Seminole State College

CAMPUS MEMO

From Dr. Jim Utterback – President

February 2, 2010

I hope everyone on our campus is doing well following the most recent winter ice and snow storm. Many of our employees and students have had great difficulty with transportation issues and lack of power to their homes. I understand that the groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow this morning – so, it looks like we may be in for another six weeks of an already challenging winter. Please be safe and stay warm!

The new decade is off to a fast start at Seminole State College. Following a record enrollment of 2,445 students last fall, up 20% from the previous year, spring enrollment appears to be up roughly 17%. While times are tough across the state, we are weathering the storm by everyone pulling together and taking on additional tasks.

SHAPING THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

As you may be aware, last spring, a comprehensive survey was commissioned by the SSC Educational Foundation, the SSC Athletic Booster Club and the College. The survey was designed to garner feedback from people on and off campus about possible future fundraising. The survey showed tremendous support for the College. It also showed support for private fundraising efforts to increase scholarships, expand and enhance academic programs and support faculty, staff and student travel as well as cultural opportunities.

We have begun a “quiet phase” of a Shaping the Future campaign and are soliciting support from our SSC family. I have spoken with members of the Administrative Council, Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Association and the Classified Staff Association about this important endeavor. If you were not present at any of these meetings, and would like information about the campaign, please contact my office. It is imperative that before we solicit outside donors, we are able to show support from within our organization. A significant statement is made when everyone gives a little. I would appreciate your thoughtful consideration of participating in this important campaign.

We are thrilled that our long-time friends and supporters, Kenneth Henderson, Ben Walkingstick and Melvin Moran, have stepped forward to lead this campaign. Mr. Henderson
and Mr. Walkingsstick will serve as co-chairs, and Mr. Moran will serve as an honorary co-chair. Additionally, leaders within our employee organizations have agreed to spearhead the efforts of their respective groups. Nursing and Health Sciences Division Chair Donna Chambers and Social Sciences instructor Tracy Jacomo will lead the faculty campaign. Chief of Police Dan Factor, Coordinator of Media Relations Dustie Butner and Secretary for the All Nations Student Development Center (NASNTI) Tina Jones will lead the staff campaign.

A brochure with additional information about the campaign is available at the following link: http://sscok.edu/shapingthefuture.pdf.

NEW RULES ON TEXTING

An executive order signed by Governor Brad Henry last month prohibits state employees from “text messaging” while driving. This order is an effort to promote safety on the highways. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia already ban text messaging while driving. Any employee who is “texting” while: 1) driving a government vehicle; 2) driving a private vehicle on government business; or 3) when using electronic equipment supplied by the state while driving at any time, may be subject to disciplinary action.

Beyond this, I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of “text etiquette.” Texting while others are talking is disrespectful and indicates that the person texting is not really listening to, or caring about anything being said. It would be better to ask to be excused to make a phone call.

NEW STUDENT SERVICES CENTER

Congratulations are in order to the scores of people on campus who worked diligently at the end of the fall term, and even over the holiday break, to open our new Student Services Center. A tremendous amount of hours were spent packing, unpacking, hooking up computers and phone lines, cleaning, decorating and preparing to serve students. It was a great compliment to our staff that services during this critical enrollment period were uninterrupted. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. We will be excited to showcase the new building later this Spring with an open house for the campus and community.

Best wishes for the remainder of the semester!