

South Florida State College Waives Application Fees

By **DEBORAH BELL LATTER**

Special To The Herald-Advocate

Throughout the month of July 2020, South Florida State College (SFSC) will not require prospective students to pay a \$15 fee when applying for admission to the College.

“We need to assist students at a time when they may be facing financial hardships,” said Dr. Sidney Valentine, vice president for academic affairs and student services at SFSC. “We hope this will, at least, alleviate students’ stress of having to pay an application fee and make it easier for them to attend South Florida State College.” SFSC hasn’t raised its tuition in eight years.

The fee waiver runs July 1 through July 31 for students who apply for fall term 2020. Students may use it for the 16-week Regular Fall Term, which begins on Friday, Aug. 21; the eight-week Fall A Flex Session which begins on Friday, Aug. 21; the eight-week Fall B Flex Session which begins on Monday, Oct. 19; and the 13-week Fall C Flex Session which begins Tuesday, Sept. 15.

During fall term 2020, SFSC will offer classes in four modalities: traditional online, face-to-face, synchronous face-to-face, and synchronous online.

For the synchronous face-to-face classes, students may be located in various rooms on the

College campuses.

Zoom video at the back of the room will allow students to engage in real time with their professor and other classmates.

In other synchronous classes, the professor may teach from home and the entire class of students will be at home or in another location but online and interacting in real time. In the traditional online classes, students are given assignments and work at their own pace to complete and turn in the professor’s assignments by the required due dates.

“We understand that students are having financial difficulties at this time, so we hope that the \$15 application fee waiver helps,” Dr. Valentine said. “We truly believe that an education can take people to any level they would like to attain, and we want to make sure that the application fee isn’t another hurdle that would prevent them from furthering their education.”

To apply to SFSC, go to the “Apply Now” button in the upper right of the SFSC website at southflorida.edu or call 863-784-7405 for assistance.

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SFSC Board of Trustees elects Wright to chair

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — Tami Cullens and Joe Wright have exchanged their positions on the South Florida State College District Board of Trustees.

For the past year, Cullens has served as the board's chair while Wright served as the board's vice chair.



WRIGHT

on the board since 2006, representing Highlands County.

During its recent reorganization, the board elected Wright as chair and Cullens as vice chair.

Cullens has served



CULLENS

degree in retail from Webber International University.

Patrick "Joe" Wright was appointed to the board in 2011 and also represents Highlands County.

Wright received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Master of Business Administration, and

She was born and raised in Highlands County, graduated from Avon Park High School, and earned her bachelor's

a law degree from the University of Florida.

A resident of Avon Park, he has been the president of V&W Farms of Delray Beach since 1988 and president and board chairman of Southeast Milk Inc. since 1997. From 2007 to 2009, he served as a councilman for the City of Avon Park.

The other SFSC District Board of Trustees members are:

- Timothy D. Backer, who was appointed to the board in 2009, represents DeSoto County. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, he moved to Arcadia in 1972.
- Derren J. Bryan, who

was appointed to the board in 2011, represents Hardee County. He is a resident of Bowling Green.

• Louis H. Kirschner, who was appointed to the board in 1999, represents DeSoto County. He has been a chiropractic physician for 30 years.

• Lana C. Puckorius, who was appointed to the board in 2011, represents Highlands County. She serves as the board liaison to the SFSC Foundation. She is a resident of Avon Park.

• Kris Y. Rider, who was appointed to the board in 2011, represents Highlands County. A native Floridian, Rider

is a resident of Lake Placid and has lived in Highlands County since 1966.

Highlands News-Sun asked about the process to fill a vacant seat, a representative from Hardee County, on the Board of Trustees.

South Florida State College noted that the governor appoints members to the SFSC District Board of Trustees. It is a matter that is not handled by the college.

The college is not aware of any action on the current vacancy that exists in the position formerly occupied by Trustee Kenneth Lambert.

News

College offering courses in various methods

By MARC VALERO Staff Writer

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AVON PARK — Along with taking many steps to maintain healthier campus environments, South Florida State College is prepared to offer courses in a variety of methods.

The four options are traditional face-to-face; online; live online or synchronous; and hybrid.

The traditional face-to-face courses meet on campus in a classroom with safety guidelines in place. In some courses, this means smaller class sizes, social distancing, and facial coverings, and in others, like the lineworker program, the class will meet outdoors with social distancing, according to SFSC.

The online courses require students to log into Brightspace and use the platform to discover assignments, submit work and participate in discussions by the deadlines set forth by the instructor.

Live online or synchronous courses take place online using a platform like Zoom where the student is required to log in at a certain class time. The instructor will give live lectures online and request virtual participation from students.

Hybrid courses have a mix of face-to-face instruction and online instruction. The instructor will explain what the schedule is and what is expected of students.

SFSC notes that in an effort to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Student Services at all locations will meet with students remotely by phone or email.

Students are encouraged to both call and email the office they wish to contact.

The fall classes begin Aug. 21.