

USF St. Petersburg Town and Gown

Minutes of Meeting - Friday, January 24, 2020

Harbor Hall, Community Room

CALL TO ORDER

Rachael Russell DeVicente, president, called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m., after the buffet lunch was served. She introduced **Dr. Martin Tadlock**, USFSP Regional Chancellor.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Dr. Tadlock invited members to get to know USFSP folks in the session – all are happy to share information about USFSP and student success. He presented campus news:

- USFSP fall-to-spring retention rate is at a record-breaking 95%— that means 95% of the students who started here in the Fall term have stayed with us to the Spring term. Five years ago, it was 90%.
- USFSP's academic progress rate stands at 88%. This is a measurement of how many students are advancing with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Five years ago, it was 79%.
- Research awards are increasing. Two years ago, USFSP received \$4.7 million. Last year, it was \$6.2 million. Right now, USFSP is at \$16.8 million and it is only mid-way through the academic year.
- The Armed Forces Families Foundation's \$125,000 gift is providing funds for needed improvements for our campus Veterans Center.
- Dr. Kemesha Gabbidon, a post-doctoral fellow at USF St. Petersburg, received a \$70,000 research grant that will target the multiple stigmas surrounding HIV in Tampa Bay with the goal of increasing health screenings and diminishing the spread of the disease.
- A hearty thank you to Town and Gown for its key role in nurturing the Support-A-Bull pantry. Members truly make an impact with ongoing support of USFSP in so many ways, including donations totaling \$116,000 to date to various campus programs. Everyone contributes to student success. Check out the Graphic Arts in HBR – we aim to become the signature GA program in the southeastern USA.
- Osprey is the name of our newest residence hall while the other two housing buildings will be redubbed Ibis and Pelican. Campus labs in STG are slated for renovation soon. Davis Hall's second floor is currently undergoing a much-needed remodeling.
- USFSP's online MBA program was cited as one of the top 25 in the country. The prestigious *Princeton Review* ranked USFSP 24 out of more than 110 programs reviewed across the nation

- Upcoming campus events, among many: Diversity & Inclusion Conference (Feb. 1); Bay-to-Bay Symposium (Feb.1); and St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs (Feb. 18-21).
- College of Education graduate Heather Phillips was recently named Hernando County Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Pine Grove Elementary School.

In closing, Dr. Tadlock reported that the USF consolidation document is due on March 15. He reminded us that this is a long process and our campus remains focused on our priorities.

BUSINESS MEETING

Introduction of Guests: Russell DeVicente asked members to introduce their guests.

Approval of Minutes (4/26/2019): Sudsy Tschiderer presented the minutes submitted by Dawn Sumner, past secretary. Moved to accept, seconded by Susan Gordon.

1st Vice President's Report – Programs: Russell DeVicente introduced today's speaker, Dr. Erica Heinsen-Roach, for Ashley Gairing (who was unable to attend).

2nd Vice President's Report – Membership: Dawn Sumner reported that there are currently 71 members. She added that we encourage friends to consider joining. Remember, 100% of the membership fee goes to USFSP.

Treasurer's Report: Judy Stanton stated that Town and Gown's treasury currently has \$7766.02. She reminded us that Town & Gown has given USFSP projects \$116,000 to date. Anyone who has questions about the treasury may see the report at her table.

Old Business: Russell DeVicente added that USFSP is an invaluable part of the community and it is important to support its excellent work.

New Business: None presented.

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Russell DeVicente welcomed **Dr. Erica Heinsen-Roach**, Visiting Professor of History from USFSP's Department of History & Politics. She "specializes in the history of early modern Europe and the Mediterranean with an emphasis on the Dutch Republic." Her book, *Consuls and Captives: Dutch-North African Diplomacy in the Early Modern Mediterranean* was published in 2019. Dr. Heisen-Roach spoke on pirates and privateers, the emergence of maritime law, and the impact of piracy on trade. She shared stories of several pirates, including the Barbarossa brothers and Mary Read. A particularly interesting topic was the self-rule and democracy aboard pirate ships.

ADJOURNMENT

Russell DeVicente adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Next meeting: Friday, March 20, 11:30 a.m., with speaker **Dr. Gary Mitchum**, Associate Dean, College of Marine Science.

Respectfully submitted,
Sudsy Tschiderer
Secretary