



MINUTES
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

May 9, 2022 (Zoom Online)

Members Present

Kenneth Afienko
Juan Amado
Rosanne Beck
Geoffrey Brown
Crystal Brown
Sara Brown
Trenton Campbell
Susan Demers
Michael DiBuono
Lynn Ernst
Jennifer Fee
Kathryn Gilbert

Michael Hughes
Dale Koning
William Lawson
Michelle Mann
Deborah McDonald
Robert Polk
Carol Rasor
Chris Riley
Michael Rios
Francis Rivera
Kevin Thomas
Jewel Wilson-Murphy
Jamal Williams

Members Excused

Kevin Thomas
Janie Staples

Others Present

Joe Benaivdes

Call to Order

Michelle Mann called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She welcomed the new and continuing members and requested they put their name and jobs into the chat pod. A brief video of the College President was presented to welcome all returning and new board members.

Agenda Items

Unfinished Business

Michael Hughes gave a description of our new Cyber Crimes BAS Program and the courses that go along with the program. There has been an elevated level of interest for this program. The Cyber Crimes BAS Program started in the Fall 2021. Michelle went on to discuss about us continuing to expand our Advisory Board Membership. She also discussed

hiring and training professionals so that we as an educational institution will know what agencies are looking for, but as we are also going through our curriculum and making changes; we want to make sure we are providing the skills and soft skills necessary for our students to be successful.

Program Updates

Michael Hughes, Department Chair, gave an overview of all College of Public Safety Programs. Michael Hughes also gave an overview of our student enrollment and graduation success rate along with the Ethnic success in enrollment and graduation. Michael Hughes gave a brief description on the number of students entering each one of the programs in Public Safety. Michael Hughes also gave an overview concerning our student retention rates.

Michelle Mann, Advisory Board Administrator, introduced and welcomed Francine Rivera, our Career Readiness Navigator. Francine went on to talk about the changes within the Career Services Department and how it will collaborate with the Advisory Board Committee. Francine informed us of the approval of House Bill 1507 which aims to create a system wide approach to the workforce development and education in the state of Florida. Francine mentioned there are several components to this bill, but the main goal is to encourage students to pursue degrees that are in high demand and to make sure students are career ready upon completing those programs. The goal is to collaborate with agencies at the local and federal level. Francine went on to discuss how the Career Services Department went through restructuring to make sure they are meeting the needs of our students while also generating Opportunities to them as students transition in the workforce.

Michelle introduced Michael DiBuono, Program Director of the Southeastern Public Safety Institute. Michael DiBuono gave a description of the Police, Corrections and EOT (Equivalency of Training) Academies and how enrollment is going with these programs.

Public Safety Events

Our Crime Scene program had an event back in March called the "Quiet Game of Murder." Tracy Garrett gave an information session and panel discussion online of the College of Public Safety. Crime Scene Technology had an Open House in September

New Business

Michelle introduced to the Committee our Dean, Dr. Susan Demers. Dr. Demers wanted to know from our committee who they thought are missing from our Board can they think of anyone from their agency who they could bring to our board to make it more successful. Dr. Demers went on to explain the definition of House Bill 1507. How this bill

is all about workforce education in the state of Florida. This bill is titled Career and technical Education for the future. The Florida Department of Education for the first time did a comprehensive audit of certificates offered across the state. One of the things that was found; our local agencies did not report our degrees and certificates as being valuable, but that it is valued in terms of higher wages. Dr. Demers asked for Committee members assistance if their agency offers an increase for training and for additional education, so that we can document and submit it to the state. Dr. Demers discussed the diverse types of degrees offered at the two year and four-year degree level.

Industry Updates & Discussion

Michelle Mann started a discussion on what are agencies looking for in employees based on their past experiences

1. Where and what is the profile of a good candidate?
2. Who works out well for them and what personal characteristics should a successful candidate have?
3. What does an agency need bases on knowledge, skills, and abilities?

Jewel Wilson-Murphy who is a Social Worker for Pinellas Safe Harbor a homeless shelter ran by Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. This program assists people into getting back into the community after being incarcerated for a extended period. Some people do not have a criminal background but end up in a homeless situation. This program helps get people back into the community as working abiding citizens.

Crystal Brown, Pinellas County Department of Corrections and Parole, is looking for interns to come and shadow the department from our public safety program. The qualities they are looking for are excellent report writing skills. Familiarizing themselves with the probation and parole system. The Department of Corrections would like to start a partnership with St. Peterburg College with the regard to interns. Michael Hughes mentioned that we do have the ability to set up an internship with our programs.

Michael Rios, one of our Adjunct Instructors and he also with the Fort Bend ISD Police Department. Michael explained how having a degree does benefit the students who go into law enforcement and how it would increase their pay. Michael also stated that having a Cyber Crimes Degree is in high demand within the Police Department.

Trenton Campbell wanted more information regarding our new Cyber Crime program and was excited to hear that this was online. Trenton would like flyers to pass out in Orlando. Flyers will be sent to Trenton through email.

Student Experience

Jenifer Fee who is returning to college students stated she likes the blended and face-to-face courses offered here at the college. She can complete the necessary course at her own pace.

Alexandra stated in the chat; she really appreciates the time and effort taken in expanding the program for it makes it easier and enjoyable for students.

Campus Updates

The college has a partnership with Bank of America assisting students with job placement. The college has a new Collegiate High School located at our Downtown Campus here in St. Petersburg. We also had our first face to face graduation ceremony since COVID at Tropicana Field with a great turnout. Michelle stated we have been nationally ranked as having the best online programs according to World report in the US News.

Open Discussion

Michael Hughes stated to the agencies that we are here to assist them. If there are any issues or concerns; they do not have to wait until the next advisory meeting. They encouraged to contact us anytime.

The link for the Advisory Board Appreciation Breakfast and the Advisory Board website posted in the chat by Sara Brown.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Note Taker: Sara Brown