

USF St. Petersburg Town and Gown

Minutes of Meeting - Friday, January 22, 2021

TEAMS Virtual Meeting

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Ashley Gairing, President, called the Winter Meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. She welcomed everyone to Town and Gown's first ever virtual meeting. After thanking all for their unwavering support, she introduced the current officers (see below). She added that the meeting would be recorded and the link provided so that members could share with others in the community. (See Addendum for the link.)

INTRODUCTION OF PROGRAM

(In deference to the schedules of our distinguished guest speakers, the session order has been reversed in our virtual settings for 2021. Program will be first, followed by Business.)

Dawn Sumner, 1st Vice President – Programs, introduced Martin Tadlock, Ph.D., Regional Chancellor.

PRESENTATION

Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock gave an illuminating update on campus progress. He was recently tasked by local legislators to identify academic verticals/themes that could be unique to the USF St. Petersburg campus. Distinctive areas would promote opportunities for strategic growth and continued excellence. In concert with our Master Academic Plan, these interdisciplinary Academic Clusters are proposed:

- Environmental and Oceanographic Sciences, Technology and Sustainability
- STEM Education
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Business
- Health Sciences

At present, there is no timeline for implementing these distinctive Academic Clusters. Collaborative discussion is ongoing and promising.

Dr. Tadlock gave a summary of current academic life. The remodel of Davis Hall's second floor is completed and looks stunning. The Nest (dining area) in Osprey Hall is now open and guests are welcome. Students may choose from several teaching modalities: in-person, hybrid, or 100% online courses. This pattern will likely continue through the summer. There are currently 975 beds in our residence halls. 325 students are currently living on campus. The Support-A-Bull Market is a life-line for our students - hearty thanks to Town and Gown members for your dedicated partnership. Our Full-Time in College Student (FTIC) goal for Fall 2021 is 650. We are optimistic, despite the ongoing pandemic. Our campus community continues to be vigilant regarding covid regulations. In conclusion, Dr. Tadlock reminded everyone that he welcomes feedback and questions. He greatly appreciates the enduring support of Town and Gown.

BUSINESS MEETING

Introduction of Guests: President Ashley Gairing asked members to introduce their guests.

1st Vice President's Report – Programs: Dawn Sumner said that Town and Gown aims to provide interesting programs albeit on the virtual platform. Suggestions for speakers or topics may be given to Alexis Searfoss. Questions for Dr. Tadlock may also be forwarded to her. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 12 at 11:00 am via Teams. Guest speaker is Dr. Tom Frazer, Dean and Professor, USF College of Marine Science.

2nd Vice President's Report – Membership: Howard Rutherford reported that there are currently 56 paid members. A big thanks to all! He noted that this number is down from 71 in April 2020. Of course, the pandemic and change in the membership renewal period are contributing factors. He encouraged us to invite friends to our next virtual meetings to give them a taste of Town and Gown. Current membership year is: Nov. 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Stanton shared that Town and Gown's prior balance was \$9,151.58. She gave a detailed explanation of debits and credits since then. The current balance is \$5,749.39. Anyone who has questions about the treasury may contact Alexis Searfoss.

*(Note: **Minutes of Meeting** for 1.24.2020 presented by **Secretary Sudsy Tschiderer** were previously approved by membership in October 2020.)*

Old Business: Gairing reported for the Awards Committee that \$4500 was given to the Stay Afloat Program and \$4500 to the Support-A-Bull Market. These Town and Gown Awards profoundly impact students' ability to continue their education.

New Business: A new Chair for the Awards Committee is needed this year. Gairing asks that interested persons contact her or Searfoss.

Thanks to Maria Rawls for her work as chair of the Town and Gown Nominating Committee Rachael Russell DeVicente, Town and Gown Advisor and Immediate Past President, serves as Chair this year. She plans to provide a slate for membership vote at the April 16 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ashley Gairing adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 12, 2021 with Dr. Thomas Frazer, Dean and Professor, USF College of Marine Science

*Respectfully submitted,
Sudsy Tschiderer, Secretary*

ADDENDUM

- **LINK TO REGIONAL CHANCELLOR'S RECORDED PRESENTATION:**
bit.ly/WinterTGPresentation
- **SCREEN SHOT OF VIRTUAL MEETING – Just for fun!**



If you would like a copy of the presentation slides provided to you, please reach out to Alexis Searfoss.

TOWN AND GOWN LIAISON: Alexis Searfoss
Associate Director of Constituent Relations
asearfoss@usf.edu
(727) 873-4519