

From: [Kiara Gayle](#)
To: [Virginia Kalil](#); [Caroline Fultz-Carver](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Condon](#); [Dawn Rodriguez](#); [Jay Ramage](#); [Jorge Rodriguez](#); [Gerard Solis](#); [Marcy Guenette](#); [Kate Head \(Audit\)](#); [Clara Ohannes](#); [Katy Acevedo](#)
Subject: Agenda for briefings next week
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 7:01:16 AM
Attachments: [08222025-acc-agenda-briefings.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

All,

Attached is the Audit and Compliance Committee agenda with materials that has been prepared for briefings next week. This has been shared with the trustees via Diligent. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kiara Gayle

Director, Board Operations

Office of General Counsel

University of South Florida

Cell: [\(717\)713-4145](#)

Office: [\(813\) 974-8246](#)



From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: BOT Data Request
Date: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:55:11 AM
Attachments: [GPicone BOT Request FCOC 2025811.xlsx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Good day Jorge,

Happy Tuesday. Please see the attached data, as discussed on our call regarding BOT request.

Best wishes,
Oriana

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

University of South Florida

4202 East Fowler Avenue, ALN 172

Tampa, FL 33620

University of South Florida

813-974-0639

ojthomas@usf.edu

Website: [Foreign Influence Compliance | Office of Compliance & Ethics | USF](#)

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“You see, our glorious diversity – our diversity of faiths, and colors and creeds—that is not a threat to who we are, it makes us who we are.” – Michelle Obama



Note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state employees regarding state business are public records available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may, therefore, be subject to public disclosure.

From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:11:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025.pdf](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025.pdf](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image022.png](#)
[image023.png](#)
[image024.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image032.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

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From: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>

Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2025 5:38 PM

To: Jorge Rodriguez <jorgerodrigu@usf.edu>

Subject: Fw: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel

Best Wishes,

Oriana Thomas, MBA (She/Her/Hers)

Assistant Compliance Officer - Foreign Influence

Office of Compliance and Ethics

University of South Florida

4202 E. Fowler Ave, ALN 172

Tampa, FL 33620

813-974-0639

ojthomas@usf.edu

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2025 1:05:29 PM

To: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>

Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel

Hi Oriana –

I am adding Kiki Caruson onto the cc line in Marcia's place. I have no concerns with the other edits to the report.

The order of operations for the Travel Review Process has been updated.

There is a reason for the difference in the number of screenings and actual incidents of travel, which is why I have the explanatory note. The numbers and percentages as I have them are correct; I left this slide as is. I have updated the tables to reflect the same format as the report. Attached is the PDF of the slides.

Fred/Mitch – please keep a copy of these in your records.

Thanks,

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance

University of South Florida

Tampa Campus

813-974-2302

[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 5:12 PM

To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Subject: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel

Dear Jay,

Again, thank you for providing RICs information ahead of schedule. I have finished my review with minor revisions to the report and PowerPoint.

Please see a summary of the revisions below.

Annual Report:

- I added Jorge A. Rodriguez to the CC line and removed Marcia Taylor.
- I reformatted the table and sorted the entries by FCOC (China then Cuba).
- I removed the header and footer after the first page.

Annual Presentation:

- I revised the Travel Review Process to reflect the key points of the new workflow (RIC approval before Supervisor approval).
- In the summary slide it was mentioned that there were 18 travels to FCOC, but the report had 16 travels. I changed the number to reflect the report and edited the percentages accordingly.
- I removed the asterisked point and footnote – Although it is a great talking point, I thought it better to remove from the visual.
- I removed the statement regarding the audit – Again, it is a great talking point, but I did not think it was necessary for the visual.

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Oriana*

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From: Oriana Thomas

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:32 PM

To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: Report of Foreign Travel

Good day Jay, Fred, and Mitchell,

Please forgive my late response. Thank you for getting this to me ahead of time! I am working on this review and should have it finished by tomorrow.

Thank you again – it’s greatly appreciated!

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 2:58 PM

To: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>

Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>

Subject: Report of Foreign Travel

Hi Oriana – please find attached RIC’s draft travel report, PowerPoint presentation, and cover sheet.

I’ll submit a signed version of the memo following your review and will update the memo date at that time as well.

Thanks!

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

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[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:43:17 AM
Attachments: [FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025 DRAFT 20250718 oceedits.pptx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025 DRAFT 20250716 oceedits.docx](#)

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

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Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: Report of Foreign Travel

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Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>
Subject: Report of Foreign Travel

Hi Oriana – please find attached RIC’s draft travel report, PowerPoint presentation, and cover sheet.

I’ll submit a signed version of the memo following your review and will update the memo date at that time as well.

Thanks!

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP
Director, Research Integrity & Compliance
University of South Florida
Tampa Campus
813-974-2302

[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: [Clara Ohannes](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Final Presentation Version for BOT Packet
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 1:12:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[PPT FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025 20250724 Final NoSpeakersNotes.pptx](#)
[PPT FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025 20250724 Final SpeakersNotes.pptx](#)
[PPT FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025 20250724 Final.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

FYI

Clara Ohannes, Ph.D.

Special Assistant

Office of Compliance & Ethics (ALN172)



From: Caroline Fultz-Carver <cfcarver@usf.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 5:13 PM
To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Cc: Clara Ohannes <cohannes@usf.edu>
Subject: Final Presentation Version for BOT Packet

Dear Jay,

For clarity and alignment, please note that the attached version of your presentation without speaker's notes is the version which will be included in the Board of Trustees packet. This version incorporates necessary updates to ensure full compliance with USF Branding standards (<https://brand.usf.edu/account/dashboard/>) and best practices for BOT presentations. These updates do not alter the required reporting content. Rather, they enhance the clarity, consistency, and professionalism of your work—ensuring it is presented in the strongest possible light.

Summary of Our Updates:

Slides 2–4

- Standardized font and text size to meet branding requirements.
- Ensured consistent typesetting throughout the deck.

Slide 3

- Removed the asterisked note. Asterisks are not appropriate for formal presentations. If the information is not a required reporting component, then it should be delivered verbally. The asterisked text is not a reporting requirement; therefore, the text was

moved to the speaker's section for reference. Please see the attached presentation with speaker's notes.

Slide 4

- Improved spacing for better readability in presentation mode.
- Aligned the RIC text block with its corresponding process step for clarity.

The attached version without speakers notes represents the finalized format for the BOT-ACC packet and will not be subject to further revision. Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification.

Regards,

Caroline

Caroline Fultz-Carver, PhD, MHA, CCEP

Chief Compliance Officer

Office of Compliance & Ethics

University of South Florida

(813) 974-4373

www.usf.edu/compliance-ethics/



From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:17:12 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025_20250723_oceupdates_FINAL.pptx](#)

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

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4202 East Fowler Avenue, ALN 172

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From: Oriana Thomas
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:16 AM
To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Subject: RE: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report

Dear Jay,

Thank you for this email! I notice that the PDF presentation is different from the Presentation that OCE Leadership sent to me to forward to you for final signature (attached).

May I have the reason for this if Jorge or Caroline ask me?

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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4202 East Fowler Avenue, ALN 172

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 7:03 AM

To: Oriana Thomas <oithomas@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report

Here are the updated letter and PDF of the presentation, with the added language that Caroline and I discussed yesterday. There was no change to the coversheet.

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance

University of South Florida

Tampa Campus

813-974-2302

From: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 5:05 PM
To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Subject: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report
Importance: High

Dear Jay,

At the request of OCE Leadership, please see the attached coversheet, report, and presentation for final signature.

Once signed, OCE will facilitate the transfer to the appropriate offices.

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

University of South Florida

4202 East Fowler Avenue, ALN 172

Tampa, FL 33620

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From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:10:21 AM
Attachments: [FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025.pdf](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image018.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
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[image006.png](#)
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From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Report of Foreign Travel
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:10:13 AM
Attachments: [BOT Coversheet ForeignTravel 20250808 FINAL.docx](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025.pptx](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025 .docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
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From: Oriana Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 12:03 PM
To: Jorge Rodriguez <jorgerodrigu@usf.edu>
Subject: FW: Report of Foreign Travel

*Best wishes,
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Oriana Thomas, MBA

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>
Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>
Subject: Report of Foreign Travel

Hi Oriana – please find attached RIC’s draft travel report, PowerPoint presentation, and cover sheet.

I’ll submit a signed version of the memo following your review and will update the memo date at that time as well.

Thanks!

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance
University of South Florida
Tampa Campus
813-974-2302

[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Fw: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel
Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025 5:38:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025.pdf](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025.pdf](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image021.png](#)
[image022.png](#)
[image023.png](#)
[image024.png](#)
[image025.png](#)
[image032.png](#)

Best Wishes,

Oriana Thomas, MBA (She/Her/Hers)

Assistant Compliance Officer - Foreign Influence

Office of Compliance and Ethics

University of South Florida

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2025 1:05:29 PM

To: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>

Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel

Hi Oriana –

I am adding Kiki Caruson onto the cc line in Marcia's place. I have no concerns with the other edits to the report.

The order of operations for the Travel Review Process has been updated.

There is a reason for the difference in the number of screenings and actual incidents of travel, which is why I have the explanatory note. The numbers and percentages as I have them are correct; I left this slide as is. I have updated the tables to reflect the same format as the report. Attached is the PDF of the slides.

Fred/Mitch – please keep a copy of these in your records.

Thanks,

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance

University of South Florida

Tampa Campus

813-974-2302

[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 5:12 PM

To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Subject: Compliance Review and Request for RIC Final Approval/Signoff: Report of Foreign Travel

Dear Jay,

Again, thank you for providing RICs information ahead of schedule. I have finished my review with minor revisions to the report and PowerPoint.

Please see a summary of the revisions below.

Annual Report:

- I added Jorge A. Rodriguez to the CC line and removed Marcia Taylor.
- I reformatted the table and sorted the entries by FCOC (China then Cuba).
- I removed the header and footer after the first page.

Annual Presentation:

- I revised the Travel Review Process to reflect the key points of the new workflow (RIC approval before Supervisor approval).
- In the summary slide it was mentioned that there were 18 travels to FCOC, but the report had 16 travels. I changed the number to reflect the report and edited the

percentages accordingly.

- I removed the asterisked point and footnote – Although it is a great talking point, I thought it better to remove from the visual.
- I removed the statement regarding the audit – Again, it is a great talking point, but I did not think it was necessary for the visual.

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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From: Oriana Thomas

Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:32 PM

To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: Report of Foreign Travel

Good day Jay, Fred, and Mitchell,

Please forgive my late response. Thank you for getting this to me ahead of time! I am working on this review and should have it finished by tomorrow.

Thank you again – it's greatly appreciated!

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Oriana Thomas <oithomas@usf.edu>
Cc: Frederick Pflueger <fpflueger@usf.edu>; Mitchell McNelly <mmcnelly@usf.edu>
Subject: Report of Foreign Travel

Hi Oriana – please find attached RIC’s draft travel report, PowerPoint presentation, and cover sheet.

I’ll submit a signed version of the memo following your review and will update the memo date at that time as well.

Thanks!

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance
University of South Florida
Tampa Campus
813-974-2302

[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jay Ramage](#)
Subject: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report
Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 5:04:59 PM
Attachments: [BOT Coversheet ForeignTravel FINAL.docx](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025 20250723 oceupdates FINAL.pptx](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025 20250723 oceupdates FINAL.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
Importance: High

Dear Jay,

At the request of OCE Leadership, please see the attached coversheet, report, and presentation for final signature.

Once signed, OCE will facilitate the transfer to the appropriate offices.

Best wishes,
Oriana

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

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From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jay Ramage](#)
Cc: [Jorge Rodriguez](#); [Caroline Fultz-Carver](#); [Clara Ohannes](#)
Subject: RE: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:42:55 AM
Attachments: [FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image014.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025.pdf](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025_20250723_oceupdates_FINAL.pptx](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025_20250723_oceupdates_FINAL.docx](#)

Dear Jay,

Thank you for this update.

Best wishes,
Oriana

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:33 AM
To: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>
Subject: RE: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report

Caroline and I discussed the addition of language addressing the fact that other travel had been reviewed and approved but not identified as completed travel. This has been included in my report and my presentation.

Since the other bullet points I included do not pertain to that issue, I kept them as is.

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance
 University of South Florida
 Tampa Campus
 813-974-2302

From: Oriana Thomas <oithomas@usf.edu>

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:16 AM

To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>

Subject: RE: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report

Dear Jay,

Thank you for this email! I notice that the PDF presentation is different from the Presentation that OCE Leadership sent to me to forward to you for final signature (attached).

May I have the reason for this if Jorge or Caroline ask me?

Best wishes,

Oriana

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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From: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 7:03 AM
To: Oriana Thomas <oithomas@usf.edu>
Subject: RE: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report

Here are the updated letter and PDF of the presentation, with the added language that Caroline and I discussed yesterday. There was no change to the coversheet.

Jay Ramage, PhD, MS, MBA, PMP

Director, Research Integrity & Compliance
University of South Florida
Tampa Campus
813-974-2302

[USF Research Integrity and Compliance](#)

From: Oriana Thomas <oithomas@usf.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 5:05 PM
To: Jay Ramage <jramage@usf.edu>
Subject: OCE Final Documents - FCOC Annual Travel Report
Importance: High

Dear Jay,

At the request of OCE Leadership, please see the attached coversheet, report, and presentation for final signature.

Once signed, OCE will facilitate the transfer to the appropriate offices.

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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From: [Oriana Thomas](#)
To: [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: RIC Annual Report Docs
Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 12:08:11 PM
Attachments: [Response to RIC Draft 2025717.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[FCOC Travel Annual Report 2025 DRAFT 20250716 JR ojtedits.pptx](#)
[RIC Annual Travel Report 2025 DRAFT 20250716 JR ojtedits.docx](#)

Good day Jorge,

Please see the attached RIC Annual Travel Report and Presentation with the edits we discussed.

Additionally, please see my drafted response to RIC.

As always, I look forward to your feedback and guidance.

Best wishes,
Oriana

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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From: [Charbel Barakat](#)
To: [Oriana Thomas](#)
Cc: [Kiara Gayle](#); [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Re: USF Board of Trustees Request - Picone Travel Executive Summary
Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025 8:00:19 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image.png](#)

Oriana, thank you for the prompt follow-up, and for the thorough report.

I appreciate the background on Dr. Picone's expertise and research.

As you know, the Cuban government maintains a robust surveillance and intelligence apparatus, which includes monitoring visitors and academics. I am sensitive to any situation that would unduly expose our colleagues to such risks. Given those risks, I'm glad to hear that Dr. Picone doesn't plan to travel to Cuba in the future.

I am optimistic that he'll be able to find comparable opportunities to study global health economics expertise elsewhere.

Again, thanks.



CHARBEL J BARAKAT

Trustee, University of South Florida

Email: CBarakat@usf.edu

From: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Charbel Barakat <cbarakat@usf.edu>
Cc: Kiara Gayle <kguzzo@usf.edu>; Jorge Rodriguez <jorgerodrigu@usf.edu>
Subject: USF Board of Trustees Request - Picone Travel Executive Summary

Dear Trustee Barakat,

I hope this message finds you well. I was tasked with drafting an executive summary to address Dr. Picone's travel to Cuba as discussed in the Annual Travel Report.

Dr. Gabriel Picone, Chair and Professor of Economics at the University of South Florida (USF), is a recognized expert in health economics. Between 2022 and 2024, he actively participated in a series of health-related conferences in Cuba. These engagements were self-funded and aimed at advancing academic research and fostering international collaboration in the areas of diabetes and wound care.

Additional information can be found in the attached Memo.

Thank you and have a wonderful day.

*Best wishes,
Oriana*

Oriana Thomas, MBA

Assistant Compliance Officer – Foreign Influence Compliance

Office of Compliance and Ethics

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Cc: [Kiara Gayle](#); [Jorge Rodriguez](#)
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Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025 8:00:19 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image.png](#)

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Again, thanks.



CHARBEL J BARAKAT

Trustee, University of South Florida

Email: CBarakat@usf.edu

From: Oriana Thomas <ojthomas@usf.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Charbel Barakat <cbarakat@usf.edu>
Cc: Kiara Gayle <kguzzo@usf.edu>; Jorge Rodriguez <jorgerodrigu@usf.edu>
Subject: USF Board of Trustees Request - Picone Travel Executive Summary

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*Best wishes,
Oriana*

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