

1 **2024 FACULTY FALL ADDRESS**

2 **Prasant Mohapatra**

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4 **SECTION 1 - WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

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6 Thank you, President Simmons want to take a moment to personally thank you for your time
7 and dedication to serving our faculty and the university. Please join me in a round of applause for
8 Faculty Senate President David Simmons.

9 I also want to take a moment to thank the faculty senate leadership and all the faculty senate
members here today for their hard work and commitment to shared governance. P

51 I am also happy to say that over this past year, we have focused on building stronger synergies with our branch campus partners.

95 Speaking of research, we need to take a moment to celebrate that we reached a new high of
96 \$692 million in research funding. This is an increase of nearly 27% from the previous year for
97 our entire research enterprise.

98 While the numbers are impressive, they don't even begin to scratch the surface illustrating the
99 impact of your research on our communities. Some examples of this impact include a study of the
100 causes of Type 1 diabetes and strategies for its prevention, a disaster preparedness app to help
101 older Floridians and their caregivers; computer engineering and education expertise blending to
102 leverage AI to support educators enhance student learning; red tide data translated into music
103 helping others to understand the complex; and we have faculty working across disciplines
104 implementing workshops for K-12 educators to encourage deeper engagement in civic life. The
105 impact of our research on our communities is tremendous, and it provides a powerful
106 learning opportunity for our students

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108 Speaking of our students, I mentioned our strategic enrollment plan and partnerships across
109 campuses, but I also want to take a moment to recognize the incredible effort underway to
110 implement the plan by our student success team and cross campus partners. I know these
111 ongoing efforts will continue to yield great results and provide a better student experience from
112 recruitment to graduation and beyond. Speaking of the student experience, we have much to
113 celebrate there too. This fall our residence halls hit record numbers, and we welcomed residential
114 students to the Sarasota-Manatee campus with the grand opening of Atala Hall. We also
115 celebrated the one-year anniversary of our new student Health and Wellness Center. The center
116 provides a space where students can access resources and support to thrive academically

We have much to be proud of

162 When we think about learning environments and career-ready graduates, experiential education is a powerful tool

185 aligned missions have created a unique opportunity to deliver exceptional patient care, advance
186 medical research, and provide ~~top-~~ education to the next generation of healthcare
187 professionals. I want to thank Charly and his team for their leadership on this and their
188 partnership as we continue to identify ways to enhance our impact as a university. As evidenced
189 by the collaborative relationship between USF and TGH, there are ~~opportunities to~~ facilitate
190 sustainable public-private partnerships that can amplify and accelerate research across ~~our~~
191 innovation ecosystem

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193 Speaking of innovative opportunities, in April we announced our intentions to stand up a new
194 college, the College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Computing. When we talk
195 about USF's practice of pushing boundaries and bold thinking, this is another example of how
196 we do that strategically and collaboratively. Our vision for the college is to solidify USF as a
197 global leader and position Florida as an economic engine in computing, AI, and cybersecurity
198 education and research. Key elements of this college will be interdisciplinary innovation, ethical
199 technology development and use, and strong community, industry, and government partnerships.
200 Some of you have heard me talk about this before, but for those who haven't, I want to clarify
201 that this college is broader than STEM. We have over 200 faculty members engaged in
202 scholarship connected to the new college which will provide a "hub" for broad interdisciplinary
203 collaboration and resource sharing. In fact, when I look across the university and the strengths of
204 all of our colleges, I see boundless opportunities for collaboration. As per our policies and best
205 practice, we are moving the proposal through the consultation process, and I look forward to
206 sharing an update on our progress soon.

207 While the new college exemplifies our ability to catalyze interdisciplinary work and leverage
208 faculty expertise, we must embrace additional opportunities to capitalize on our strengths in
209 strategic areas. With that in mind, we are also exploring how we can leverage our strengths in the
210 broad areas of earth and environmental sciences and sustainability.

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212 If you attended or watched the recording of last year's address, I asked us to work toward hitting
213 \$800M per year in Research Awards by 2028, but remember I asked you to be bolder in our
214 aspirations! This effort has evolved to a new and overly ambitious goal to reach \$1B per year
215 research awards by 2030. This is not an easy goal, but roughly 22 universities have done it,
216 but it _____ with the right blueprint and investment. As we look to hit this mark, we
217 going to have to shift our mindset as a comprehensive university. We look past our physical
218 limitations and perceived boundaries. We need to promote an inter-, and transdisciplinary
219 culture that engages all stakeholders across all three campuses and USF Health, leveraging our
220 faculty expertise and community assets. We also must embrace an entrepreneurial spirit to drive
221 economic development, enhancing education at all levels and fully leverage the strength of our
research and

230 on the response to the CREATE award and conversations that I have had with many of you, there
231 is an interest in this type of collaborative work. The process that started with CREATE can be
232 leveraged to pursue additional large scale opportunities. Opportunities lie at the intersection of
233 art and medicine, education and technology, ethics and computing, engineering and social
234 sciences, environment and sustainability, just to name a few examples.

