Memorandum

To: Undergraduate Council
From: Bob Sullins
Re: Change in Policy for Undergraduate Graduation Requirements
Academic Residence
Date: August 30, 2007

Undergraduate Council approval is sought for the following proposed change in Graduation Requirements for baccalaureate degrees, specifically related to Academic Residence. The specific catalog change requested is as follows:

**Change from:**

Academic Residence

Candidates for graduation must have completed at least 30 hours of the last 60 hours of their undergraduate credit in USF courses. The approval of the dean of the college granting their degree must be secured for any transfer credits offered for any part of these last 60 hours.

Exceptions to the above rules are students who are enrolled at other universities on approved exchange programs, cooperative education students enrolled in other institutions (prior approval having been secured from their USF advisors) while on their training periods, and students taking correspondence work from the University of Florida. CLEP credit does not count toward academic residency.

**Change to:**

Academic Residence

Any credits transferred from a University of South Florida accredited institution must be processed as transfer credits from any regionally accredited institution.

Candidates for graduation must have completed at least 30 hours of the last 60 hours of their undergraduate credits in courses offered by the institution from which they receive a degree. Individual colleges and programs may have more stringent requirements, approved by the university, such as the number of specific courses in the major that must be completed at the institution from which a student may receive a degree.

Exceptions to the above rules may be made for students who are enrolled at other universities in a USF approved exchanges, study abroad programs, co-op training programs or correspondence courses from the University of Florida. CLEP credit does not count toward academic residency.
**Rationale**

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recognizes the University of South Florida (USF) as comprised of two accredited institutions of higher education: 1) University of South Florida, which includes Tampa, Sarasota, Lakeland and USF Health and 2) University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USFSP). USF awards degrees to students enrolled in programs offered at USF Tampa, Lakeland and Sarasota; USF St. Petersburg awards degrees to students enrolled in programs offered at USF St. Petersburg.*

Establishment of an institutional residency requirement for degrees awarded by USF and those awarded by USFSP recognizes and reinforces the autonomy of each accredited institution and the integrity and the unique content of their degree programs.

From the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission on Colleges (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – SACS):

For undergraduate: Section 3 Comprehensive Standards. Para 3.5.2: At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree.

For graduate and post-baccalaureate professional programs: Section 3.6 Para 3.6.3: The majority of credits toward a graduate or post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree.

Colleges with discipline specific accrediting organizations, such as AACSB or NCATE, may seek University approval to establish requirements that exceed the institutional requirements.

The purpose of the proposed change in academic residence at USF is to make clear the university’s adherence to these standards of accreditation.