

# ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

## Public Policy and Administration Baccalaureate Program

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### Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, September 16, 2016, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
Hilton Carillon Park Hotel – Conference Room

### MEETING MINUTES

#### IN ATTENDANCE

St. Petersburg College administration, advisory board members, faculty, staff, and students: Jeff Kronschnabl, Elizabeth Van Scoyoc, Sonya Walling, Donald Hall, Nick Zoller, Robert Pergolizzi, Micah Maxwell, Mecca Bellmore-Serfustini, and Theresa Kontodiakos.

Board members not in attendance: Brian J. Aungst, Frank Edmunds, Harry Gross, Ed Hooper, Dina Hyson, Andy Steingold, John E. Tuthill, Michael Waters, Rafael Murga, Sheryl Goff

#### WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. in Room Echelon within the Hilton Carillon Hotel's Conference Center.

#### PROGRAM REVIEW AND INFORMATION

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

- **Updates on Intro to Public Policy (PUP 3002) online class:**  
We launched our first online class, PUP 3002—Introduction to Public Policy, this fall 2016 semester. The online class is a need for individuals who cannot attend face to face. We will continue to grow to offer our program completely online. However, we will continue to offer our face to face classes for our students who need this format.
- **Public Policy & Administration Newsletter:** is sent out quarterly; Volume II, Issue II featured an article on Public Policy and Administration graduate Sane Haidara's mission to improve the quality of life and educational attainment for all citizens in his native country, Timbuktu. The newsletter also featured his graduation speech which was shown to board members on the monitor.

- **Florida City County Managers Association (FCCMA)** hosted its annual conference in Orlando – June 2, 2016. We had the honor of attending the conference as guests of FCCMA through our SPC-ICMA student chapter. Professor Jeff Kronschnabl and 8 students attended the event. Individual mentors were assigned upon arrival to guide the students throughout their day. The focus of the conference was how to hire and retain the brightest men and women in public service. Frank Murnst hosted the event and stressed that government is in great need of the next generation of leaders.
- **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. In addition, we have been working with various government entities on the topic of “Civil Citations” – updates on our participation were provided to board members.
- **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 for one year within the City of Seminole as part of their Public Policy Management Associate training program for the next 10 years. Public Policy graduate Sonya Walling was recently offered and has accepted this position.

**Presentation by Sonya Walling:** Sonya spoke about her experience with the Public Policy Management position for the City of Seminole for which she has been selected. She will begin her position within the next couple of weeks. She used her capstone at her interview and believes that it was one of the things that helped prepare her for taking this position. The City would like to make it a requirement for interviewees to present their capstone work product as a requirement for this position. Sonya will begin her internship with the city manager, Ann Toney-Deal, taking on some of her projects and will conclude the last part of her internship with Harry Cline in the Budget and Finance department.

She stated that the most valuable aspect of her experience within our program was her internship. She believes it should be a requirement for all Public Policy students because it helps prepare them for the real world. Board members also agreed that internships should be required. Professor Jeff Kronschnabl believes the public policy management associate model that City of Seminole has adopted works well and should be a national model.

Mecca Bellmore-Serfustini, former Public Policy Management Associate for Seminole, spoke of her experiences in her position with the City of Seminole and how it prepared her for the transition to her new position with the City of St. Pete Beach. Nick Zoller also spoke of his internship with Pinellas County's Communications Department which transitioned into a part-time and then full-time position as a Public Information Officer.

- **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. On April 13, 2016, we hosted Colonel Susan A. Ferrera, Director of Protocol, United States Air Force Central Command, MacDill A.F.B. – who shared her experiences and leadership perspectives from her 25-year career. On September 9, 2016, Jeff Kronschnabl and Elizabeth Van Scoyoc attended Colonel Susan's Ferrera's retirement ceremony at Mac Dill AFB. The ceremony was indeed very special. We are in the process of preparing for our next luncheon.
- **Meeting with Pinellas County Workforce, HR, and Marketing Department:** Mark Woodard contacted us and asked us to attend a meeting to discuss placing the next generation of leaders within Pinellas County government positions. Within the next two years Pinellas County will have 300 openings. We discussed a collaborative partnership between the county and our Public Policy and Administration program. We gave them our graduate portfolio (suggested by our advisory committee—thank you!) which includes graduate resumes and qualifications so they have the latest information on our graduates in this program.
- **Discussions/Suggestions:** If board members need a student for a project, please let our program know. The project could turn into an internship.
  - **Professor Jeff Kronschnabl posed the question: What do you think it would take to better improve our curriculum, student engagement, etc. and make a difference within our community?**

*Mr. Donald Hall's comments*—Departments work together quite well in our city. We are beginning to see more Slavic individuals in our community. We should get governments to formulate ideas to better serve this population. We need better representation in our community that mirrors our Clearwater population (e.g. Hispanic, Albanian/Slavic, and African American). We need people to bring ideas to keep government accountable and productive. New and fresh perspectives are beneficial to the community.

The best advice I can give you: Don't be afraid to present something to your supervisor. Be prepared to tell them the good and the bad. Identify pros and cons of the issue and present options. Verbal and written communication is so very important in public service. Public speaking is also crucial to effective communication.

*Terry K.*—mentioned that SACS accreditation is coming up. Perhaps we could use a student for this? She stated that student testimonials from graduates of our program are important to document.

*Nicholas Zoller* – has many research projects for our students and they could present their findings to the board. Projects could be used in a new course for PPA. Students would do a project and present their work and findings to the board of commissioners.

*Mecca Bellmore-Serfustini*—believes research and report projects are very important and could be done by Policy Leadership students.

*Sonya Walling*—focused on what can be done to keep the flow of students coming into our program and what the Board can do to work with the advising offices at each campus.

*Micah Maxwell*—stated that he wants students to be active in their local government to keep government accountable and to be prepared to consider others' ideas in order to bring their ideas together to come up with workable solutions. In addition, he stated that many city codes are out of date and need to be updated.

*Robert Pergolizzi*—encourages students to go witness our government in action. In regard to our community, improving Hispanic involvement is important and requires education, communication, and cooperation. It requires citizens to go and participate and witness local government at play...which can be difficult to do, especially with students who work two jobs.

- The 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.

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 11:20 a.m.

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