



MINUTES

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

11/19/21 – Microsoft Teams

Date of Meeting: 11/19/21

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Afify, Sandra Davis, Natasha Dickrell, Mike Englemann, Richard Gilbert, Amanda Gilleland, Irvin Kety, Rebecca Krischer, Natavia Middleton, Maura Scanlon

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Waunda Barcus, Marilyn Browne, Shea Dunifon, Samuel Henderson, Laurel Lynch, Sean Williams

CALL TO ORDER:

11/18/20 – 11:00 am by Amanda Gilleland

PREVIOUS MINUTES APPROVED:

Motion to approve 4/30/21 minutes made and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHAIR FOR ADVISORY BOARD 2022 - Amanda Gilleland asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be the Environmental Advisory Board Chair, and Sandra Davis volunteered to be the Chair for the 2022 year.

STUDENTS HIRED FROM SPC FOR THE CITY OF LARGO – Irv Kety announced that the City of Largo has recently hired two SPC Environmental Studies graduates to work for them in their Environmental Services Department in some Leadership Roles as Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators (trainees). He is very please and impressed with both of them and say they are both progressing nicely.

HOUSE BILL 1507 – Amanda Gilleland spoke about this House Bill regarding the new regulations that go with workforce related programs. The one that SPC is the most concerned about is the stipulation that says there should be a money back guarantee requiring school districts and Florida colleges to refund the cost of tuition back to students who are not able to find a job within six months of completing a program. It is SPC's understanding they are allowing the colleges to choose which programs they want to include in the refund offer. It is something we really need to be thinking about and it makes our networking, internships and employment all the more important.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

HOW COVID 19 HAS AFFECTED THE COLLEGE (SPRING – FALL) – Amanda Gilleland spoke about how a good majority of our classes are either Online or LiveOnline this semester. However, in the spring we are hoping to have about 15-20% more on-campus classes. We are hoping for overall better enrollment, but specifically we are looking for ways to try and attract students back to campus. Since the pandemic when all the students had to move to online classes, they all seem to have adjusted to them and even embraced them, therefore choosing to not return to the campuses. SPC has tried to offer Blended classes (which are a combination of on-campus and online meetings) to try and ease students back to the campuses. Amanda also spoke about adding a banner to our SPC page that informed students they can save up to \$500 a year in tuition if they took on-campus classes versus online classes because online classes have an additional lab fee attached to them. Amanda asked to Board to let her know if any of them have any ideas on how to get the students back to campus to let her know.

CAREER OUTREACH SPECIALIST:

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATION INFORMATION Teresa Afify shared some marketing materials that highlight the benefits that SPC brings to the community. The chart shows in 2019-2020 our students and alumni added 1.2 billion dollars to the county. Also, Theresa pointed out that within the Florida College system, the average entry level earnings is \$44,000, whereas for SPC the average entry level earnings is just about \$51,000. The materials also show that SPC annually services 43,000 credit and non-credit students both in person and online with students from all over the country. Another slide shows that the average age of SPC students is 25 and older with 73% of our students attending part-time. Theresa then transitioned into the Environmental Program specifics, she spoke about the drop in enrollment from 84 students in the program last fall to 60 this fall. This decrease in enrollment is something the entire college in every program is dealing with.

A breakdown for the two sub-plans that are no longer being offered;

Sustainability Management – there are two students remaining

Environmental Resources and Energy Management – there are two students remaining

A breakdown for the sub-plans/certificates that we are still offering;

Environmental Resource Conservation – there are 35 students in this sub-plan

Water Resource Management – there are 25 students in this sub-plan

Water Quality Tech – there is one student in the certificate program (persons seeking this certificate are not coded as being in the program – they are listed as a certificate seekers)

Theresa also mentioned a few events that they offered this semester to try and get students, the first one she spoke about is the Boot Camp Series – which was for all students to come in and learn about resumes, cover letter writing, the power of handshakes, our virtual job platform, hire SPC Titans, do some mock interviews, elevator pitch and more all in order to get them ready for future career fairs hosted by SPC hosted during the fall. The signature event for CAC (Career and Academic Community) was SPC's Night with Science last week. At this event there were eight industry tables and three college tables with the Keynote speaker being retired NASA astronaut Nicole Stott. The event received excellent feedback from the attendees who found the industry representatives the best part.

INTERNSHIPS - Theresa spoke about the Internship Position, which was vacated by Jacob Wartock when he was promoted to Director of Recruitment Services. She was hoping to be able to announce his replacement, but they have not hired someone yet. In the meantime she will be filling in. She reminded everyone to let her know if they have any opportunities for students (job, internships, etc) in addition to posting it on Hire SPC Titans.

CLOSING BUSINESS:

SAVE THE DATE – the Water Festival at the St. Pete Pier will be March 5th, 2022 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING – Has not been scheduled but will be either late April or early May.

MEETING ADJOURNED.