
(2009 January - 2012 August) Regional
Chancellor: Margaret Sullivan

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Regional Chancellor Message : 2009 : 05 : 12 : End of Academic Year Message

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from: Sullivan, Margaret <MSullivan@spadmin.usf.edu>
to: "Sullivan, Margaret" <MSullivan@spadmin.usf.edu>
date: Tue, May 12, 2009 at 3:42 PM
subject: Regional Chancellor's Update
mailed-by: spadmin.usf.edu

Dear Colleagues,

As the academic year draws to a close, it is time to thank you for the support and wisdom you have shared with me. Each day I find new information and meet faculty and staff that show me that the University of South Florida St. Petersburg is the "gold standard" in higher education.

You illustrate the reasons for this judgment every day. Most recently the graduation ceremony and the visit of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges portrayed a strong university with competent students and a talented committed faculty.

This spring semester, the institution graduated 433 students, the largest class ever and 311 students participated in the lovely ceremony in the Mahaffey Theater on Sunday, May 3rd. Each student represented many tireless hours of teaching and support, and was a credit to you and USFSP.

The Special Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SAC/COC) completed its review on Tuesday, May 5th. Everyone on campus met the challenge! The campus was cleaned, clipped, buffed and polished. The Institutional Effectiveness Committees presented cohesive, analytical and detailed reports, while faculty and staff answered dozens of questions and presented a program of compliance. The committee was complimentary of the work, and the responsiveness of the university. We will know of the Commission's actions on June 30, 2009.

This is an exciting time to be at the University. Yet we are faced with formidable challenges. The most severe is the unprecedented decline of the institution's budget. By July 1, 2009 we will have experienced an actual budget cut of 31% in state revenues since July 1, 2007. The 2010 and 2011 budgets will provide an 8% cushion from Federal Stimulus Funds for two years. Yet these stimulus funds are only available for two years and unless the economic condition of the state improves, we

will lose this source of funding in 2012.

Please know that as USFSP moves through these difficult uncharted financial waters, communication will be frequent through the collegial structure. Should questions arise, you are more than welcome to discuss your creative ideas and concerns with me.

An additional challenge will be the preparation for the reaffirmation of USFSP by the SACS/COC. The Compliance Report will be due to the Association in the fall of 2010 and we will have a team visit to the campus in spring 2011. Work on this project begins this summer.

Finally, we will support our colleagues in Journalism and Education as they carry out their work related to program accreditation. This certainly will be an interesting year!

As we plan for the year ahead I hope to strengthen our community and constituent relationships, bring many more organizations and groups to the campus, and strengthen our fundraising capability. If you see opportunities here, please let me know.

In closing, few words can express my appreciation and pride as I serve as your Interim Regional Chancellor.

Thank you,

Margaret M. Sullivan