

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Public Policy and Administration Baccalaureate Program

Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 10:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Seminole Campus Room TL 107

MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

St. Petersburg College administration, advisory board members, faculty and staff: Rafael Murga, Chris Harper, Mecca Bellmore, Robert Pergolizzi, Elizabeth Van Scoyoc, Dina Hyson, Dan Waters, Donald Hall, Julia Meyer, Susan Demers, Jeff Kronschnabl, Sean Kennedy

WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in Room #107 within the TL building on the Seminole Campus.

PROGRAM REVIEW AND INFORMATION

Professor Jeff Kronschnabl introduced board members and presented an overview of our Public Policy and Administration program.

- **Updates on Alumni Association:** status was provided on launching our Public Policy & Administration Alumni Association
- **Public Policy & Administration Newsletter:** Sent out quarterly; a check was made to make sure every advisory committee member was our newsletter
- **International City Managers Association (ICMA):** Public Policy & Administration program is the first baccalaureate chapter in the 100+ year history of ICMA. Information was provided on our upcoming meeting on October 1st at 4:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Campus
- **Project on Accountable Justice (PAJ):** Is a collaborative research effort that began over 3 years ago with a focus to advancing public safety through evidence based policies and practices. Partners include St. Petersburg College, Florida State University, Baylor

University. PAJ began about 4 years ago as a data survey group regarding incarceration efforts in the State of Florida and has evolved into a “think tank” group instrumental in prison and criminal justice reform

- **City of Seminole Management Associate Position:** St. Petersburg College’s Public Policy & Administrations program was honored with a 10 year commitment and \$350,000 agenda item that will select and place one of our students to work full time within the City of Seminole as part of their government associate training program
 - *Presentation by Mecca Bellmore:* began position in August 2015 in the Fire Department and will transition through three more city departments during her time in this position. Right now she is working on ISO (Insurance Service Office) requirements, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) compliance, researching and submitting several grants, and will be working on accreditation renewal soon. She will also be working on performance evaluations so they can be added to the upcoming budget. Ms. Bellmore is receiving excellent evaluations. We are very proud of her.
- **Florida City/County Managers Association (FCCMA):** We proposed to start a student chapter; however, FCCMA instead welcomed us to have membership as a part of ICMA
- **Capstone project for the fall 2015 semester:** numerous projects including, but not limited to, recycling, red light cameras, communication with the school system, campaign financing, convicted felons’ guide to gainful employment in Pinellas County (Dean Demers would like a copy of the binder), traffic calming, food trucks on campus, human trafficking in middle school, etc. Board Member Robert Pergolizzi has offered shadowing opportunities to our students. Advisory committee members are encouraged to communicate any opportunities (i.e. internships, shadowing opportunities). On Monday, 9/21, Senator Jack Latvala offered up two full-time paid positions to two PPA students to work on his campaign.
 - **Capstone project proposals:** Board Member Dina Hyson suggested that if a Capstone was done with a government entity on a project, it could possibly also be used as an internship; Possible Capstone Project: “How to do a Virtual Internship.” Potential Capstone: What is the result of all PPA Capstones? What have PPA graduates accomplished with their final project?
- **Public Policy Leadership Speakers Series Luncheons:** A total of 9 reputable, high-quality speakers have presented to our students since 2012. No fees are ever paid to presenters. They come because they want to make a difference in our students’ lives. We are working on getting a high-level female speaker for our Series as we have only had one woman come to speak to our students with her husband (both judges). Our last speaker had an issue arise and could not make it to speak this semester.
 - Our Board members have suggested the following women as speakers at our next Series: new City Manager for Seminole and Fire Chief; Doreen Thomas, St. Pete

(former police chief); Deputy Mayor Thomlin for the City of St. Pete; Jane Castor, Carol Stricklin. Joanne Singer private sector senior VP of IT for Tech Data

- **Administrative support position:** Elizabeth Van Scoyoc introduced herself as a PPA alumni and current Administrative Support Specialist for the PPA program who is now working on her MPA at Barry University.
- **Rafael Murga:** Graduated this past summer 2015; worked for Tech Data in Commerce and is looking forward to helping us work to bring our program online with the “signature pieces that make it what it is.”
- **Presentation by Chris Harper:** SPC video was played featuring Chris Harper’s success story with the Pinellas County Sports Commission. He started as an intern while in the PPA program and now works full-time with the Sports Commission as a Marketing Manager. Ready Set Rio marketing video was shown to the committee; it promotes the Olympic training and elite training destination in Oldsmar, one of three training sites for athletes.
- **Internships:** Board members all concur that internships are a must and crucial to the success of every Public Policy student. Some also agreed that an internship probably should be required in the program. All PPA graduate Advisory Board members, Mecca, Chris, Rafael, Nick, and Sean, began their careers in their respective career fields by interning while in the program.

Discussions/Suggestions:

- Our newly developed civics course is ready to go. We need to make sure we have enough students to fill it.
- Internships should be mandatory.
- Program should be online to accommodate more single parents who work and cannot make it to the classroom. Likewise, public safety workers need the online format. Virtual classrooms were suggested for distance learners; Webex is already built in to the budget for this. Hosted live lecture and/or lectures posted online.
- Civics two-day meeting coming in October—how do you build curriculum in civics?
- Long term goal of the PPA program is to have graduates spread out over the five county area which would give students the opportunity to intern and work with municipalities and government entities.
- Advisory Board Member/Deputy Chief Hall: the nature of our program is such that fact-to-face interaction and practical application is more valuable in teaching students how to interact with others and apply what they’ve learned to a real-world work environment; online classes seem to short-change students in these respects. Most board members agreed with Deputy Chief Hall’s comments, especially PPA graduates.
- Question: How often should the board meet? Answer: At least twice a year.
- Speakers Series are great networking opportunities.

Closing remarks: Jeff Kronschnabl thanked the Board for coming and providing valuable feedback that will help to improve our program. The board members were thanked for their attendance and participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11: 25 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Van Scoyoc

Not everyone is called to be a leader, but everyone is called to make an impact