

# ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Public Policy and Administration Baccalaureate Program

---

---

## Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Seminole Campus Room TL 108

### MEETING MINUTES

#### IN ATTENDANCE

St. Petersburg College administration, advisory board members, faculty, students and staff: Rafael Murga, Chris Harper, Mecca Bellmore, Robert Pergolizzi, Elizabeth Van Scoyoc, Dina Hyson, Donald Hall, Jeff Kronschnabl, Jason Hall, Niki Johnson, Nicholas Zoller, Matthew McCann, Earl Fratus, Donna Smith

#### WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. in Room #108 within the TL building on the Seminole Campus.

#### PROGRAM REVIEW AND INFORMATION

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

- **Updates on Alumni Association:** status was provided on launching our Public Policy & Administration Alumni Association – where we plan to go with updating our graduate surveys, etc.
- **Public Policy & Administration Newsletter:** Sent out quarterly; a check was made to make sure every advisory committee member was receiving our newsletter. One was not and we will make this correction.
- **Florida City County Managers Association (FCCMA)** will be hosting its annual conference in Orlando – June 1, 2016. We have the honor of attending their conference as guests of FCCMA. Professor Jeff Kronschnabl, Administrative Specialist Elizabeth Van Scoyoc and 8 students have been registered as of this date. Individual mentors will

be assigned upon arrival to guide the students throughout their day. Professional dress and business cards will be required of our students.

- **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 efforts was 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 within the City of Seminole as part of their government associate training program
  - **Presentation by Mecca Bellmore:** began position in August 2015 in the Fire Department and will transition through three more city departments during her time in this position. Right now she is working on ISO (Insurance Service Office) requirements, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) compliance, researching and submitting several grants, and will be working on accreditation renewal soon. She will also be working on performance evaluations so they can be added to the upcoming budget. Ms. Bellmore is receiving excellent evaluations. We are very proud of her. She recently accepted a full time position with the St. Pete Beach. We are in the process of working out the logistics for interviewing and hiring of the next “Business Associate” student from our program.
- **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. We are working on getting a high-level female speaker for our Series as we have only had one woman come to speak to our students with her husband (both judges). Immediately following our board meeting today we will head over to Seminole Campus Conference Center for a presentation by Colonel Susan A. Ferrera, Director of Protocol, United States Air Force Central Command, MacDill A.F.B. – who will share her experiences and leadership perspectives from her 25-year career.
- **Rafael Murga:** Graduated this past summer 2015; worked for Tech Data in Commerce and is looking forward to helping us work to bring our program online with the “signature pieces that make it what it is.”
- **Presentation by Chris Harper:** SPC video was played featuring Chris Harper’s success story with the Pinellas County Sports Commission. He started as an intern while in the

PPA program and now works full-time with the Sports Commission as a Marketing Manager. Ready Set Rio marketing video was shown to the committee; it promotes the Olympic training and elite training destination in Oldsmar, one of three training sites for athletes.

- **Presentation by Matthew McCann** – graduate student who is now employed as research analyst for Dr. Bill Law, President of St. Petersburg College
- **Internships:** Board members all concur that internships are a must and crucial to the success of every Public Policy student. Some also agreed that an internship probably should be required in the program.
- **Earl Fratus, Director of SPC’s Honor Program** – offered his support and will be working with us to engage some of the honor’s program students into Public Policy & Administration program
- **Curriculum changes:** two of our elective courses have been approved as core courses beginning Fall/2016 in lieu of transferring two of our core courses to elective course status. The changes are:
  - **COM 3120 Organizational Communications** (moved from core to electives)
  - **HUS 4561 Social Problems and Policy** (moved from core to electives)
  - **POS 3235 Mass Media and Public Policy** (moved from electives to core)
  - **PUP 3823 Emergency and Crisis Communications** (moved from electives to core)
- **Discussions/Suggestions:**
- Internships should be mandatory.
- Program will have an online alternative to accommodate more single parents who work and cannot make it to the classroom. Likewise, public safety workers need the online format. Virtual classrooms were suggested for distance learners; Webex is already built in to the budget for this. Hosted live lecture and/or lectures posted online.
- 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: 25 a.m.

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

