

The
PHI BETA KAPPA
Society

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May 10, 2010

Professor Naomi Yavneh
University of South Florida
Office of President
Tampa, FL 33620-6150

RECEIVED
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USF PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Professor Yavneh:

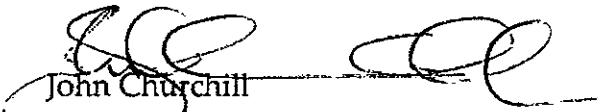
I am writing to report the action of the Committee on Qualifications of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in regard to the application from Phi Beta Kappa members at the University of South Florida seeking authorization to shelter a chapter of the Society.

After careful study of the several dozen applications that were received, the Committee has selected seven applications for further study. I regret to say that the proposal from members at the University of South Florida was not among those selected to go forward. Below I will attempt to characterize the Committee's sense of your application.

It is seldom the case that a single factor underlies a decision not to move forward, and in any event, the Committee's decision is a collective one, based on the judgments of a dozen individuals who have independently assessed the material and then deliberated together. The sense of the Committee is that the University continues to approach readiness for the establishment of a chapter and is close to the stage appropriate for the next round of consideration. The number of Phi Beta Kappa faculty is good, student quality seems strong, and support for the arts and sciences seems to have advanced. Still, the overall graduation rate, at 49%, is low, even for an urban comprehensive institution. The student/faculty ratio for the virtual college of arts and sciences seems quite high, and appropriate parameters for the library, foreign language requirement, and graduate school placement were difficult to discern. I would look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

I realize that this news is disappointing. But let me thank you and all those at the University of South Florida who have worked so hard on this project for your interest in Phi Beta Kappa and your devotion to education in the liberal arts and sciences.

Sincerely,


John Churchill
Secretary

cc:

Dr. Judy Genshaft
University of South Florida
Office of President
Tampa, FL 33620-6150