

St. Petersburg College Paralegal Studies
Advisory committee Meeting
November 2, 2011

6 p.m. Seminole Campus/Conference Center

The college hosted a joint meeting of a number of advisory committees at the newly technologized conference center adjoining the joint-use library in the city of Seminole.

Members attending were: Karen McLead, Karen France, Robert Schumaker, Nathan Suedmeyer, Jane Helms, Iryna Bandaryk, Dean Kohrs, Deborah Eldridge, Jeff Kronschnabl, Kay Burniston, Stan Vittetoe and Susan Demers.

At the joint meeting the College's new president Dr. Bill Law thanked the members for their service and described the role of the advisory committee in the work of the college in our community. He spoke of his vision for the college and described our student body giving some general statistics about who are students are and what their goals and challenges are.

Dr. Anne Cooper, senior vice president , then introduced Stan Vittetoe. Dr. Vittetoe is the provost of the Clearwater Campus on which the paralegal Studies Program is housed and also serves as the College's Workforce Development Officer. His speech highlighted the accomplishments of our 38 Associate in Science Programs and our Certificate programs. He also touched on the contributions of our advisory committees to the success of these programs and their students.

The group then adjourned to individual program meetings.

At 7:10 the group began its individual breakout session. All members introduced themselves. Jeff Kronschnabl gave a brief overview of the new Public Policy program. Deborah Eldridge discussed the challenges of aligning the business law classes college-wide.

Susan Demers circulated the letter from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Paralegals which recommended re-approval of SPC's Paralegal Studies programs. She also discussed at some length the site visit recommendations from the final page of the report.

A number of SPC students have been working with the Pinellas Clerk's Office to scan documents in preparation for e-filing which is scheduled for statewide rollout in July. This project is called CASE 360 and several of those who interned on the project have since been hired by the Clerk's Office. This report led to a discussion of the value of internship experiences. Dr. Vittetoe had spoken of the new college-wide internship office under the leadership of Deb Montalvo and Susan Biziewski-Ebers in the general meeting. He expanded on this project in our meeting. Ms. Burniston

also talked about the goals of the office and the enthusiasm and the competence of the two directors.

Susan Demers requested that the group be on the lookout for new members, particularly folks who are not employed within the traditional legal structure. We are also looking for a new general public member of the committee.

The college will be sending out a survey which will endeavor to get a snapshot of job loss/job creation within the legal field within the last three years/next three years. Questions will also address skills, job label and salary. Karen France has volunteered to distribute this to all members of the Clearwater Bar.

There was then a discussion about paralegal jobs or jobs utilizing paralegal skills outside the traditional legal office. Fields which might employ paralegals in this way are risk management, sustainability, health care, those who handle chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Karen suggested that we might look for firms advertising for regulatory affairs managers. Bob Schumaker pointed out that currently many firms are using lawyers for Medicare/Medicaid audit purposes when the bulk of the work could be handled by qualified paralegals.

The department is looking for good fact patterns which can be turned into capstone projects and both Karen McLead and Bob Schumaker indicated they had something to work with if we would provide them with a sample capstone project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p. m.