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USGS, USF boost local growth

City promotes marine science and USGS on its website

Stephen Fairchild
Contributing Writer

It may seem odd for a city Web site to make a big deal about a local college program, but that is exactly what St. Petersburg is doing.

St. Petersburg’s Web site tout USF’s marine science program as one of the city’s “new economy industries.”

The synergistic relationship among the city, US. Geological Survey and the USF marine science program is not coincidental.

“Collaboration with other organizations is the key to continuous development of the campus,” said Martin J. Normile, an assistant to William Helier, campus executive officer and vice president of USF St. Petersburg. “It is also good for the economic development of downtown St. Petersburg,” he said.

“USGS is a very important part of our graduate program,” said Peter Betzer, the dean of USF’s College of Marine Science. There are additional academic opportunities for USF students because USGS has charged its original geology focus to more interdisciplinary sciences, Betzer said.

USGS provides professional scientific expertise in the graduate students, said Betzer. “It is a very important part of our program,” he said. A recent graduate student could not have prepared her thesis without the resources of USGS, he added.

The building in which USGS has been housed since 1989 was once tired and rat-infested, Betzer said. But now, he predicts the planned expansion of USGS will make it the top USGS center in the Southeast United States.

To Lisa Robbins, team chief scientist at USGS, the cooperative relationship between each organization suits her well, too. “All of us seem to be in tune with each other’s needs,” she said.

USGS has about 100 employees, said Patricia Mullan, administrative officer at USGS. USGS hired USF graduates, and has provided paid internships and graduate assistantships, Mullan said.

Meg Palmsten, a recent graduate of USF’s marine science program, began work as a contracted employee at USGS last May. Her master’s thesis studied the influence waves have on beach erosion.

Palmsten spoke about Hurricane Dennis to illustrate. Although Dennis came ashore North Carolina in 1999 as a tropical storm, it sat offshore as a hurricane for approximately a week causing considerable erosion. Her goal is to have the capability to predict the potential erosion of a storm such as Dennis, she said.

An important, behind-the-scenes player in this cooperative relationship is the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership. The non-profit group of citizens, property owners and businesses seek to stimulate the city’s economic growth.

Please see USGS, 6

New mission statement to unite campuses

By Cindy Steinmann
Contributing Writer

University of South Florida’s mission statement ignited ideas and responses at a Davis Hall meeting of 75 faculty, students, staff and residents.

Nov. 26, 2001, with five members from her 14-member task force, USF President Judy Genshaft held a town hall meeting to discuss USF values, vision, mission and goals coupled with the concept of campus identity.

A mission statement must be summarized into a few “crisp and concise lines” to be effective, Genshaft said.

By mid-December, the Task Force must present a finished planning document “to bring focus to the diverse activities of a large and comprehensive university,” Genshaft said.

Referring to her Oct. 2 community letter, Genshaft said she wants to “…determine our mission as a metropolitan Doctoral/Research-Extensive (Florida Research 1) university.”

USF is one of the nation’s largest and comprehensive research universities, she said. USF has a major impact on the development of Florida and the Tampa Bay region in three areas: economics, education and culture. “Part of our mission is to involve the communities,” she said. “One of our goals is to move toward greater economic self-reliance.”

How the university uses its financial resources is the critical benchmark, she said. Programs without a Ph.D. level will not suffer in funding and staff, she said.

The Board of Trustees needs to be able to separate campuses through identity and mission to spotlight the required funds, she said.

The mission statement modification is a common practice in all types of organizations for future direction and identity. Since 1999, USF St. Petersburg had its own mission statement secured by a foundation of core values that evolved from its heritage. The mission is to enhance existing programs and develop new ones to accommodate the rapidly growing student and community educational needs, it says.

“Our number one identity is that USF St. Petersburg is the most invitational campus,” Vice President and Chief

Please see MISSION, 7

Highlights:
Ties to NY
Student remembers WTC attack site-5

Highlights: Mexico race
USF sailors get trip to remember-8

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ST. PETERSBURG — Three tree-like alien creatures hovered briefly over the back lawn of the USF-Petersburg campus Monday.

A campus staffer photographed these strange and seemingly peaceful creatures Monday after classes and exams had been completed. This is the first confirmed photograph of alien beings ever published.

The rules are simple and the strategies to do this, is to simply walk around the lot for any common sense. I probably walked as long as 5 minutes, just enjoy the scenery.

Faint hints of mating display. We also know that they wear pointy-shaped objects on what we presume to be their heads. We have no idea what this means, but we will know before our research is complete.

AHP” (Alien Housing Project).

This was my opportunity.

AHP” (Alien Housing Project).

I figured that parking was one of the things that annoyed me the most, so I decided it would be through that realm that my revenge would come.

An alien tree-like being near ground at USF St. Petersburg campus.

The only problem with this is you don't always get to look at peoples' faces while you scramble between the rows of cars. This, in turn, minimizes your overall enjoyment. Watching the look of helplessness drain from a person's face as you pass by a row of cars is priceless, and not to be something that is missed. Sometimes you have to wait it out.

I went, people would follow without using any common sense. I probably walked around the lot for 20 minutes, just enjoying the scenery.

In making first contact, Arsenault explained, it is “extremely important” that “we do not insult them as fellow inhabitants of the galaxy. Just because in our narrow experiences we think they look like what we on earth know as ‘trees’ doesn’t mean that we should call them ‘trees.’”

Dr. Jay Black, head of the new GEC (Global Ethics Council), agreed. “We don’t have a clue what the little boogers are,” Black said. “And our mission of stewardship includes the tree-like, too.”

Dr. Mike Killenberg, head of the new ANB (Alien News Bureau), warned against stereotyping. “These beings are unique,” he said, “and their voices should be heard in the world community. Just because they are tree-like doesn’t mean they are trees.”

It was hilarious to me. No matter where I went, people would follow without using any common sense. I probably walked around the lot for 20 minutes, just enjoying the comedy.

From this experience I have added a new item to the list of extracurricular activities at USF.

It is called “Parking Lot Manhunt.” The rules are simple and the strategies are varied. The first, and most effective way to do this, is to simply walk around the parking lot with your keys in your hand. This will maximize your potential victim list and it will give you a fine workout, too.

The only problem with this is you don't always get to look at peoples' faces while you scramble between the rows of cars. This, in turn, minimizes your overall enjoyment. Watching the look of helplessness drain from a persons face as you pass by a row of cars is priceless, and not to be something that is missed. Sometimes you have to wait it out.

The second method is walking directly to your car during a busy time of the day. Once you “hook” at least two cars and get them to follow you, open your door and sit down in your car. Start the car, turn on the radio, smoke a cigarette, make a phone call, or, God forbid, you can even study.

Please see PARKING, 8
Al-Arian fired for disrupting USF

Statement of USF President Judy Genshaft, Dec. 19, 2001

In the hours since the Board of Trustees adjourned this morning, I have reviewed Mr. Gonzalez's report in light of concerns raised by trustees, faculty and the university community.

I have discussed these issues with the provost, vice presidents and deans of the university, distinguished professors, the president of the United Faculty of Florida, legislators, the Florida Board of Education, students, staff, alumni, community leaders and other supporters of our institution.

After reflection on the events of the full, the information presented to the board today and the counsel of many people, I have come to a conclusion about the fundamental question of how much disruption the university must endure because of the manner in which a professor exercises his right to express political and social views that are outside the scope of his employment.

Academic freedom is revered at USF. We understand that our scholars must be free to pursue ideas in their academic field wherever they may lead, without fear of political reprimand if they express disturbing ideas. All of us who accept the responsibility of university leadership understand our professors sometimes spark controversy in their research and teaching.

If this were about the freedom accorded faculty in their research and teaching, we would be honor-bound to fight to protect academic freedom. As our collective bargaining agreement with the faculty and the American Association of University Professors principles make clear, academic freedom protects the pursuit of ideas in a faculty member's field of academic expertise.

I have discussed these issues with the Provost, Vice Presidents and deans of the university and the council of many community leaders and other supporters of our institution.

The reports to the board today indicated the extent to which this situation continues to disrupt the affairs of the university. This controversy over Dr. Al-Arian is consuming resources of many divisions of the university, and based on information presented to trustees today, it will continue to do so as long as the current arrangement continues. The university police advise that we cannot guarantee the safety of Dr. Al-Arian and students, faculty and staff around him if he were back on campus.

After much thought, I have come to the sad conclusion that if Dr. Al-Arian remains an employee of the university, the certainty of prolonged disruption of the university and the continuing threat to our students, faculty and staff is profoundly real.

Therefore, I have instructed our office of academic affairs to notify Dr. Al-Arian of the university's intention to terminate his employment. A letter was delivered to his home this afternoon. He will have 10 days in which to respond.

I would like to thank Chairwoman Judy Genshaft and the board for their support and dedication to this university's continuing development as a major research university.

Although there are many opinions about this action, I am confident that the board, the faculty, the students and the staff will retain our unity of purpose for this institution: building a great University of South Florida to support the development of the Tampa Bay Region, Florida, the United States and the world.

Text of notice of intent to terminate sent to Dr. Al-Arian via hand-delivered, certified mail:

Dear Dr. Al-Arian:

This is to provide you with notice of our intent to terminate your employment with the University of South Florida. This termination is a disciplinary action that will be taken under the terms of Article 16 of the BOR-UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) currently in force.

Since September 26, 2001 and continuing to the present, you, off campus conduct has caused disruption to the University. This disruption has been caused and/or heightened by your failure to abide by the provisions of the CBA with respect to academic responsibility.

Specifically, you have violated Article 5, Section 15(d) of the CBA by failing to contribute to the orderly and effective functioning of your department, your college and of the university. Finally, you have violated the provisions of Article 19, Section 19.3 by engaging in activities that place your private interest in conflict with the public interests of the university.

We have assembled a number of documents that address your actions, the disruption that your actions have caused to the University, the impact of your actions on the University, and legal interpretations pertaining thereto. These appear as attachments to this Notice of Intent.

Your failure to abide by the responsibilities and obligations made incumbent on you as a member of the faculty have

Please see FIRING,
Selected highlights of Sami Al-Arian wants to return

By Aya Batarwiy

Contributing Writer

USF professor Sami Al-Arian said he knows little about former colleagues' connections to militant Palestinian groups, and has no connections with terrorism despite a past working relationship with at least one current member of Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Sami Al-Arian, professor of computer engineering at USF Tampa, was put on paid leave following inflammatory comments he made on The O'Reilly Factor, a television news program. USF President Judy Genshaft sent out a letter addressed to students and alumni on September 28th. In it's opening paragraph the letter stated, "We [USF] are compelled to write and let you know what actions we are taking to help out students and classes," he said.

Al-Arian also works with students outside the university. He assists students at the Islamic Academy of Florida, a private, accredited Islamic school. The school provides all major subjects and electives but also teaches Islam and Arabic as courses.

Al-Arian's students, he said, seemed resigned to the results of the controversy. "They understand that we are victims of bias and stereotypes. The older students have a much better understanding."

The professor also said that his own children are extremely saddened, but on the other hand it gives them a spark to fight for civil rights. "They are determined to reach out," he said. All of his children were born in the United States.

In the early 1990s, a professor from Harvard published a thesis titled "Clash of Civilization" mostly between Islam and the Western World. In a response to this thesis Al-Arian helped create World and Islam Studies Enterprise, also called WISE, in 1991. The goal was to bring understanding between Western and Middle-Eastern thought.

There was to be a roundtable discussion between Muslim intellectuals from all over the Middle East and some 25 intellectual Western ideologists. "We believe in civilization dialogue," he said. The series was to begin its writing in Washington, but by then the Gulf War was beginning to mobilize.

Shortly after, the sponsors withdrew their support for the project. The series was then moved to Tampa and was completed by the mid-90s. According Al-Arian, critics of the project were in opposition to the idea because it "would bring balance to a biased party that is anti-Islam."

What O'Reilly and many others found suspicious was that Shahh, who left USF in 1995 and is now a Jihad militant in former Palestine, took part in the project. Al-Arian said Shahh helped with some translations, and apart from that was never very vocal or politically active in Tampa.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1996 searched WISE under suspicion that it may have some extremist ties with militant groups in Israel.

The investigator who interviewed and conducted the case, William Smith, concluded in 1996 that: "The purpose and activities of WISE that have been established are entirely legitimate and that

Please see Al-Arian, 8

Bayboro Fiction Contest

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Any University of South Florida student who is registered full or part time.

ENTRIES: One previously unpublished short story of 2000 words or less. Entries should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8 X 11 inch paper.

Do not include your name on the manuscript pages. Instead, attach a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, campus, your major and the title of your story. Only the title of your story and page number should appear on each page. Retain a copy as mailed copies will not be returned.

DEADLINE: January 10, 2002

Submit your entry to:
Fiction Contest c/o Niela Eliason
636 15th Avenue Northeast
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

Questions? Call Niela: (727) 823-4877

First Prize $250 Second Prize $100 Third Prize $100

January 9 - Spring 2002
the 2001 fall semester

WTC attacks too close to home

By Krisite Martinez
Contributing Writer

The last thing Joe Flynn expected was to be awakened on a Tuesday morning, almost two weeks after leaving New York, to hear the buildings he once knew so well had crumbled to the ground.

Flynn, 21, used to be able to walk down his block or look out his window to see the New York City skyline.

The attack on America Sept. 11 not only took the World Trade Center and the lives of numerous people, it took a piece of Flynn's heart.

Flynn's father used to work on the 82nd floor of World Trade Center 1 (North Tower) as a broker. Flynn grew up around his father's co-workers.

"My dad used to play for the Japanese baseball league," Flynn said. "A lot of the guys he worked with played on a team. I was always at the games, so I'd be the bat boy. They gave me my own little uniform."

Flynn visited the World Trade Center regularly during and after high school, stopping by after his internship at the Federal Reserve.

"I used to go up to the World Trade Center after [work] every day," Flynn said. "I would catch up with my dad and hang around his office until he went home. I probably knew eight guys on that floor that I'd talk to every time I was there."

Even after Flynn's internship was over, he stopped frequently in the World Trade Center mall and would go upstairs to visit his friends on the 31st and 82nd floors.

Flynn said his father has been unable to contact any of his former co-workers since the attack.

"I just think about all the people that worked there, even the guy in the mail room," Flynn said. "A lot of faces that I've seen, they just kind of come back now. I think, what about the guy that used to run the elevators, you know? Is he all right?"

Over the past two years, Flynn has lived part-time in New York with his father and two brothers and part-time in Florida. He recently decided to attend school at USF St. Petersburg, close to his father's family.

"I wanted to get away and go somewhere where I could concentrate on school," he said. "If I was in New York City, I wouldn't be able to concentrate. [Florida] was kind of a window for me to try to get out on my own."

After signing up for two classes, Flynn's plan was set. He contemplated majoring in psychology and literature, remembering how his father often told him communication skills were essential.

Flynn recalls that fateful Tuesday morning just as clearly as his father's words.

"My uncle woke me up and he said, 'The World Trade Centers are gone!' And I was like, 'Yeah right, whatever,' " Flynn said. "At that point, I still thought I was dreaming. I jumped out of bed and went to the TV and I saw the video of the plane hitting the building and it seemed like nothing was real at that moment, like it was a movie."

The day was destined to make the pages of history books. The military was put on its highest alert. Flights over the country were grounded. MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa increased security while theme parks like Walt Disney World and Busch Gardens evacuated visitors.

USF Tampa closed followed by the St. Petersburg campus. Millions spent the day on their couches watching the hit-and-run rampage.

Flynn had no time to watch the southern sky after learning his ties to New York were killed. That same day, he decided to apply for accreditation separate from the Tampa-accredited School of Mass Communications.

"If you lived there, the city is such a big part of you," he said. "It's the people that you know and it's the people that you don't know that make the city what it is."

And like so many others shaken by the attack, Flynn knows he has to heal and move on.

Students at USF have been supportive of Flynn after learning his ties to New York. "It helps a lot to know that thousands of miles from home, people here support me," he said.

Information for this article was taken from the St. Petersburg Times.

Independent accreditation sought

By Cindy Steinmann
Contributing Writer

Vice President William Heller was one of three dead reclassified as a vice president, a move that should help USF St. Petersburg in its plight for independent accreditation.

Three academic coordinators were also reclassified as directors and most administrative assistants were reclassified as administrative coordinators.

The accreditation process requires those administrative title changes, Heller said. The Tampa campus provided a template similar to what the accreditation team will be looking for during accreditation inspection sometime next year, Heller added.

Salary increases that accompanied some title changes, he said, varied. For some it means an increase up to 15 percent while others were reclassified without a salary increase. The increases, Heller said, reflect responsibility, campus growth or performance. No new hires were made in administration but new responsibilities were given as part of the accreditation process.

The new salaries may not be equal to salaries for comparable positions in other places, but it was a "good gesture within our resources and we did the best we could," Heller said.

Recent growth changes include: physical size of the campus, growth from 2,000 to 4,000 students, academic programs shifting from two-year to four-year and emphasis from part-time to full-time students.

All these factors with the accreditation demands on top brought an increase of responsibilities and workload to all administrators and their staff. The salary increases are designed to compensate for the workload increases.

The new associate vice presidents are: Herman Branes, administration and finance; Winston Bridges, academic affairs; and Stephen W. Ritch, student affairs.

The directors are: David Carr, college of arts and sciences; Sonia Heron, college of education; and Warren DeBord, college of business. Michael Killenberg, who has been with the college for 13 years, is the newly created director of journalism studies.

Journalism Studies, a part of the College of Arts and Sciences, is expected to apply soon for accreditation separate from the Tampa-accredited School of Mass Communications. With more issues to be decided, Heller said, there is room for faculty input.

Input is perhaps something of which USF St. Petersburg faculty wants more.

"We haven't had a chance to evaluate program coordinators or administrators," said Ellen Hufnagel, associate professor of information systems and chair of the Campus Faculty Council.

Hufnagel fully supports the changes in titles and pay raises. "If we didn't reclassify their jobs, we wouldn't be moving forward," she said in reference to USF St. Petersburg seeking separate accreditation.

The "legitimate gripe" that faculty members have, according to Hufnagel, is no evaluation power. "In my time here, we've never had a chance to evaluate [administrators and program coordinators]," Heller said. "If we don't reclassify their jobs, we wouldn't be moving forward." Heller said.

Hufnagel is an employee, not a faculty member, while students have a voice. "Some students take classes who need to be effective without support," she said. "I value the entire faculty and they all work hard," she said.

Please see Heller, 6
Trustees discuss new budget cuts

By Larry Halsted
Contributing Writer

Nobody likes budget cuts, especially in the middle of a budget year, yet that's what the University of South Florida faces because of the large financial hit Florida suffered in September and October.

The executive committee of the University of South Florida Board of Trustees met on the St. Petersburg campus Friday, October 12 to discuss a game plan to handle a projected mid-year budget cut proposed by the Florida Legislature in response to the dramatic loss of revenue from state sales tax.

A special session of the Florida Legislature is scheduled for Monday, October 22 to deal with the revenue shortfall. Among cuts being discussed is an across-the-board five percent cut for all schools K-12 and state universities. At issue is whether the cuts will be generic or if the legislature will be involved in particular line item cuts.

After much discussion, the board decided on three focal points with which to lobby the legislature. First, they decided for authority for each university to determine student fees and when they can be increased, then fairness in the revenue cuts in comparison with other schools K-12 and other universities, and finally equality in the per-student revenue comparison to other universities.

Judy Genshaft, president of USF, expressed her determination to the university's faculty for student fees. She reviewed changing the cap on fees, now at 40 percent of tuition and reported that other university presidents agreed with her that it was necessary to keep pace with inflation, especially in the athletic department.

She also took the opportunity to tell the university to change the fee schedule when it sees fit and not get legislative permission each time, she said.

The topic of excess student fees was also discussed. More than $6 million is at stake for USF because of unfunded enrollment (enrollment that exceeds the funded plan). The excess fees are currently in Tallahassee coffers and the executive committee discussed how to get the fees returned without the legislature reducing other revenues to the school to replace the excess fees refund.

"Currently at issue with the legislature is whether K-12 and universities will suffer similar cuts. Already on the cutting floor are a 5 percent cut in teacher recruiting, a 10 percent cut in Bright Futures grants and a 10 percent cut in general financial aid. Making sure that the university doesn't lose more than K-12 is crucial," said Genshaft.

Kathleen Betancourt, a lobbyist for USF in Tallahassee, reported that the cuts were coming and it was only an issue as to how much and in what form. The House wanted across-the-board cuts, while the Senate favored line-item cuts. "The legislature is trying to identify the amount of the revenue shortfall and working backwards to balance the budget," Betancourt said.

The executive committee decided that it was important that the House concept be pursued.

"We want to decide how to make the cuts if the legislature says to cut so many million," said Dick Beard, chairman of the executive committee. Genshaft agreed and said that it was important that the board of trustees have the authority to determine where the cuts will be.

Another area of discussion was the per-student revenue. Genshaft reported that USF is currently eighth in the state. The school needed to be more in line with Florida State University and University of Florida, she said. The committee discussed tactics to use in getting the per-student revenue figure closer to other like schools, but it was decided that the special session might not be the best time to debate that problem.

The committee decided how to lobby the legislature.

Somewhere from the board of trustees is needed to help with the lobbying effort every day of the special session, said Betancourt. Beard agreed. "The board needs to be in Tallahassee wandering around the halls to show the legislature we're interested," Beard said. Phone calls from trustees and alumni to legislators would be helpful, suggested Lee Arnold, executive committee member.

HELLER, from 5

Since the "major step forward" of autonomy, Brames said, USF St. Petersburg does its own comprehensive preparation of faculty requests, sends it for review directly to President Judy Genshaft who includes it with USF legislative requests to Tallahassee. Plans for a needed resident dormitory are being researched and are close to the recommendation phase, Brames said.

The biggest change for Heller is reporting directly to the president instead of the provost. Administrators still work closely with the Tampa provost, who is responsible for campus academic programs in the USF system. After accreditation, adminstrators will report to Heller.

In addition to autonomy the legislative bill recognized a new logo - USF St. Petersburg instead of USF, St. Petersburg campus (with St. Petersburg in smaller letters.) Now all the letters are the same size and on the same line.

Many transitions from across the bay reflect USF St. Petersburg's growth that include: admissions (in process), campus police, parking, plant facilities and academic programs.

Centralized activities still include: processing, check writing, financial aid, research, legal, alumni affairs, athletics and tenure.

Until accreditation is granted, the application process and the university Web page will remain centralized. Some areas like tenure, faculty and curriculum are in a transitional period of understanding to work in the transition, Heller said. "It sounds confusing but things have worked pretty well," he said.

"Students shouldn't notice any difference, but as for faculty, Heller said, "when the water rises, every ship in the harbor is affected."
Executive Officer William Heller said.

In comparison to some of Pinellas county’s other higher educational institutions competing for an identity, the Eckerd College’s website identifies it as a private national liberal arts college in Florida located on a waterfront setting in St. Petersburg. Eckerd College has a “mission to assist students to develop a disciplined intellect, trained imagination and a motivation to lead,” the website said.

St. Petersburg College’s website identifies it as a Partnering Institution with alliance of nine colleges and universities throughout Florida. Its mission as to provide bachelor’s and graduate degrees to more than one million people in Pinellas county area,” the website said.

USF St. Petersburg must put its specialized differences in its campus mission statement, Genshaft said. USF St. Petersburg must self-actuate and build to the highest level it can in the campus mission working toward its “own identity and strengths as a stellar and unique institution in the region,” she said.

The 90-minute meeting attended by 30 faculty members brought a variety of responses, such as the meeting was a rare opportunity for St. Petersburg campus to be face-to-face with the president. Hearing responses by Genshaft helped others to better understand her and her message, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Stephen W. Ritch said. Ritch has been on the campus for 19 years.

No other administration has “striven more to involve all the members of the university’s campuses,” a 30-year faculty member Dr. Keith White said.

One faculty member said the meeting was a total waste of time. Another said there should have been more time and more faculty inclusion.

The mission statement emphasized economic issues rather than intellectual issues, Director of Arts and Sciences Dr. David Carr said. “We must speak to the life of the mind,” and use terms like “furthering intellectual learning,” in the mission statement, Carr said.

Trustee Sen. Gus Stavros made some comments. “The governor wants economic development in this state,” so the mission statement should reflect this in some respect, Stavros said.

In 1999 committees from all campuses crafted five university-wide directions, Ritch said. From those directions the elimination of “interdisciplinary research and education” has brought a change that needs reconciliation, he said.

Under proposed values, Dr. Jay Black said, “service” should be “upfront with highest standards.”

Genshaft fielded the majority of questions for her task force. “We’ll take these suggestions back to the drafting committee for wordsmithing,” she said.

The mixed faculty reactions did not hamstring the positive reaction of the president or the vice president.

Genshaft was very pleased with the turnout. “The type of concerns expressed here were very helpful and will guide us in the revisions,” she said.

This was the most engaged group of the three town hall meetings due to the enthusiasm from faculty and students, Genshaft said.

Heller had more to comment. The mission meeting was a good discussion, he said. The faculty and students were needed in the strategic planning of USF St. Petersburg in developing the mission and value statements, he said following the meeting.

“All the meetings are open to students and I would like even more faculty and students present,” Heller said. Faculty can become much more involved with decision-making as members of different committees, he said.

Genshaft has more than 20 years experience as a university professor, researcher and administrator. Her broad and dynamic vision goes beyond institutional. “You must focus on something different from the other campuses, working on your strengths to become unique,” she said.

“Think in a different way – buildings are structured on what you want to do,” she said. At one point Genshaft brainstormed the possibility of a pharmacy school. Sen. Stavros commented that the mayor has more land available.

Today USF is responsible to eleven counties “first and foremost,” Genshaft said. However, the Board of Trustees eliminated the boundaries such that the state of Florida is the extended service area impacting the mission and identity statements, she said.

USGS, from 1

Executive vice president Don Shea said USGS is a major component of the downtown community. The downtown partnership, formerly known as St. Petersburg Progress, helped bring USGS to its present location adjacent to USF St. Petersburg, Shea said.

Not only does the college benefit, USGS also brings Federal money to the city, Betzer said.

“We highlight the marine science program,” said Cindy Margiotta, manager of economic development for the city of St. Petersburg. USGS brings good salaried to the city, she said.

St. Petersburg’s Web site highlights the city’s marine science niche. “It sells St. Petersburg apart from the other Tampa Bay communities,” Margiotta said.
Race for Mexico builds sailors’ character

By Aaron Thomas
Contributing Writer

Summertime is known for relaxing, working and taking vacations. But imagine taking a journey in some foreign country with no car, no maps and no rest areas along an interstate.

That reality was taken by the USF coed sailing team. The team, along with other sailors from around the Bay Area embarked on a nine-day, roundtrip journey from St. Petersburg, across the Gulf of Mexico, to Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. The race took place from April 27 to May 10.

Even though the school finished near the bottom of a fleet of 21 boats because of confusion of engine usage during the race, the competition was not about who won or lost, but about how competitive this year’s sailing team would prove to be.

The race also tested how the crew would hold up in a high-endurance race over a long period of time.

USF water sport coordinator Michael Kirschner said the mission of the sailing team was to put off shore racing in the venue of USF team sailing to build up the program. The sailors needed to develop a blue, open water experience, said Kirschner.

The program used the race as a foundation for future years of USF sailing.

Kirschner said the crew was built in terms of experience, availability, desire to sail and qualifications for sailing such a long distance over open water. The crew of five included Kirschner, Dr. Steve Lang and three students including returning sailor Garth Reynolds, the only returning student from the crew.

“It wasn’t a picnic,” said Kirschner. “The wind was under 25 knots the whole time and the seas were at 6-9 feet.”

But besides the sailing race, members of the crew were treated to a local basketball game against the local team from Isla Mujeres, Mexico and a little history was created by winning the game. The Mexican team has won 32 of the last 33 meetings against race members.

“We had a great crew,” said Kirschner. “I can’t tell you how impressed I was (with the crew). We didn’t go in with a competitive attitude. We wanted to provide a foundation in offshore racing to see what our potential might be.”

SAILING is among the intramural sports available to SF St. Petersburg students.

SAHARA Cafe and Mediterranean Foods
Lebanese - Jewish - Greek & American Foods
Open Daily 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Bayboro Cafe offers fresh meals to order for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Bayboro Cafe prepares fresh soups made daily!
Bayboro Cafe can provide all your food and refreshment needs on or off campus.

Bayboro Cafe serves students.

PARKING, from 2

Do not make your actions blatant, as this will instantly cause your victims to go elsewhere. This technique requires a little role-playing and acting skill, but the result is well worth it.

Make sure to adjust one or all of your mirrors in the car so you can watch the expressions on the peoples’ faces as time ticks by.

Some might say this game is cruel, but I think it is a cheap and effective method of therapy for people. No one really gets hurt in this game, and it is easy to play anywhere that parking is a problem.

Nothing lifts the human spirit faster and higher than a little suffering in our fellow man. It’s like watching the guy on TV get hit in the crotch. We know it hurts, but we can relate to them and it’s not permanent.

Trust me, they’d be laughing if the role was reversed.

AL-ARIAN, from 4

those known to be working at WISE perform activities that were totally inconsistent with the work of a scholarly research center.” This lengthy report was given in its entirety to USF’s then President, Betty Caskey.

In another ruling, Judge Kevin McHugh concluded in October 2000, “Although there were allegations made that the ICP and WISE were fronts for Palestinian political causes, there is no evidence before the Court that demonstrates that either organization was a front for the PFL [Palestinian Islamic Jihad]. To the contrary, there is evidence in the record to support the conclusion that WISE was a reputable and scholarly research center.”

Judge McHugh concluded by reporting that “there are no facially legitimate and bona fide reasons to conclude that [the Respondent] is a threat to national security.”

Many students on the USF St. Petersburg and Tampa campuses still have a hard time feeling comfortable with the accusations that Al-Arian may have some distant or close ties to terrorism.

Some students still question a remark made by the professor in which he said, “Death to Israel.” The professor later explained that this did not mean death to individual persons but rather death to oppression and death to apartheid.

It was this that seemed to draw Al-Arian’s biggest opposition. Specifically, USF President Judy Genshaft said she was concerned that Al-Arian’s opinions might be misconstrued for the opinions of USF.

In an interview with the St. Petersburg Times, Genshaft said, “Dr. Al-Arian does not speak for the university . . . and it is incorrect to suggest that his views represent USF in any fashion. We have informed Dr. Al-Arian that when he expresses his views, he should make it clear at all times that he is speaking as a private person.”