Press release : 2007 : 03 : 14 : USF St. Petersburg Hires New Dean of Arts and Sciences

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.
Regional Chancellor Karen A. White has named Frank Biafora, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Biafora will begin July 1.

White said that faculty, staff and students participated in the evaluation and interview process of candidates. “The leadership of the dean of our College of Arts and Sciences is critical as the college is the heart of our university. The college houses the largest number of programs and majors and offers core curriculum courses that affect the education of all USF St. Petersburg students.”

Biafora is a Professor and Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at St. John’s University. A Professor of Sociology, Biafora teaches and does research in the areas of adolescent development, juvenile delinquency, substance use and research methodology.

A recent recipient of a Fulbright Scholars award in Vietnam, Biafora is also the principal investigator of the Ronald McNair Scholars Program for St. John’s, a mentor-based program designed to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of future researchers and university professors.

Biafora completed his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree, both in Sociology, from the University of Florida. In 1991, he completed his doctorate in Sociology at the University of Miami.

Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs V. Mark Durand credited Anthony Silvia, Ph.D., chair of the department of Journalism and Media Studies, for chairing the search committee.

He said “The selection of Professor Biafora is symbolic of the College faculty’s commitment both to their teaching mission as well as their research goals. The College set a high standard for their next leader and I’m confident that Professor Biafora will meet and exceed these expectations.”

Biafora said that he was honored to be considered for this position and that he and his wife, LeaAnn, an oncology nurse, are very excited to join the St. Petersburg community.

“The administration and faculty of USF St. Petersburg have made incredible progress in a short amount of time and the College of Arts and Sciences is positioned to become a first choice among prospective university students, regionally and nationally,” he said.

Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences James Gore will continue in his current role through June 30.