I. Call to Order and Comments:

Trustee Arnold called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Roll was taken and a quorum confirmed.

II. New Business – Action Items

a. Approve the USF Polytechnic Proposal to Add Freshman/Sophomore Students

Dr. Judith Ponticell, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, USF Polytechnic presented the item. She noted that this is a request for USF Polytechnic to add lower level courses and enrollment in an effort to continue to move forward with its Strategic Plan and to meet its educational program and enrollment goals. President Genshaft noted that this is an initiative USF Polytechnic has been working on for a couple of years. The Board of Governors fully supports USF Polytechnic’s move to Freshman/Sophomore enrollment. USF Polytechnic needs freshman/sophomore enrollment especially with the program mix offered at USF Polytechnic. President Genshaft noted that she fully supports this initiative. Trustee Soran observed that it was probably too early to see any repercussions of Polk Community College’s move to a 4-year program as this has not happened yet but given this it makes sense that USF would start admitting at the lower levels. He asked about expectations for reduction of transfer students. Trustee Engle said now that Polk offers 4-year programs he expects that the number of transfer students will drop significantly. Trustee Soran noted that the same situation exists in Sarasota-Manatee with 70% of the students transferring from Manatee Community College. President Genshaft noted that this is a very dynamic, changing landscape. With the Community Colleges becoming State Colleges it is important for USF to establish itself as a freshman/sophomore/junior/senior/master’s level institution, especially with differential admission at USF Polytechnic. Trustee Arnold noted that we have the Strategic Plan and the business plan on the USF Polytechnic campus does not seem aligned. He asked when the campus leadership will align the new proposal with the Strategic Plan which drives the buildings, funding, etc. He requested a mid-term update on the Strategic Plan to give more certainty as to what is going to happen more than one year out. Dr. Ponticell noted that the movement toward
lower level enrollment does fit the Strategic Plan; however, USF Polytechnic is working on an update of the Strategic Plan so that there is a better sense of the fit among campus development, program development, enrollment development, and faculty hiring, etc. This will become more transparent with the update. Trustee Arnold noted his concern is that USF has thought through the funding mechanisms, etc. Dr. Ponticell shared that in the original campus plan the first building was scheduled for Fall 2010 and freshman/sophomore admits were scheduled just prior to that with full class in Fall 2010. Now the first building is not anticipated until Fall 2012. USF Polytechnic is on target and appreciates the need to make things more transparent for the Board of Trustees.

A motion was made to approve and seconded. Approved unanimously.