

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
HOTEL JACARANDA
MARCH 5, 2024**

Members Present:

Mr. Don Elwell	Mr. Michael Kelly	Mr. Robert Duncan
Mrs. Kris Rider	Ms. Cheryl Brown	Judge Heather Beato
Mr. Andrew Santos	Dr. George Mousa	

Excused:

Mrs. Robin Weeks	Mr. Fred Hawkins	Dr. Darrell Jensen
Judge Angela Cowden	Ms. Patricia Manderville	Mr. Corey Allain
Mrs. Sandee Braxton	Dr. Catherine Cornelius	Dr. Vinod Thakkar
Mr. Bob Swaine		

Others Present:

Mrs. Jamie Bateman	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Miss Taylor Massey
Mrs. Teresa Vorous	Mr. Peter Elliott	Mrs. June Weyrauch
Dr. Benjamin Carter		

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:35 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 March 5, 2024 meeting. Mrs. Rider made a motion, seconded by Judge Beato to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Elwell asked for a review of the amended minutes from the November 14, 2023 meeting and the minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting. Mrs. Rider made a motion, seconded by Judge Beato to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Investment Report, and the Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2023. Mrs. Vorous shared that her team is working with Mrs. Cooper on the financial audit reports that will be presented to the Board at the meeting on May 15. Judge Beato made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Rider to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. WARRANT LIST

Mrs. Weeks was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Elwell reviewed the Warrant List from December 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. There were no questions.

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Mr. Kelly made a motion, seconded by Judge Beato to approve the Warrant List as presented.

V. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hawkins was unable to attend the meeting so there were no comments.

VI. GRANTS UPDATE

Mrs. Weyrauch shared that SFSC has been awarded 5 grants and has submitted 3 since the previous board meeting on January 9.

SFSC has received \$153,716 to upgrade equipment in the Network Systems Technology, \$50,000 from Duke Energy for the Line Worker Program at the Hardee campus, and \$54,534 to assist in carrying out the National and Community Service Program by providing volunteer placement of seniors in over 20 non-profits, public, faith-based, and community agencies across Highlands County.

The college also received a South Arts Express Grant to provide three puppet workshops in April at the Wauchula, Sebring, and Avon Park libraries. With this funding, the SFSC Performing Arts will present a free marionette performance, The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, as part of the Young People's Theatre Series.

VII. TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

Dr. Carter and the Take Stock team are still recruiting for the upcoming school year. Dr. Carter shared that they have struggled this year with students not submitting their applications and finding students who meet both the college's 2.5 grade point average and the state's income requirements.

Dr. Carter and his team have decided to collaborate with the Boys and Girls Club and attend the new student orientations at the local schools next year in hopes that they will be able to recruit a new group of potential applicants and share information about the program and its benefits directly to the applicant's families.

Mr. Duncan commended Dr. Carter and his team for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Ewell suggested setting up a table in front of a Walmart and spreading the word about the Take Stock in Children program.

VIII. FOUNDATION UPDATES

a. Mrs. Bateman reviewed the master calendar and shared the Foundation's upcoming events and meetings.

On February 1, Mrs. Bateman and Mr. Elwell closed on the Larry Johnson property for \$293,000. Mr. Duncan purchased the property to start an after-school program for the local children in the community to attend.

Mrs. Bateman shared with the Board a photo of the McLochlin residence after the college's maintenance department and Labor Finders cleaned the house and property to allow Mrs. Dell to take photos of the home to list on the market. Mrs. Bateman mentioned that Mrs. Dell has already received a few offers on the house.

Last Friday, Mrs. Bateman and Mr. Hawkins met with Mr. Jason Dunkel and Mr. Andrew Santos for a check presentation for Advent Health's \$10,000 Platinum Sponsorship. She thanked them for their continuous support and looks forward to their partnership this year.

Mrs. Bateman shared a photo with Mr. Bert Horwitz who recently established a scholarship in memory of his wife whom he had been married to for 56 years. Scholarship applicants must be enrolled on a full-time basis in a certificate program, career, or trade school program at SFSC. Applicants must be residents of our tri-county area and demonstrate financial need.

Mrs. Bateman shared a potential naming opportunity with the Welding Lab on the SFSC DeSoto campus. Proceeds will go to the Foundation for the lab for future development to include equipment, etc. Mrs. Bateman has received approval from the District Board of Trustees and is working with the Foundation attorney on the agreement to return to the donor.

- b. Judge Cowden, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Manderville, Mr. Duncan, and Mrs. Weeks will be rolling off the Board in May. Mrs. Bateman shared that there are no reelections at this time and will be speaking with the members that are rolling off to offer names or suggestions for those to take their place on the Board.
- c. Mrs. Bateman thanked our current officers, Mr. Elwell, President; Dr. Jensen, Vice President; Mr. Kelly, Secretary; and Mrs. Weeks, Treasurer. The 2024-2026 officer elections will take place at the next Foundation Board meeting on May 14.
- d. Mrs. Bateman shared that Mrs. Fuchser has done a great job in securing tenants for all of the Foundation's old offices at the Hotel Jacaranda.

Mrs. Bateman shared that the Foundation has received a few phone calls from interested parties following a story that the Highlands News-Sun released about the sale of the Hotel Jacaranda. Mr. Kelly asked if the local buyers were still interested in purchasing the hotel. Mrs. Bateman mentioned that they are still interested and she is working with the college's business office to gather the information requested by the potential buyers.

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e. Mrs. Bateman shared that the Appropriations request for Dental is secured however, the driving course and the \$3 million non-recurring did not make it. Mrs. Bateman thanked our Lobby Team, The Griffin Group FL, LLC. She stated that they are doing a wonderful job and keeping us informed and on track. Mrs. Bateman also thanked the Board for the support to ensure this key and necessary leadership with them.

f. With multiple events around Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos, a committee was established to discuss other event options to replace. Mrs. Bateman shared that we will have heavy hors d'oeuvres catered and a band at the hotel to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Foundation and the 100th year of the Hotel Jacaranda being built on June 13. Mrs. Fuchser will share more.

Mrs. Bateman shared that the Foundation will be bringing the Gala back next year with the culinary program catering, light entertainment during the meal, and connecting to one of the SFSC's Performing Arts shows that have already been booked. It would not only support the Foundation but would assist Ms. Garren with Theater sales. If the District Board of Trustees approves, this event will kick off our capital campaign for the dorms.

g. Mrs. Bateman announced the following recipients of the 2024 Endowed Teaching Chairs, Mintoo Patel, Bill and Lisa Jarrett Endowed Teaching Chair in Business; Kate Calvin, Norm and Laurie Stephens Endowed Teaching Chair; Candra Polk, Highlands County Health Facilities Authority Endowed Chair for Nursing Education; and Therese Tippie, Highlands County Health Facilities Authority Endowed Chair for Dental Education. The recipients will be presenting their requests at the Foundation Board meeting on May 14.

IX. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE

Mrs. Fuchser shared the scholarship spotlight of the month, Nora, who is currently enrolled in SFSC's Dental Hygiene program.

Mrs. Fuchser asked the Board to save the date for Gatsby's Getaway at the Jac on June 13, 2024, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the SFSC Foundation as well as 100 years since the Hotel Jacaranda started being built. The Foundation is excited about this new and unique event.

Last fall, Mrs. Fuchser hosted a lunch and learn and campus tour with Kinbro, Inc. and Nucor Steel, FL. On February 12, Mrs. Fuchser met with Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority from Lakewood Ranch. Mrs. Fuchser is looking to continue to expand Lunch and Learns to other businesses in Hardee and DeSoto and invite them to our campuses there.

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Mrs. Fuchser has scheduled a networking social at Beef O Brady's in DeSoto on April 18, Beef O Brady's in Hardee on July 6, and the Sebring Soda Shop and Ice Cream Works in Sebring on October 10.

Mrs. Fuchser shared that Alan Jay Automotive Service locations and the Drip Bar in Sebring have been added to the Alumni Membership Card Program.

On March 5, Miss Massey met with 51 students on the Highlands campus for Young Alumni's monthly meetup to kick off Spring Break. Mrs. Fuchser thanked Lakeside Dermatology for providing free sunscreen, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner to giveaway to the students. Mrs. Fuchser plans to meet with students on the Highlands campus on April 2 then Hardee and DeSoto on April 4.

X. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

Mr. Santos asked if there is a threshold that the college aims for when applying for grants. Mrs. Weyrauch stated that there is not a threshold however, we will apply for the grants that best fit the needs of the college.

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mr. Elwell adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Kelly

Board Secretary