

**ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY**

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Minutes of Meeting

**DATE/TIME:** September 10, 2014 / 1:30pm

**LOCATION:** EpiCenter, Room 2-434

**ATTENDEES:** Dean John Chapin, Sandy DeCarlo, Rick Gilbert, Ray Gorman, George Kish, Teresa Nixon, Provost James Olliver, Maura Scanlon

**DATE ISSUED:** September 11, 2014

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The following is a recap of the items discussed and agreed upon at the meeting regarding the SPC Environmental Science Technology Advisory Committee. This is a summary of the writer's interpretation of the meeting. Unless advised in writing to the contrary, it is assumed that those in attendance are in agreement with the statements as set forth and work will proceed on this basis. If you have clarifications you wish to make, please contact Maura Scanlon via e-mail at scanlon.maura@spcollege.edu or telephone at 727-394-6947. Thank you.

| <b>Item No.</b> | <b>Description or Comments</b>  |
|-----------------|---|
| 1               | <i>Introductions</i> -Meeting was called to order and welcome given by Maura Scanlon at 1:35 as Chairman Irv Kety was unable to attend. All attendees introduced themselves.  |
| 2               | <i>Approval of April Minutes</i> - Approval of March 2014 meeting minutes by Ray Gorman and seconded by Rick Gilbert  |
| 3.              | <i>Environmental Science Technology update</i> - Dean John Chapin commented that internal marketing has been ongoing, with Chair Meg Delgato and Maura Scanlon visiting classrooms at the Gibbs, Downtown and Midtown campuses, as class offerings should start to be offered in those locations in about a year.   |
| 3               | Provost James Olliver provided an update on the St. Petersburg College Green Living Demonstration Center. The grant paperwork has had numerous delays but now appears to be finalized, and will continue to move forward. No date for groundbreaking has been set. Rick Gilbert inquired if businesses with green technology would be able to showcase/advertise their products and services within the center, and Dr. Olliver agreed that this would allow for the technology to be upgraded on a regular basis with minimal cost; this would be a consideration when the project reaches later stages. |
| 4               | Sandy DeCarlo reported the Environmental Science Technology Program currently has 130 students enrolled, an increase from the Spring semester. Sub-plan enrollments are as follows: Sustainability: 62, Natural Resources and Energy: 38, Water Management: 24, and Undeclared: 6   |
| 5               | <i>Co-op / Intern and Career Services</i> - Sandy DeCarlo provided updates related to SPC's initiatives of increasing support for Career Services, noting the Seminole campus has a dedicated Internship Coordinator, Jacob Wortock. Information about student orientation and learning plans were detailed as students need to be focused on careers and developing skills from Day 1. Ray Gorman added that at Pinellas Technical College (formerly PTEC), developing "soft skills" related to applications, interviewing and communication have been built into the courses for similar reasons.       |

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| 6  | <i>Marketing</i> - Maura Scanlon showed the marketing video for the AS Environmental Technology Program that is available on the SPC website as Sandy DeCarlo continued about other internal marketing initiatives. An information session about the degree will be held Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> from 10am-noon, flyers were made available.  |
| 7  | <i>Industry Certification</i> - Maura Scanlon stated students have been earning the incorporated OSHA 30 General Industry Certification. Maura also stated she has become a trainer for the FL DEP Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector course, and this will be scheduled as a two-day training available to students sometime this 2014-2015 school year. Maura also indicated that GI - BMP (Green Industry Best Management Practices) certification is available online for \$15 and would be incorporated into an appropriate course; Ray Gorman noted having the decal associated with completion is mandatory for those working in fields related to landscaping, pest control and related land management careers |
| 8  | Dr. Olliver emphasized providing “industry credentials of value” for employers as one of SPC’s goals is to provide curriculum that can meet the need of businesses  |
| 9  | Teresa Nixon suggested certifications of DOT and RCRA would be advantageous to have, particularly in areas related to hazardous waste management.   |
| 10 | Rick Gilbert talked about LEED-AP certification, also noting many solar certification are available through SPC Corporate Training / Workforce Development. LEED-AP certification is desirable, to the point where some people list the qualification after their name on business cards.   |
| 11 | George Kish brought up the need for Wetlands Delineator Certification, as the nearest higher education program that offers something similar is in Gainesville, FL. The certification program would need to consist of a Hydrology Course, Plant Identification Course, Soils Course and a Capstone project where a student would perform a wetlands delineation; George also indicated this may fall better into a 4-yr degree program. Maura replied that this is one of the items the Natural Science Department is looking into as the department has expanded offerings.   |
| 12 | Ray Gorman stated FEMA certifications have been popular at Pinellas Technical College, and they have been incorporating certifications into their coursework.   |
| 13 | <i>Co-op/Intern Opportunities</i> - Rick Gilbert explained how Solar Source had an SPC intern (from the BAS Sustainability Mgmt program) that worked out well. Rick explained using CareerSource Pinellas has enabled his company to have paid interns where up to 80% of the intern’s wages are reimbursed; this allows the company to “try out” potential employees with little financial burden. He encouraged developing marketing to let more employers know of this service; one additional way to streamline the process would be to see if students could get prequalified before approaching a potential internship site.  |
| 14 | <i>Employment Opportunities</i> – Job posting boards were discussed; suggested sites: <a href="http://www.seia.org">www.seia.org</a> for solar energy jobs, <a href="http://www.indeed.com">www.indeed.com</a> , <a href="http://www.enviro-net.com/about-us/florida-specifier/">http://www.enviro-net.com/about-us/florida-specifier/</a> were mentioned, as well as using LinkedIn and subscribing to different Facebook pages, like the Public Works Academy.  |
| 15 | <i>Open Forum</i> – Rick Gilbert provided information the solar industry and issues related to current FL laws and regulations; Teresa Nixon noted a disconnect that occurs in hazardous waste management with smaller companies not connecting with specialists to handle certain jobs. Ray Gorman reported he noticed as the economy has been improving, hiring for private sector jobs is up, and public sector jobs have been more difficult to fill as their wages are not always competitive  |
|    | Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm  |