



**USF Board of Trustees**

Monday, February 3, 2020  
Conference Call  
11:30 AM

**A G E N D A**

- I. Call to Order** Chair Jordan Zimmerman
  
- II. New Business – Action Item**
  - FL 101 – [Approve an amendment](#) to the USF Fixed Capital Outlay Budget and to approve the expenditure authorization request.** Nick Trivunovich
  
- III. Adjournment** Chair Zimmerman

**Agenda Item: FL101**

**USF Board of Trustees**  
February 3, 2020

**Issue:** In order to complete needed renovations on a lab for a faculty member in Medical Engineering, the fixed capital outlay budget must be increased by \$1,530,000 and a corresponding expenditure authorization needs to be approved. This item is time sensitive because the current bid to complete the project will expire on January 31, 2020 and the renovations include a teaching lab to be used for students beginning in Fall 2020. A new bid process will delay the project and affect both the faculty member's ability to begin work and the use of the space as a teaching lab.

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**Proposed action:** To approve an amendment to the USF Fixed Capital Outlay Budget and to approve the expenditure authorization request to build out shell space on the seventh floor of the Interdisciplinary Sciences building to accommodate wet lab and computational space for Medical Engineering Auditory Development and Connectivity research ("Spirou Lab").

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**Executive Summary:** The University's 2019-2020 Fixed Capital Outlay Budget ("FCOB") was approved by the Board of Trustees on September 10, 2019. The FCOB was then submitted to the Board of Governors ("BOG") for approval, which was obtained on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

At the time the FCOB was presented to the Board for approval, the expenditure for the Spirou Lab was not included because there were insufficient funds available to cover the cost of the entire project. Instead, at the time the FCOB was submitted to the Board for approval, the funds on hand and available to invest in the project were \$750,000, which is below the established \$1 million threshold to be called out specifically on the FCOB. Recently, however, funds were identified to complete the Spirou Lab. Additional information about Dr. Spirou, the lab space and the significant research capacity this will add to the university is included in the attached Expenditure Authorization Request. The total cost for the Spirou Lab is \$1,530,000.00. The total cost of the Spirou Lab would be within the limit of the Board Chair's authority to approve, but for the lack of approved funds for this purpose in the FCOB.

The Board's approval of the FCOB amendment and Expenditure Authorization Request is understood to be contingent upon BOG's approval of the FCOB amendment. Staff has consulted with BOG staff to confirm the process for submission of the amendment to the FCOB and for obtaining approval for same. Based on these preliminary consultations, it is believed that BOG approval will not be unreasonably withheld.

**Strategic Goal(s) Item Supports:** USF System Strategic Goal Nos. 1 and 2

**Committee Review Date:** NA

**Supporting Documentation Online (*please circle*):** **Yes** **No**

[USFISA 7<sup>th</sup> Floor MEAD Lab Expenditure Authorization Form](#)

**USF System or Institution specific:** **USF Tampa**

**Prepared by:** Gerard D. Solis, General Counsel

## University of South Florida Approval of Expenditures Exceeding One Million Dollars

**Project/Initiative Name:** USF ISA 7<sup>th</sup> Floor M.E.A.D. Lab

**Total Project/Initiative Cost:** \$1,530,000

**Description:** (description and rationale for the project/initiative)

Design and construction to build out shell space on the seventh floor of the Interdisciplinary Sciences building. Convert to accommodate wet lab and computational space for Medical Engineering Auditory Development and Connectivity research.

**Objective:** (strategic priority or needs and the project/initiative addresses; include strategic goal this project/initiative supports)

*Strategic Plan, Goal Two: High-impact research and innovation to change lives, improve health, and foster...positive societal change.*

- 1.) **Dr. George Spirou** is an internationally known, very successful neuroscience/neuroengineering researcher and faculty member; poised to help us achieve new levels of excellence and national ranking increases. He is a key player for Medical Engineering as we grow the department and seek ABET accreditation for the BME major we are currently building. He has excelled in both engineering and medical school environments at AAU universities such as Johns Hopkins and West Virginia University. He currently holds two NIH R01 grants upon which he serves as Principal Investigator, having to do with state-of-the-art analysis and investigations of the auditory nervous system. In addition, he is a principal of a successful startup company that currently markets and sells an advanced imaging system for central nervous system cell network analysis. He has moved part of his noteworthy startup company to our own USF Research Park, where he rents lab space. He was also a key founder of the very successful Neuroscience Center and community at West Virginia University, which has now grown to over 50 highly productive faculty across a variety of Professorship in Neurosciences; and he is continuing his research efforts, and expanding his externally-funded program with federal funding agencies such as the NIH, NSF, DOE, NSA, DOD, etc.
- 2.) **Enhance** academic progress rates, and graduation rates, doctoral degrees awarded, increase external federal research funding, increased peer-

