

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**HOTEL JACARANDA**  
**April 11, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Mr. Don Elwell	Dr. Darrell Jensen	Mr. Michael Kelly
Dr. Thomas Leitzel	Mr. Tres Stephenson	Mr. Joe Wright

**Excused:**

Ms. Cheryl Brown	Mrs. Robin Weeks	Mrs. Teresa Vorous
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**Others Present:**

Mrs. Jamie Bateman	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Miss Taylor Massey
Mrs. April Ricker	Mr. Bob Swaine	

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 12:05 p.m., Mr. Elwell, President, called to order the Executive Committee meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Mr. Elwell asked for a motion to adopt the agenda of the April 11, 2023 meeting. Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wright, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Elwell asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Wright made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Vorous was excused from the meeting. Mrs. April Ricker reviewed the Investment Returns through February 28, 2023, and shared that the Foundation will end this quarter with a gain. There were no questions or concerns.

Mrs. Bateman reviewed the Gift Summary Report from February 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. Dr. Jensen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson, to approve the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Leitzel shared that Spring Commencement will be held on May 9. There will be two ceremonies with approximately 150 students each. Dr. Leitzel reported that this is the largest graduating class.

**V. FOUNDATION UPDATES**

- a. Mrs. Bateman reviewed the master calendar. The Annual Legacy Showcase Event and Fundraiser will be held on May 6. Mrs. Bateman commended Mrs. Fuchser for the great job that she has done in creating a video that highlights our Legacy Award recipient this year.
- b. Dr. Willey will be rolling off of the Foundation Board next month along with a few other members. Dr. Willey has asked Dr. George Mousa from Lakeside Dental Arts to replace him. Mrs. Bateman will present Dr. Mousa to the board at the next meeting on May 16 and they will have the opportunity to vote him in as a new member.
- c. Mrs. Bateman announced that the naming opportunity of the softball field in memory of Larry Ross Johnson is moving forward. A photo opportunity with the donor and family representation will take place on April 24 at the softball field. Mrs. Bateman invited the board members to attend. She hopes to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the fall.
- d. Mrs. Bateman shared two Appropriations requests that have been submitted. The first request is for \$3,200,000 on a multi-use, driving course in Highlands County. The second request is \$1,950,000 for the South Florida State College Dental Education Clinic. Mrs. Bateman shared that the driving course is on both Senate and House for \$3.2 million however, she is hopeful for final approval and pass. As for the Dental Education Clinic, it does not look like it will be approved at this year's session.

Dr. Leitzel expressed his gratitude to the Foundation's lobbyist group who are representing and supporting the college in Tallahassee, Florida. We value their relationships and continuous support. It is a great investment that the Foundation contributes to each month.

- e. Last week, Mr. Chavez brought his photographer to take photos of the Hotel Jacaranda and will be back to take a video of the exterior. Mr. Chavez requested information to share about the revenue/expenses of the hotel such as electricity, water, rental, dorm income, restaurant sales, etc. to put into a portfolio to present to potential buyers.

Mrs. Bateman shared that the new chiller was delivered over spring break and the electrical components have arrived. She hopes to have the new chiller hooked up and running this week and the replacement chiller removed next week.

Mrs. Bateman mentioned the replacement chiller went down during spring break while the hotel had been at full capacity due to a hockey puck found inside.

- f. Mrs. Bateman reported the recent findings on the water penetration due to Hurricane Ian that resulted in mold growth for a portion of the east side of the hotel indicating that the damage was not hurricane related. However, it is due to the age of the building and poor maintenance.
- g. Mrs. Bateman informed the Executive Committee that she has received a claim from Morgan and Morgan on behalf of a hotel guest who became injured after she had tripped and fell walking off of the elevator. Mrs. Bateman is working with Mr. Swaine and the consortium.
- h. In regards to the student residence facility, Mrs. Bateman is working with Mr. Elliott and Mr. Swaine in establishing a DSO and gathering appropriate documentation to present to the District Board of Trustees.

## **VI. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND OUTREACH**

In honor of Linemen Appreciation Day, Mrs. Fuchser shared that Duke Energy will be joining us on April 12 to educate students on the importance of electric safety with real-life demonstrations featuring their live wire truck. There will be 40 to 50 students from the Linemen program as well as 20 students from a school in Fort Meade who plan to attend. Mrs. Fuchser announced that the college has been approved for a \$50,000 grant from Duke Energy and will present the check at this event. It is the third grant that we have received from them.

Mrs. Fuchser has sold 2 level-one membership cards and 4 of the lifetime membership cards thus far with the SFSC Alumni Membership project. She is working to create more traction.

The next Alumni Networking event will be held on April 20 at the Beef O' Brady's in Arcadia. As for Young Alumni, Mrs. Fuchser scheduled monthly meetups with students from each campus on April 4 and April 6. Mrs. Fuchser met 15 students in the Criminal Justice Program on the Highlands campus followed by 19 students from Hardee and 40 students from the DeSoto campus.

Mrs. Fuchser shared the sponsorships available for the Annual Legacy Showcase on May 6. As of today, the Foundation has received 3 orange-level sponsorships and sold 34 tickets to the event.

## **VII. TIME FOR DIRECTORS**

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Mrs. Jamie asked the Executive Committee for their thoughts on having informative meetings via Zoom. The members discussed and agreed to continue with in-person meetings rather than virtual.

Dr. Jensen asked for an update on the number of Foundation scholarships awarded for the academic year. Mrs. Bateman reported an increase of approximately 100 students for the fall, however, she has not received a final count for the spring yet. Dr. Leitzel mentioned how much the Foundation has evolved in the last 10 years as well as the communities support of the Foundation, the college, and its students.

Mr. Elwell asked for any additional questions, comments, or concerns. There were none.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mr. Elwell adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael Kelly*

Board Secretary