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University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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When the St. Petersburg campus learned in January that the Legislature was considering abolishing its accreditation, the news landed like a bombshell.

In both St. Petersburg and Tampa, USF administrators said they were caught off-guard.

USF system President Judy Genshaft “was as surprised as we were,” interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock said at a St. Petersburg campus forum Jan. 19.

As it turns out, however, Genshaft was surprised in October – not January. And she apparently kept the news to herself.

She acknowledged at a Campus Board meeting on Thursday that she “learned in January of USF Tampa, leaders are championing a bill that will abolish the separate accreditation of USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee and put them under USF Tampa.

The trustees, who are “very encouraged by the possibilities presented in the consolidation proposal,” will now direct USF leaders to begin a feasibility study and timeline for investing in new programs in St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, Lamb wrote.

The Lamb letter came as the two legislators and USF system President Judy Genshaft sought to counter mounting opposition to the bill from political and business leaders in Pinellas County and some professors, administrators and retirees on the St. Petersburg campus.

USF St. Petersburg “has no desire to be the Chechnya to the empire in Tampa,” retired government professor Darryl Paulson wrote in a column in the Tampa Bay Times. “We are proud to be part of the USF family, but we have no desire to be dominated by Big Brother.”

As controversy continued to swirl:

**Genshaft assured the St. Petersburg Campus Board, a five-member group of Pinellas residents that helps govern the St. Petersburg campus, that the university system will not go back to operating the way it did before receiving separate accreditation.**

“That was stifling, that was not creative, that was not impressive,” she said, promising that the identity USF St. Petersburg will remain intact.

**The St. Petersburg City Council and two legislators called on the bill’s main champions, Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, and Rep. Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, to shelve the proposal until its impact can be fully studied. (Story, page x/this page).**

**Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch, a USF St. Petersburg graduate and third-generation St. Petersburg resident, joined others in warning that consolidation of the three campuses might harm the admission of minority students in St. Petersburg. (Story, page x/this page).**

**A Student Government petition opposing consolidation stalled amid a dispute between Student Body President David Thompson and two student senators. (Story, page x/this page).**

**A Student Government petition drive opposing consolidation seemed to fizzle, with only 150 signatures. Its sponsor vowed to renew her efforts. (Story, page x).**

For 41 years, the then-tiny campus in St. Petersburg was a satellite to the rapidly growing main campus 34 miles away in Tampa.

But after a legislative attempt to sever St. Petersburg from Tampa narrowly failed in 2000, lawmakers and Tampa administrators began giving more authority to St. Petersburg.

That culminated in 2006, when the St. Petersburg campus won separate accreditation – a development that gave the campus a jolt of energy and started a decade of growth in admissions, academic programs and prestige.

In an interview on WUSF
A student-led petition drive opposing the bill that would end USF St. Petersburg’s separate accreditation has drawn only 150 signatures. But its author, junior marketing major Mariah McQueen, vows to continue her efforts this week. “I’m just setting my expectations higher for myself and my peers, who I want to share the petition,” she said.

USF St. Petersburg students’ longstanding reluctance to get involved in things is one of her obstacles, McQueen said. “We’ve always had an issue with student involvement,” she said. “What I hope to get out of this experience is to find something that students want to be involved in.”

“I feel like that might bring us together — if we have a cause worth fighting for.”

Student apathy is old news at USFSP. When Student Government surveyed interest in bringing Greek life to campus, only 500 people responded. That’s 10 percent of the student population. The turnout for last semester’s student Senate elections was even worse, with half as many votes as the Greek life response. McQueen said she hopes the petition will draw 1,000 signatures.

A petition against separate accreditation was created by Mariah McQueen in order for students to have a voice in the decision.

The petition against separate accreditation was created by Mariah McQueen in order for students to have a voice in the decision. With faculty and administrators reluctant to voice their opinions for fear of jeopardizing their jobs, student opinion matters more than ever, McQueen said.

“The petition is at: https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/students-and-alumni-against-hb-423

They have our signature burger …

To Poor Student Turnout.

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To Poor Student Turnout.
New dorms postponed until 2020

By Emily Vsetula
Contributor

Those looking forward to the new dormitories at USF St. Petersburg will have to wait another year.

The Board of Trustees voted to remove the proposed top floor conference center, which will delay the building’s completion until fall 2020. The dormitories were initially expected to be completed in fall 2019.

The conference center was axed due to a lack of external funding, causing the project to go through a redesign and delaying construction.

The setback won’t come cheap, as the price of the project is expected to increase from $49.5 to $54 million as a result of the delay.

“Prices go up over time,” said Martin Tadlock, interim regional chancellor. “The price of materials change, and in the redesign there were some additional structural changes to the facility that cost more money.”

The structural modifications were necessary to make the supplementary building sturdier than the previous design presented.

The university is in partnership with EdR, a collegiate housing developer that has specialized in high-quality collegiate housing communities since 1964. The project will accommodate regional chancellor. “The goal,” said Tadlock.

As the number of students living on campus grows, another predicament arises:

“We’ve run the price comparisons to all of the local apartment complexes here and it is, of course, more affordable for students and that’s the goat,” said Tadlock.

At the time of the student accreditation for each of the university that has independent region for years – especially as it relates to reporting, efficiencies, budget, data and metric collection.

The Crow’s Nest repeatedly asked Brandes if he also alerted anyone on the St. Petersburg campus when she learned in October that legislators were considering a proposal to abolish St. Petersburg’s separate accreditation.

“The issue of the USF system structure has been an ongoing discussion at the state level for years – especially as it relates to reporting, efficiencies, budget, data and metric collection.

In Florida, USF is the only university that has independent accreditation for each of its three campuses. Therefore, discussing if this is the most efficient way to continue operating is a topic that is discussed frequently.

“I think the president (Genshaft) and several legislators have made it clear that when that issue was raised in conversation late last year it was one of several options that were potentially under consideration, including making no changes at all.

“Until legislation was proposed, it would have been irresponsible to speculate about that potential with a broader community.”

 Surprise, continued from P1

USF System President Judy Genshaft (pictured) knew about the separate accreditation bill in late October, while the rest of the world was unaware until mid-January.

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The second largest scholarly journal of history is now housed at USF St. Petersburg. “The Historian” has been continuously published since 1938 and was based in USF Tampa until Assistant Professor of History Adrian O’Connor assumed the role of editor. O’Connor filled the editorship position after Kees Boterbloem, professor of history at USF Tampa, stepped down after a decade.

“He wanted to give the position to somebody, and thought it desirable to be someone in the USF system,” said O’Connor. “He surveyed colleagues and somebody recommended me to him.”

The journal’s migration to USF St. Petersburg is significant for the campus’ reputation and its students. “It holds two different positions for historians. As a scholarly peer-reviewed journal, it’s publishing cutting edge research, new historical findings and new arguments,” said O’Connor. “It also, in its affiliation with Phi Alpha Theta, provides opportunities and benefits for undergraduate and graduate students.”

Phi Alpha Theta is a national honor society with 970 chapters and over 400,000 members. Its headquarters are currently housed in USF Tampa. “There have been discussions of bringing Phi Alpha Theta here before, but bringing the journal here will serve as a catalyst for change,” said O’Connor.

Membership in the honor society brings a number of benefits for participating students. Phi Alpha Theta provides competitive financial aid opportunities for its members through essay competitions and stipends for prospective graduate students.

The society also holds a conference every two years, where students and faculty present research. Members of Phi Alpha Theta are given a one-year subscription to the journal, allowing students to simultaneously “participate in the present of the historical profession, and also help to shape its future by getting into the reading lists of recent graduates, those who will be shaping the field in 20 years.”

“The journal is about the past, of the present, and it is shaping the yet to be determined historical future,” O’Connor said.

One student will be given the opportunity to be an editorial assistant to O’Connor, directly affecting the journal’s content. “There’s an assistant in Tampa, but given the dual location problem with Phi Alpha Theta and split campuses, I asked to have an editorial assistant here. I wanted to ensure that student benefit was also coming to St. Petersburg,” said O’Connor.

O’Connor says the editorial assistant offers experience in academic publishing, providing a student the opportunity to do “everything from reviewing manuscripts when they first come in, to corresponding with scholars around the world, and learning how to edit professional historians.”

“It’s a good experience, and not one that I know of in any other undergraduate program,” said O’Connor. Beyond individual stipends and assistantships, the journal’s arrival will have lasting impacts on the entire campus’ academic capacity. “We really are hoping to integrate this into the history curriculum, to bring the process of publishing into classes,” said O’Connor.

On a larger scale, hosting “The Historian” cements USF St. Petersburg’s position as an international campus and a gateway for academic voices around the globe. “It will bring in local benefits for the campus, but also open the door for discussion with scholars around the world,” said O’Connor. “It’s a nice microcosm of the local and global intersection that makes this campus work really well, and will make the journal work well alongside it.”
By Jeffrey Waitkevich
jwaitkevich@mail.usf.edu

O ne student leader wants to join the war against the separate accreditation bill, and he thinks it’s time Student Government follows suit.

Fearful that the system President David Thompson disagrees, contending that it is premature to take action.

At issue is a resolution proposed by Kevin Castle, a senior biology major and Student Government senior, warning that the proposed legislation could hinder growth and decision-making for the St. Petersburg campus.

His resolution calls for the student senate to oppose House Bill 423 “due to the risks and uncertainties that it places on our campus’ success and future.”

The resolution was delayed last week, however, when Thompson helped persuade a segment of the Senate to defer action, at least for now. Thompson said he would prefer that the committee not take a stand because he is working with legislators to resolve student concerns.

He also persuaded Senate President Eddie Andrew, a co-sponsor of the resolution, not to defend it before the committee.

“There’s nothing really wrong, in my opinion, with coming out against the bill immediately and amending that later, if necessary,” Castle said. “But an immediate denouncement of the bill, in my opinion, is necessary.”

If Student Government waits too long, he said, it will be too late for its voices to be heard and seriously considered by the Legislature.

However, Thompson said that he felt there was no need to pass a resolution against the bill and then flip as new information comes out.

As the St. Petersburg campus followed developments on the bill last week, Thompson and Castle jousted verbally on the proposal and on USF system President Judy Genshaft, who has repeatedly stressed the potential benefits of consolidating the three campuses of the USF system.

Castle took credit for the Jan. 22 “The Crow’s Nest” presentation, and he was the first to display pictures of presenters. He also really open to criticism, Castle said, it is important that the people are held accountable.”

Thompson’s responses, saying, “There’s never an exact answer...He’ll just respond with ‘Oh, this is what we’re working on.’”

Castle urged students to attend Student Government general assembly meetings, which are held at 5 p.m. every Monday in the USC ballrooms.

“The majority of senators will not be canvassing for opinions,” he said. “So this is the place to take action for themselves and to not only demand answers, but to hold people accountable.”

Without this input and accountability, Castle said, it is hard for Student Government to represent the student body fully.

Kevin Castle (pictured) opposed House Bill 423 and said that there is “nothing wrong with coming out against the bill immediately and amending that later, if necessary.”

Moreover, Castle criticized Thompson’s responses, “There’s never an exact answer...He’ll just respond with ‘Oh, this is what we’re working on.’”

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February 5, 2018

By Dylan Hart

St. Pete Unfiltered seeks justice for city

The 10-person group working on the project moved to create a little bit of awareness

The city is also under a consent decree, which includes more measurable

And the city has agreed to bring their infrastructure up to

The documentary

We’ve been doing a lot of extensive

The city is also under a lawsuit with the Suncoast Waterkeeper organization, as well as other environmental protection organizations, due to their violation of the CWA.

The city is also under a consent decree to put more money into their infrastructure.

And they are pushing to convince

And significantly damaging

They are also really open to criticism, he

The city is also under a consent

As the team discovered more

And significantly damaging

It includes more measurable

And significantly damaging

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The award for worst show goes to ...

By Alex Eurbanks
Freshmen Mass Communication Major Contributor

Before the Grammys even began, it was clear that the award show was in for a controversial night.

Pop prodigy Lorde stood at the center of the social storm after her mother tweeted that only 9 percent of all Grammy nominees in the past six years have been women.

The tweet was later followed by a Variety report revealing that Lorde was the only female nominated for Album of the Year who wasn’t asked to perform her own music. The native New Zealand singer was only asked to perform a cover of Tom Petty’s “American Girl.”

The show itself was equally mishandled. Several musicians and celebrities turned up to the Grammys wearing white roses to “symbolize respect, pay homage to new beginnings and express hope for the future,” according to the Time’s Up Twitter page.

Unfortunately, the idea received little to no recognition during the show, and the #MeToo movement was hardly mentioned.

Instead, the program focused on taking shots at the president, which rang unfortunately hollow as Kendrick Lamar stayed quiet, leaving Logic to step up and do his best impression of an off-brand Lamar.

The “Fire and Fury” reading skit was also poorly made.

Keeping the Hillary Clinton appearance as a bad decision after a report from the New York Times revealed that she protected an aid who was accused of sexual assault.

This rings especially true on a night where the focus was supposed to be bringing added attention to sexual assault awareness.

Alessia Cara was the only female to win any of the Grammys’ main awards.

American R&B singer-songwriter SZA, who was nominated for five awards, was snubbed entirely.

After not walking the Red Carpet, Lorde came away empty-handed as well. She has since began sending shots at the Grammys via Twitter and an ad in a New Zealand paper.

On the other hand, Ed Sheeran had a very different night. His song “Shape of You” was named Video of the Year, the first time a pop video has won the award since the show began airing in 1990.

Sheeran isn’t the only artist to perform this year, but it’s the first time a pop star has been included in the main event.

Sometimes people get left out that shouldn’t, but on the other hand, we did the best we can to make sure that it’s a representative and balanced show.

As a result, the academy is fine excluding Lorde, an Album of the Year nominee, but completely ready to let Shaggy and Sting perform a new song from their future collab album that no sane human wanted?

Finding a way to make things even worse, Academy President Neil Portnow said in an extremely condescending interview with Variety the next morning that women need to states came to see STING RAY, which brought attention to our university. The program offered benefits for the entire campus, benefits which died alongside STING RAY.

For me, a former STING RAY student, is to get my GED, enroll at St. Petersburg College and major in journalism. I know my path and can achieve it without STING RAY, but I can’t say the rest of the students are as lucky.

The Crows Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 500 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and campus. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length.

We would like to know more answers about why this is happening.

Is it because some in the USF system don’t think our program is going to benefit women?

USF St. Petersburg offered a great program allowing special diploma students to enroll as non-degree seeking and get the experience.

But unfortunately, they now want to shut it down with no justification.

Everyone knows about this program and how it benefits USF St. Petersburg, especially students that are interested in working in the special education field.

As soon as I heard what happened, I questioned how the university could do this to us. Our students were looking forward to a brand new semester, and to hear this news is just heartwarming.

I realize that our STING RAY students that have disabilities only have limited options because they graduated high school with a special diploma, and going to a university is not typically on the list.

However, the unfortunate truth is that earning a degree is the only option if you want a successful future.

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Localtopia sheds light on local companies

By Brianna Rodriguez
bRodriguez@mail.usf.edu

Independent businesses appear to be dwindling in a globally focused culture, but Localtopia hosted its fifth annual event which showed that independents continue to thrive despite corporate competitors. Localtopia hosted almost 200 vendors at Williams Park in downtown St. Petersburg on Saturday. The annual event focuses on bringing the community together to celebrate local companies and their positive impact on the community.

“I have been in the business for 40 years,” said Louise Hamilton, store owner of Great American Natural Products. “We started off by sampling, educating and being service oriented. Because of that, we have people who tell other people about us so I have never had to advertise.”

The event is organized by a non-profit organization called Keep St. Petersburg Local, which promotes buying and selling locally in order to sustain the local economy. Localtopia gave businesses the opportunity to educate the public about their services while selling their products. Hamilton has owned her natural products store for almost 35 years. The most advertising that she’s had to do was provide a few free lectures to educate others.

She has traveled all over the country educating people on the benefits of using herbs and oils to heal the body. Her products currently cannot be purchased online but the option is in the making.

Small businesses sometimes need to get creative with their marketing strategies. Lorielle Holloway, owner of Cultured Books, uses social media to promote her business.

“I have gotten a lot of feedback from people liking and sharing on Facebook,” said Holloway. Her business focuses on promoting multicultural books to the community.

She was first inspired by this idea after taking an anthropology class in college. She began to search for her own way to promote her activism in a way that inspired others to do the same. Holloway began her business with her two daughters to promote diversity through children’s books. She currently sells her books at markets and events but aims to open up a local shop and sell online.

An invaluable aspect of promoting small, local businesses is networking. Small businesses target the idea of creating a community.

Melane Nelson, owner of Growing Up, took the initiative to start her own business after her son was born because she wanted to use renewable cloth diapers, but there was no place that sold these items locally.

She then created her business, which emphasizes using parent-owned companies as the source of her products.

She then created her business and aimed to source parent-owned companies. She began with mother-owned companies, such as Free To Be Kids, that focus on non-gender specific items.

Nelson then also included father-owned companies. Nelson explained that all of the toys sold at her store are focused on imagine play and don’t require batteries and aren’t electronic.

“Majority of our business is local,” said Nelson. “We are more of a touch and feel business. We also have a play space in our shop. It is really about building community with us.”

Melane Nelson, owner of Growing Up, promotes her business that fosters the creativity and imagination of children. She aims to build a community of moms and dads in the St. Petersburg area through her shop.

What to do this week: Feb. 5-Feb. 11

By Ashley Campbell
Contributor

MONDAY

Interested in USF St. Petersburg’s alternative spring break ExLabs program? Today is the last day to apply. This program is a full-time, week-long classroom-style bootcamp over spring break 2018 and is open to all majors. It teaches students about problem solving, leadership, diversity, inclusion, networking, data analytics and more. This competition will have a transportation provided from the USF St. Petersburg campus and the winning team will take home a Cisco training package worth over $2,000.

TUESDAY

Today is the HAB Market in the USC from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Free promotion items will be handed out, including hats and notebooks. There will also be free snacks! Flyers for upcoming events will be posted, and you can even sign up for committees! Also today in The Reef at 7 p.m. there will be greek dancing and greek food.

WEDNESDAY

Looking for a new job on or off campus? There is a job and internship fair today in the USC ballrooms from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Representatives from BayCare, Enterprise, Northwestern Mutual and Tijuana Flats will be there, as well as over 80 other employers offering jobs and internships. Free professional clothing rentals and headshots will be available on site as well as free resume printing.

THURSDAY

Are you a fan of the Marvel movie franchise and have not been able to see the latest Thor movie? “Thor Ragnarok” will be playing at 8 p.m. at Harborwalk. There will be free snacks, drinks and popcorn. This event is outside, so remember to bring a blanket if you plan on sitting in the front row.

FRIDAY

Today is the start of the three-day Greek Festival that will be held until Sunday. The festival is hosted by St. Stefanos Greek Church and there will be music, food and dancing. There will be over 20 vendors serving homemade food and a live DJ! Free Greek dancing lessons will be offered as well. As for prizes, there will be a silent auction and a $2,500 cash raffle. This event is both indoors and outdoors, rain or shine.

SATURDAY

Tonight at Jannus Live from 8 p.m. until midnight, there will be a free Nirvana tribute band, where no ticket is necessary for entry. Today is also the second day of the Greek Festival and the second saturday ArtWalk. ArtWalk is going to display glass trail artwork, and it is a rain or shine event from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. There will be free parking and free ArtWalk trolley’s that will circle the art districts and stop every half hour.

SUNDAY

Singer, songwriter, humorist and small town philosopher Antsy McClain will be performing at the Hideaway Cafe. Doors open at 2 p.m., and his show starts at 3:30 p.m. The ticket range is from $18 to $25. Today is also the last day of the Greek Festival.
The St. Petersburg City Council and two state legislators from the city have joined the chorus of Pinellas County leaders calling for lawmakers to pump the brakes on a bill that would abolish the separate accreditations of USF St. Petersburg and USF Sarasota-Manatee.

In a resolution adopted last week, the City Council urged the Legislature to kill the proposal for now and instead fund a study to ensure “the most successful future” for the St. Petersburg campus and the potential impacts on “our local community and our regional economy.”

The council also called for greater St. Petersburg representation on the 13-member Board of Trustees that governs the USF system.

According to the USF website, only one trustee lives in Pinellas County — Stephanie Goforth, a St. Petersburg banker who lives in Gulfport.

The council’s concerns echo those already expressed by the Pinellas County Commission, the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the Pinellas County Economic Development Council, the Dali Museum and retired faculty and staff on the St. Petersburg campus.

And now state Rep. Ben Diamond and Sen. Darryl Rouson, both Democrats from St. Petersburg, have joined that list.

In a letter to Brian Lamb, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, the two lawmakers warned that the proposed consolidation of the three campuses “would have many consequences, some intended, and many unintended.”

Because of that, they said, the proposed changes need to be thoroughly debated, not rushed through the Legislature.

They called for creation of a study committee composed of student, faculty and administrators from all three campuses and business leaders from St. Petersburg, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota counties.

If consolidation of the three campuses is in the best interests of its students, Diamond and Rouson said, that would raise these key questions:

How should the Board of Trustees be changed to ensure appropriate representation from all four counties? How would budget decisions be made in Tampa? And what role would St. Petersburg’s student and faculty leaders have?

“This is not a partisan matter,” Diamond and Rouson wrote. “It is one of education.”

At a meeting with students at USF St. Petersburg on Jan. 26, Diamond said, “I want to be a champion for you guys.”

“I’m concerned about the way this sort of just appeared on the scene,” said Diamond. “Which is part of why I’m trying to sit down and talk to people about it.”

Pinellas County commissioner concerned over changes to alma mater

Ken Welch graduated from USFSP in 1985 and was elected to Pinellas County Commission in 2000. He is wary of plans to consolidate the USF campuses.

While Welch acknowledges that there may be advantages to the potential USF merger, he also mentions the potential disadvantages, namely the loss of control in the decision-making process in course offerings, majors and degrees.

“These issues are of particular interest and concern to our industrial base,” the letter reads.

The county commissioner has watched the campus mature and struggle to get to the point where it can best meet the needs of those in Pinellas County. He says that the campus has made big strides over the years and that he’s not interested in going backward.

He says it’s working just fine the way it is now.

“I need to have some very solid assurances that this would continue to be the case under this realignment,” Welch said. “USFSP is doing a great job at providing the kind of education that our students deserve and that frankly wasn’t available to me in 1981.”

Welch did the first two years of his undergraduate education at Tampa since USFSP didn’t have a four-year accounting program at the time. The campus now offers both a bachelor of arts and bachelor of science in accounting.

While he is open to discussing the sensibility of a merger, Welch says, that should come before such sweeping legislation is introduced.

“If having a voice at the table matters,” he said, “then it should matter at the beginning of the process and not just at the end of it.”