

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
THE HOTEL JACARANDA  
MAY 16, 2023**

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Sandee Braxton	Mr. Robert Duncan	Judge Peter Estrada
Mr. Don Elwell	Mr. Michael Kelly	Mr. Tres Stephenson
Dr. Thomas Leitzel	Ms. Patricia Manderville	Dr. Vinod Thakkar
Dr. Catherine Cornelius		

**Excused:**

Mr. Corey Allain	Ms. Cheryl Brown	Mrs. Christy Crews
Mrs. Becky McIntyre	Dr. David Willey	Mr. Joe Wright
Mrs. Robin Weeks	Judge Angela Cowden	Dr. Darrell Jensen

**Others Present:**

Mrs. Jamie Bateman	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Miss Taylor Massey
Mrs. Teresa Vorous	Mr. Peter Elliott	Mrs. April Ricker
Mr. Mark Cox		

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Elwell, President, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Mr. Elwell asked for a motion to accept the agenda of the May 16, 2023 meeting. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Elwell asked for a review of the minutes from the March 7, 2023 meeting. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Consolidated Balance Sheet and the Investment Returns as of March 31, 2023. Mrs. Bateman shared the Gift Summary report from March 31, 2023, through April 30, 2023. There were no questions. Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. WARRANT LIST**

Mrs. Weeks was excused from the meeting. Mr. Kelly reviewed the Warrant List from January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. There were no questions or concerns. Dr.

Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Dr. Thakkar to accept the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. FOUNDATION RECERTIFICATION**

Mrs. Bateman requested a motion to present the Foundation Recertification to the District Board of Trustees in June. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Ms. Manderville to accept the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. 2022 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

Mr. Mark Cox from Wicks, Brown, Williams, & Co., CPA's LLP presented the 2022 Financial Audit to the Board. There were no questions or concerns. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius to accept the 2022 Financial Audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Leitzel shared a quote from Emily Dressel that she shared with the newspaper. Emily was the student speaker at the spring commencement ceremony on May 9.

Dr. Leitzel mentioned this past year has been the best funding year while he has been at the college.

**VIII. FOUNDATION UPDATES**

Mrs. Bateman shared that the Foundation received a check from the Sarasota Community Foundation for the Edward K. Roberts Scholarship in the amount of \$90,000. \$30,000 is dedicated to Desoto County and the remaining portion to be divided evenly among Highlands, Hardee, and Desoto Counties.

- a. Mrs. Bateman reviewed the master calendar and proposed the 2023-2024 Foundation Board meeting dates and locations. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly to accept the meeting dates and times as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Mrs. Bateman announced the South Florida State College Performing Arts sponsorship opportunities for 2023-2024. She reviewed the two packages and the benefits for each. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Dr. Thakkar to accept the Artist Series sponsorship level and allow Ms. Garren to use the funds where needed. The motion passed unanimously.

- c.** Mrs. Bateman presented the lease agreement between the Hotel Jacaranda and South Florida State College to the Board members for approval. It is \$7,044 per month to lease the hotel and restaurant for classrooms, laboratories, offices and other ancillary spaces as needed for college sponsored programs. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to accept the lease agreement as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- d.** Dr. Willey and Judge Estrada have recommended Dr. George Mousa with Lakeside Dental Arts and Judge Heather Beato with the Highlands County Circuit Judge to take their place on the Foundation Board. Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to accept the new board member recommendations as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- e.** Mrs. Bateman reviewed the scholarship report for 2022-2023. Compared to last year, we have increased \$109,680.14 in the number of scholarships awarded and 58 total scholarships awarded, not including the summer 2023 term.
- 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; it is due to the age of the building and poor maintenance. In order to prevent further moisture intrusion prior to remediation, the engineer suggested repairs in the total amount of \$65,728. After further discussion, Judge Estrada made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to accept the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- g.** The District Board of Trustees requested additional information and documents relating to a second DSO. With the help of Mr. Swaine and Mrs. Karlson, a draft copy of the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation will be presented to the District Board of Trustee's for consideration on June 21.
- h.** Mrs. Bateman shared that the appropriation request for the multiuse driving and training course for \$3.2 million was placed on the House and Senate's budget and is awaiting the Governor's final decision.
- i.** Mrs. Bateman has postponed the Endowed Chair mid-term reports to the Foundation Board meeting in September.
- j.** The Foundation received a cash donation from Mr. Larry Ross Johnson along with property that is appraised over \$500,000 for the support of the softball field. The

property of which is included in Mr. Johnson's will consists of five lots that are east of Sebring High School on Kenilworth Boulevard.

The family requested the opportunity to the rent the house from the Foundation. The Upholstery business has demonstrated an interest in requesting the Foundation to rezone this area for them to purchase. Currently, Mr. Johnson's Will indicated that the tenant of the Upholstery shop can stay there rent free until the Foundation sells the property. At that point, it becomes the decision of the new property owner and business owner to decide how to move forward.

In addition, the family is requesting a number of items that were presumed to have been placed in the residence following Mr. Johnson's passing, and used as storage. It was suggested by Mr. Swaine for the items to be removed by the family members, but for reasons unknown, they remained. Now the family is requesting these items be returned to them. Mrs. Bateman asked the Board as to how they would like to proceed. After further discussion, Judge Estrada made the motion, seconded by Mr. Stephenson to allow the family to remove their belongings from Mr. Johnson's residence. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Bateman asked the Board for approval to rezone the property as commercial and add property insurance. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly to accept the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. ALUMNI AND OUTREACH UPDATE**

Mrs. Fuchser shared the student spotlight of the month, Christian. He is involved in the Network Systems Technology Program at SFSC and aims to land a career in the Information Technology industry after he graduates.

Mrs. Fuchser announced the Alumni Networking event will take place on July 11 at the Beef O 'Brady's in Wauchula. She is currently accepting nominations for the SFSC Alumni Panther Society Hall of Fame through August 28.

The SFSC Foundation's Annual Legacy Showcase Event and Fundraiser was held on May 6 in the University Center. The performers enjoyed the event in the University Center, it was an intimate setting with a great crowd. Mrs. Fuchser reported, \$6,600 in sponsorships, \$1,000 in tip donations, \$5,655 in ticket sales with the most tickets sold to date at 83. Our total income over \$13,500 however, we are still waiting to finalize expenses. Overall, it was a great turnout and we hope to gain more sponsors next year, especially for food and drink to help offset the costs.

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**X. TIME FOR DIRECTORS**

Mrs. Bateman recognized the following board members who have reached the end of their term; Mrs. Crews, Mrs. McIntyre, Mr. Stephenson, Judge Estrada, and Dr. Willey. Mrs. Bateman thanked the members for their service and dedication to the college, Foundation, and the Hotel Jacaranda. Mrs. Bateman also recognized Dr. Leitzel on his retirement and thanked him for all that he has done throughout his 10 years at South Florida State College. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Elwell asked if there were additional questions, comments, or concerns. There were none.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mr. Elwell adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael Kelly*

Board Secretary