

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Minutes of Meeting

DATE/TIME: March 24, 2017

LOCATION: SPC Seminole Campus, LI 203

ATTENDEES: Paul Cozzie, Ivy Drexler, Rick Gilbert, Amanda Gilleland, Kelli Levy, Maura Scanlon, Patricia West, Jacob Wortock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Campbell, Ray Gorman, Irvin Kety, George Kish, James Kostka, Trisha Nixon

DATE ISSUED: March 29, 2017

The following is a recap of the items discussed and agreed upon at the meeting regarding the SPC Environmental Science Technology Advisory Committee. This is a summary of the writer's interpretation of the meeting. Unless advised in writing to the contrary, it is assumed that those in attendance are in agreement with the statements as set forth and work will proceed on this basis. If you have clarifications you wish to make, please contact Maura Scanlon via e-mail at scanlon.maura@spcollege.edu or telephone at 727-394-6947. Thank you.

Item No.	Description or Comments
1	<i>Welcome</i> – Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the meeting was brought to order by Maura Scanlon at approximately 11:35am, as Chairperson Irv Kety was not in attendance
2	<i>Approval of April Minutes</i> - Approval of September 2016 meeting minutes by Paul Cozzie, seconded by Amanda Gilleland
3	<i>Old Business & Updates</i> – Maura Scanlon provided updates and recent photos of the construction of the Bay Pines STEM Center, it is slated to have classes scheduled for that location starting Fall 2017
4	Students earned RCRA certifications and FEMA in the Hazmat course this past fall, and 17 students became FDEP qualified stormwater inspectors through training and the Muddy Water Blues Event held on the Seminole campus in Feb.
5	Articulation of Lakewood High School will be revisited, as James Kostka is taking a new position and leaving the program – as of right now, and the Lakewood HS is looking to fill his position.
6	<i>Environmental Science Technology Program Updates</i> Maura reviewed highlights of the Comprehensive Academic Program Review, including enrollment, student preference for online courses, graduation rates, and employment rates for graduates of the program. While student success rate (passing rates for classes) has been high, the college is seeking to have more completions / graduations of students moving forward.
7	Maura provided information on how subplans for the program are being updated; while the water subplan will remain intact, the other two subplans will be combined into one, Natural Resources Conservation, so the overall AS program will then only have two subplans – these changes would be effective earliest Jan 2018 for new student to the program – this will allow for increased enrollment and flexibility in the specialized subplan course schedule, hopefully leading to an increase in completion and graduation rates

8	When the advisory board was asked for input on the changes, and the possibility of integrating a curricular credit certification within the AS program, the overall input was industry certification would be more valuable and recognizable to employers
9	Rick Gilbert informed the committee there has been considerable growth in the solar industry in FL, and should be increasing even more as the year progresses – applicable certifications would include NABCEP (N. Amer. Bd. Of Certified Energy Practitioners), and energy auditing certifications. LEED and OSHA certifications also are widely recognized. Patricia West concurred, as Duke Energy has a number of solar projects upcoming this year. Patricia also suggested looking into UF TREEO Center for other certification options.
10	Rick Gilbert also suggested to increase enrollment and completion rates to advertise and highlight certifications that can articulate with the degree
11	Kelli Levy added Wetlands Certification would be desirable, and also emphasized that GIS skills are becoming a standard in the environmental field, similar to basic knowledge of word processing and spreadsheet programs. She suggested while GIS certification may not be an option for the AS students (it tends to be a Master’s level program) – students may be able to become GIS practitioners with a certain skill set.
12	Kelli also added Pinellas County had secured funds from the EPA and a grant-funded PT position in the field of water quality/sea grass monitoring will be opening up
13	Ivy Drexler provided information about the need for operational staff, entry-level positions in the water industry – Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Plant has started an educational program to highlight opportunities in the industry
14	Ivy also provided information about the upcoming FL Water Resources Conference in West Palm April 23-26
15	Paul Cozzie, Kelli, Ivy and Rick all agreed a valuable certification would be project management, and advocated the need for soft skills in students – effective communication skills, ability to discern when to communicate via phone or email, and customer service skills
16	Jacob Wortock advised of the programs and workshops career services offers, but since these tend of be voluntary events, they are not always well attended by students. He advised SPC can look at ways to improve some of these skills prior to registering for their co-op/internship. Maura also advised the SPC Chapter of the TBAEP is also working towards preparing students for the workforce by addressing these soft skills
17	<i>Upcoming Events</i> Jacob advised of the Explore SPC event on 3/30 where potential students can find out more about the programs we offer and application fee is waived, and also the upcoming Public Utilities event on 4/26.
18	Meeting adjourned approximately 12:45pm