

UFF-USF

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Majority of USF Poly Faculty Oppose Separation

Tampa, FL -- Three fourths of responding USF-Polytechnic faculty do not support separating USF Polytechnic from the USF System. The USF System Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida (UFF) surveyed all 61 faculty and professionals represented by UFF at USF-Polytechnic during the weeks of October 5 – 24, and of the 35 respondents, 27 responded that they did not support separating USF-Polytechnic from the rest of the USF System.

The mail survey had four questions and allowed for comments; 19 respondents provided comments. In response to the first question, "*As an in-unit employee, do you support the current initiative to remove USF Polytechnic from the USF System to become the 12th independent university?*" **27 marked no, 3 marked yes, 3 marked neutral, and 2 marked undecided.**

Comments included: "*I have been a strong supporter of USF but not a supporter of a no-name non-accredited college*" and "*I accepted the offer of USF Lakeland in 2005 largely drawn to the advantages 2005 largely drawn to the advantages of being part of a Carnegie Mellon research-*

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intensive university system”, and “Staying with USF provides more growth opportunities for the student and the campus.”

In response to the second question, “*Do you support USF System in-unit employees having an option to transfer to another USF System campus?*” **32 marked yes, 1 marked no**, and two commented that it depended on whether the employee had been tenured by the USF System. In response to the third question, “*As an in-unit employee, would you take advantage of an option to transfer to another USF System campus?*” **16 marked yes, 5 marked no, 4 marked neutral, and 10 marked undecided.**

In response to the fourth question, “*As a USF Polytechnic in-unit employee, have you been consulted or solicited by the USF Polytechnic administration regarding your professional opinion relative to USF Polytechnic becoming the 12th independent university?*” **33 marked no and 2 marked yes.** Seven respondents commented on the lack of consultation, including: “*It seems to me that ... the majority of the information we receive is via the newspapers,*” and “*I feel that I have not been made a partner in answering this question and therefore, do not know all the facts*”, and “*As a faculty member who was supposed to help shape the future of this university, I have had no real input in anything of consequence.*”

General comments included: “*This place has the potential to be a great, cutting edge university ... [but] we are on a path of making ourselves a ... minor player,*” and “*I have seen the morale of this place plummet as faculty (and students) feel as if their voice does not matter. I have heard faculty say that they are back on the job market. I’m thinking of doing the same*” and “*This has changed from being a wonderful place to work to being a sad and dysfunctional campus. There is a craziness and an atmosphere of distrust ...*” and “*Too many initiative[s] in short time ... [led by] political arguments not academic arguments.*”

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UFF USF System Chapter President, Dr. Paul M. Terry issued the following statement regarding the survey. *“The survey results and comments speak for themselves. It is obvious that a large percentage of the USF Polytechnic in-unit faculty and professional employees do not support the current initiative to remove the USF Polytechnic campus from the USF System. It is very obvious that a large percentage of the USF Polytechnic in-unit faculty and employees values their employment with the USF System. Additionally, it appears that a good number of the in-unit faculty and professional employees no longer has confidence in the USF Polytechnic administration to act in their best interest regarding their professional future and careers. Given the in-unit faculty and professional employees overwhelmingly stated they have not been consulted by any USF Polytechnic administrator for input on this issue is of great concern.”*