president of USF and one member of the USF board of trustees selected by that board.

Members of the campus board would serve 4-year terms and may be reappointed for one term. The bill provides for staggered terms for the initial appointments. The campus board would have the power to:

- Review and approve an annual legislative budget request to be submitted to the USF board of trustees;
- Approve and submit an annual operating plan and budget for review and consultation with the USF board of trustees;
- Enter into central support services contracts with the USF board of trustees for any services that the Lakeland campus could not provide more economically, such as payroll processing, accounting, technology, and construction administration; and
- Enter into a central services contract with USF for all legal services.

The bill requires the campus board to submit a legislative budget request to the USF board of trustees. The bill does not indicate whether the USF board of trustees could modify the budget request.

The requirement for USF Lakeland to enter into a central services contract with USF for legal services does not appear to anticipate a situation in which a legal conflict could arise concerning the governance of USF Lakeland.

The bill provides for USF Lakeland to apply for accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools if separate accreditation is in the best interest of the campus. The campus board would have to ensure that sufficient student enrollment, faculty and administration are in place before requesting that the USF board of trustees apply for separate accreditation for USF Lakeland. The bill implies but does not make clear which board would determine if separate accreditation was in the best interest of the campus.

USF Lakeland would be administered by a campus executive officer appointed by the USF president. The campus executive officer would have the authority to:

³ s. 1004.34, F.S.

⁴ ch. 2001-170, L.O.F.

- Administer campus operations within the annual operating budget as approved by the campus board;
- Recommend to the campus board an annual legislative budget request, an annual campus operating budget, and appropriate services, terms, and conditions for the annual support services contract; and
- Carry out additional responsibilities assigned by the USF president.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

Article II, section 5 of the State Constitution prohibits a person from holding more than one state office at one time. The bill requires a member of the University of South Florida board of trustees to serve as a member of the campus board, which is not an advisory body. If the board of trustees and the campus board are considered state offices, the appointment of a dually serving member could be challenged under the dual-office holding prohibition.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The University of South Florida Lakeland would be a separate organizational and budget entity from the University of South Florida. The administrative costs or other costs associated with the operation of USF Lakeland as a separate entity are indeterminate.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
