

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM OF FEBRUARY 16, 2017
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College met on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at the St. Petersburg College Tarpon Campus, FA 132, 600 Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs, Florida. The following Board members were present: Chair Bill Foster and Vice Chair Nathan Stonecipher. Trustee Deveron Gibbons did not attend. William D. Law, Jr., President, of St. Petersburg College and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, did not attend. The following Presidential Search and Screen Committee members were present: Bill McCloud, Alexis DeVeaux, Richard Mercadante, Janette Hunt, Albert Farr, Andrea Kelly, Jeanne Trimble, and Eric Gonzalez-Franco. Proof of public notice of this public forum is included as part of these minutes. Notices were duly posted.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College will hold a public meeting to which all persons are invited, commencing at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at the Tarpon Springs campus, FA 132, 600 Klosterman Rd, Tarpon Springs, Florida. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear from the community and other interested parties in regard to the selection of the next president of St. Petersburg College. Public comments will be subject to Board policies and procedures. Individual speakers will be limited to three minutes.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency five business days before the meeting by contacting the Board Clerk at 727-341-3241. If you are planning to attend the meeting and are hearing impaired, please contact the agency five business days before the meeting by calling 727-791-2422 (V/TTY) or 727-474-1907 (VP).

17-025. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the following Agenda was prepared:

AGENDA

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PUBLIC FORM

February 16, 2017

Tarpon Springs Campus, FA 132
600 Klosterman RD.
Tarpon Springs, FLORIDA

6:00 PM

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| I. Welcome/Introductions | Dr. Marvin Bright
Provost, SPC Tarpon Campus |
| II. Overview | Mr. Bill Foster
Chair, St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees |
| III. Public Comments | Mr. Bill Foster |
| IV. Adjournment | Mr. Bill Foster |

If any person wishes to appeal a decision made with respect to any matter considered by the Board at its meeting February 16, 2017 he or she will need a record of the proceedings. It is the obligation of such person to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, §286.0105, Florida Statutes.

Items summarized on the Agenda may not contain full information regarding the matter being considered. Further information regarding these items may be obtained by calling the Board Clerk at (727) 341-3241.

Date Advertised: February 10, 2017

Confirmation of Publication

[Notice of Meeting](#)

17-026. Dr. Marvin Bright, Provost of St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus, opened the Presidential Search Public Forum at 6:08 p.m. He welcomed the faculty, staff, students, and guests and stated he was excited they were hosting the Board of Trustees Public Forum for the search for the next president. He stated that the next public forum

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would be held on Tuesday, February 21st at 6 p.m. at the St. Petersburg College Midtown Campus.

Dr. Bright briefly introduced the Board of Trustees:

Bill Foster, Chair of the St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees since January, former Mayor of St. Petersburg, an attorney with Foster & Foster, and served ten years on St. Petersburg City Council.

Nathan Stonecipher, Vice Chair of St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees, graduate of St. Petersburg College and University of Florida, and co-owner of Green Bench Brewery in St. Petersburg.

17-027. Chair Foster thanked the guests for attending the forum and showing interest in the selection of the next president for St. Petersburg College. He expressed that he, Mr. Stonecipher, and Mr. Deveron Gibbons, who is on the Board of Trustees and was not present at the meeting, are all residents of St. Petersburg and adore St. Petersburg College faculty, staff, and students. He stated that it is the mission of the Board of Trustees to ensure that they collectively as a team provide the highest level of education at St. Petersburg College. He recognized St. Petersburg College's quality and great leadership they have had in the past and noted they were surprised by Dr. Bill Law's retirement announcement. He noted that the next president may be someone from outside or within the college.

Mr. Foster explained that they welcomed their comments and they each have three minutes to speak. He asked the attendees to share what areas of St. Petersburg College they represented. The guests commented they are from St. Petersburg/Gibbs, Seminole, Pasco, Clearwater and Tarpon Springs. Mr. Foster restated that the next public forum will be held at the St. Petersburg College Midtown Campus on February 21st at 6 p.m. and invited them to attend that forum as well.

Mr. Foster reminded guests to fill out a blue card if they would like to share their comments with the Board of Trustees.

17-028. Public Comments

Darlene Westburg, Faculty and FGO Representative at the St. Petersburg College/Gibbs Campus and graduate of St. Petersburg College, expressed her gratitude and said she is who she is today because of her experience at St. Petersburg College. Ms. Westburg stated she really hopes that the next president has recent teaching experience.

Brian Brillinger, Faculty at St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus, stated he came to this forum to learn about the process of hiring the next president. He commented that St. Petersburg College has done a good job in the past of hiring within and hopes the Committee will examine candidates from this school.

Rita Garvey, President of American Association of University Women-Clearwater, and former Mayor of Clearwater, stated she was happy to be here at the forum.

Ralph Melick, long-time Board member of the St. Petersburg College Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, stated a strong liaison to Tallahassee is needed due to the recent issue about guns on campus and he expressed his concern about the potential of reducing college degrees back to Associate degrees. He stated he wants to keep the "A" in STEAM and not revert back to STEM without the Arts. Mr. Melick shared that the music, fine arts, and performing arts programs at the college are outstanding. He recommended they hire a president who is passionate about these programs and is fiscally wise. He stated that a relationship with the arts is extremely important for the next president.

Chris Alahouzos, Mayor of Tarpon Springs, stated this is a wonderful campus with Dr. Bright as Provost because he works well with the city. Mr. Alahouzos recommended that the selection of the new president is someone who will create more programs related to economic development and programs to train the workforce with all the growth in their community. Mr. Foster asked what programs he would recommend. Mr. Alahouzos stated that a program in the biomedical field because this industry is in Tarpon Springs and Pinellas County. He said that this workforce would have a high income and would be good for the economy.

Shannon Ulrich, Faculty and FGO at the St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus, stated she has concerns about the budget and would like to see a president who has a background in managing a budget in times of both feast and famine. She stated the president should have a record of involving faculty when coming up new initiatives and integrating faculty opinion when rolling out the initiatives. She also commented that the president should have ideas for outreach in the African American community because it is an untapped source of potential students in this area. She noted that African American students make up only about ten percent of her class. She said she hoped that the new president would also focus on retention of students.

Jennifer Fernandes, Faculty at the St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus, stated she hopes the president will have experience and a proven record of increasing course offerings at a small campus such as Tarpon Springs. She stated courses are being cut and students are being forced to go to other campuses and would rather stay at the Tarpon Springs campus. Mr. Foster asked her if the basic academic courses are also being cut. Ms. Fernandez replied yes, where there used to be four courses, it has been cut down to one. She recommended bringing programs to this campus such as those mentioned by Mayor Alahouzos.

Darlene Naundros, Student, stated that her home campus is Midtown and she travels between Midtown and Tarpon Springs because she has dual residency in St. Petersburg and Trinity. She said a lot of the ethnic courses she wants to take are available only at the Midtown campus and said Dr. Bright was going to address this issue. These courses are not available online. She shared that she has Attention Deficit Disorder and is an older,

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returning student. She said there is a support system in the process of being structured but they have a long way to go.

Brian Gonzalez, Student, requested more options for classes that are not available at certain campuses. He mentioned video chat would be a good option to get closer to a campus. He also stated he works in the Financial Aid office and said students have mentioned they would like one-on-one tutoring assistance.

Mr. Foster shared the Presidential Search and Screen Committee's calendar of events. He stated the Committee will be reviewing applicants and had requested these forums to hear from the public.

Mr. Foster stated there will be another forum on February 21st at the Midtown campus. He said they will be posting an ad on February 22nd in the Chronicle of Higher Education and Diversity Issues in Higher Education where presidents to be will see the ad. He stated they will close the application process at the close of business at 5 p.m. on March 13th. A list of the top twenty candidates will be submitted to the Search and Screen Committee. Mr. Foster noted that they have a consultant who will submit the list of the top twenty candidates to the Committee. The Committee will narrow the list down to ten finalists by March 21st. The top ten finalists will be requested to submit an eight-minute video. Mr. Foster explained that the Committee will review the videos and narrow the list of candidates down to five candidates by April 6th and then those five candidates will be brought in for campus visits and interviews by the Committee and the Board of Trustees. He stated they hope to make their final decision by mid-May of the selection of the next president of St. Petersburg College.

Mr. Foster said that built into this process is the opportunity for the community to meet with the finalists and he recommends they take advantage of this opportunity. He commented that this is your St. Petersburg College and we work for you.

Vice Chair Stonecipher thanked everyone for attending the forum. He stated that hearing from them is an integral part of this process to hear from the community, faculty, staff, students, and anyone who has an interest in St. Petersburg College. He noted that all of the comments made at tonight's forum and next week's forum at Midtown will be added to the list of selection criteria parameters and brought to the attention of the Committee.

17-029. Chair Foster adjourned the Public Forum at 6:29 p.m. with no further speakers to be heard.