

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICIES**

POLICY NO. 2.02

TITLE: SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

LEGAL AUTHORITY: FLORIDA CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE 1, SECTION 9 AND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 7
FLORIDA STATUTES: 1001.61-65, 112.313, 112.52

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The South Florida State College (SFSC) District Board of Trustees is a body politic and corporate entity. The terms "District Board" or "Board" as used herein shall mean the SFSC District Board of Trustees, and its members.

The Board has been given the legal responsibility and authority over the institution to carry out all powers and perform all duties provided for in the Florida Statutes (FS) and the State Board of Education Rules but only when acting as a Board. No individual member or committee of the Board shall have the power to act on behalf of the Board, unless specifically and legally authorized to do so by action duly taken by the Board. In case of unusual circumstances, ad hoc committees of the Board will act on matters for which the committee is appointed, which action will be confirmed and approved at a regular Board meeting.

A. General:

The District Board shall consist of a certain number of members as required by appropriate governing law or rule.

The primary role of the Board is to establish policies that will allow the president to administer the College effectively and efficiently. The Board is the sole official policy-making body of the College. The Board shall be responsible for determining which programs and services are needed to serve the educational needs of the district and for determining the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs and services in meeting those needs. Additionally, the Board exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution by approving the College's annual budget and reviewing financial statements at each Board meeting.

The president and administration are responsible for operating the College under those policies through established administrative procedures and programs, and for advising the Board on such matters.

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with their service as members. Expenses of the members shall be reimbursed in accordance with policies and procedures established by the College.

To continually improve their knowledge of community colleges, Board members should commit themselves to attend conferences, seminars, and meetings that pertain to their responsibilities, duties, and powers.

Board members should maintain the highest levels of integrity in the performance of their duties. The Board shall act in unity and act on matters that represent a majority of Board members. The Board shall not be controlled by a minority of Board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it. Accordingly, all members of the Board shall avoid any conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety. Any member who has direct or indirect interest in any matter presented to the District Board shall notify the chair of the Board of that potential conflict and shall not participate in any discussion, decision, vote, or proceedings of the District Board in connection with that matter.

The Board is responsible for safeguarding the institution and its employees from outside parties or organizations who desire to influence decisions or Board policy creation that is not in the best interest of the institution. Board members should feel free to interact and discuss potential questionable matters with the College's Board attorney.

The members of the Board shall be covered under the College's indemnity insurance policies, to indemnify and protect the Trustees when damages are sought for alleged negligent or wrongful acts while acting in their capacity as members of the Board.

B. Meetings:

Regular meetings: Regular meetings of the Board shall be held in accordance with a schedule determined by the Board at its annual organizational meeting, or as necessary, to exercise their power and perform their duties. Notice of each regular meeting will be published in accordance with Florida Statutes.

Organizational meetings: The Board shall organize itself at the beginning of each fiscal year to select a chair, a vice chair, and other officers as deemed necessary, and to establish the dates, times, and location for its regular meetings.

Special or emergency meetings: Special or emergency meetings of the District Board may be called by the chair or by a majority of the members of the Board. Notice of special or emergency meetings will be made in accordance with Florida Statutes. No business shall be conducted or transacted in special

or emergency meetings other than that which pertains to the purpose of the special or emergency meetings as set forth in the notice.

Conduct of District Board meetings: Except as may be otherwise provided by Board policy, the conduct of the meetings shall be governed by *Roberts Rules of Order*.

A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The voting method shall be determined at the discretion of the Board chair.

Except in an emergency, as determined by the chair, the Board takes official action only on items which appear on the regular agenda. The agenda may be modified by a majority of the Board members present. The agenda may include a consent agenda with a variety of issues designed for one Board motion and vote. Upon request of any Board member, any issue may be removed from the consent agenda.

An individual or group may present an item for consideration by submitting the item in writing to the President's Office before noon, 14 days prior to a Board meeting, or at a time designated by the president. The Board chair may choose to recognize individuals or groups for public comment at such times designated on the approved agenda.

The District Board approves, disapproves, tables, or refers specific recommendations of the District Board to the president.

Complete and accurate minutes of each meeting shall be maintained in the President's Office.

C. Election of Board officers:

The Board officers elected by and from the Board of Trustees shall be a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and such other Board officers as may be determined by the Board. The Board officers shall be elected annually during the annual organizational meeting, or whenever a vacancy occurs, and at such other times as decided by the Board. Each Board officer shall hold office until the next annual organizational meeting or until a successor has been elected. The Board Chair is the officer who presides over the Board of Trustees.

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the vice chairperson will assume the office of the chairperson whenever the term of the chairperson ends or a vacancy occurs, but only if the current vice chairperson is willing and able to assume the office of chairperson. Unless otherwise decided by the Board, a new vice chairperson will then be elected. To allow each Board member an opportunity to serve as a Board officer, it should be the practice to elect a vice chairperson who

has been a member of the Board for the longest period of time without serving as a chairperson.

Any officer of the Board of Trustees may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Board members present during any regular meeting in which a quorum is present, or during a special meeting called for that purpose in which a quorum is present.

D. Legal services to the Board:

The Board may appoint an attorney, who is not a member of the Board, to serve at the pleasure of the Board. The attorney shall render legal opinions, represent the Board in legal proceedings, review and prepare legal documents, and attend meetings of the Board. The attorney shall call the Board's attention to any action or proposed action which is contrary to federal, state, or local laws, or to the policies of the College, or to contracts between the College and any persons, association, corporation, or governmental entity.

E. Appointment, suspension, and removal of Board members:

Members of the District Board of Trustees of SFSC are appointed by the Governor of Florida and confirmed by the Senate in regular session in accordance with FS 1001.61 (2). The suspension and removal of a member of the District Board of Trustees of a Florida community college is governed by the procedures set forth in Article IV, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution and Title X, Chapter 112, Section 52, and Title XLVIII, Section 1001.61 (4) of the FS. Causes for suspension or removal are outlined in these provisions and due process is afforded the affected trustees as defined in the Florida Constitution Article I, Section 9.

HISTORY: Last Reviewed 8/24/20

Issued by District Board of Trustees: 8/10/84

Reviewed: 7/01/04/ 7/01/07, 6/27/12, 8/24/20

Revised: 8/20/87, 11/28/01, 12/10/08, 4/28/10, 1/29/20