

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD ROOM, HIGHLANDS CAMPUS**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Darrell Jensen	Mr. Don Elwell	Mrs. Cheryl Brown
Ms. Julie Barber	Judge Heather Beato	Mrs. Lisa Jarrett
Mr. Parker Hall	Mr. Andrew Santos	Mr. Fred Hawkins
Dr. George Mousa		

**Excused:**

Dr. Catherine Cornelius	Dr. Vinod Thakkar	Mr. Rick Bateman
Mr. Devon Donaldson	Mrs. June Weyrauch	

**Others Present:**

Mrs. Jamie Bateman	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Miss Taylor Massey
Mr. Peter Elliott	Mrs. Teresa Vorous	Mr. Bob Swaine
Dr. Mintoo Patel	Dr. Benjamin Carter	Mr. Victor Brooks

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 5:32 p.m., Dr. Jensen, President, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Dr. Jensen requested a motion to accept the agenda of the September 10, 2024 meeting. Dr. Mousa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elwell to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jensen introduced and welcomed the new Board members: Ms. Julie Barber, Mrs. Lisa Jarrett, and Mr. Parker Hall. Mr. Rick Bateman was unable to attend the meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Dr. Jensen requested a review of the May 14, 2024, Foundation Board meeting minutes. Mr. Elwell made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Brown to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Investment Report, and Statement of Activities through July 31, 2024. Mrs. Bateman reviewed the Gift Summary Report from May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024. There were no questions or concerns. Judge Beato made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mousa to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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**IV. WARRANT LIST**

Mr. Elwell reviewed the Warrant List from April 1, 2024, through July 31, 2024. There were no questions or concerns. Mr. Santos made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber to approve the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. ENDOWED CHAIR PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Bateman introduced Dr. Mintoo Patel, the recipient of the Bill and Lisa Jarrett Endowed Teaching Chair in Business for 2024-2026. Dr. Patel presented her project and plans for the funding to the Board.

**VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Hawkins welcomed all of the college staff, faculty, and employees on Monday, August 12 at Convocation. Mr. Hawkins shared a brief overview of the new initiative offered to our college students known as the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI).

Mr. Hawkins announced Senator Denise Grimsley and Ms. Alison Hancock as the new District Board of Trustees.

Mr. Hawkins shared he will be meeting with Mrs. Bateman, the Foundation attorney, and the college attorney to discuss transferring property from the college to the Foundation to build the dorms.

**VII. FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE**

Mr. Victor Brooks with Dini Spheris shared an update with the Board on the Feasibility study. Mrs. Michelle Buchanan will present the final report at the next meeting on November 12.

**VIII. GRANT'S UPDATE**

Mrs. Weyrauch was unable to attend the meeting so there were no updates.

**IX. TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN**

Dr. Carter shared a breakdown of the 140 students in Take Stock in Children by gender, race, and grade level. Dr. Carter shared his recruiting strategy and how he and his team plan to recruit more students through programs such as Big Brother Big Sister. Mr. Santos asked for the record highest number of students in the program for a year. When Dr. Carter became the Take Stock in Children coordinator, there were only 90 students in the program and it has grown to a record total of 140 students. Judge Beato asked if they were actively recruiting mentors. Dr. Carter shared that he is actively recruiting within churches and community groups.

**X. FOUNDATION UPDATES**

a. Mrs. Bateman reviewed the master calendar with the Board and shared important details and information on the Foundation's upcoming events.

b. Mrs. Bateman shared that the Foundation has received a Letter of Intent for the Hotel Jacaranda. Mrs. Bateman updated the members on the current state of the hotel and the cost to repair the issues.

Mrs. Bateman welcomed the Board to attend the Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Celebration for the Who I Am Foundation, Inc. on September 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hotel Jacaranda.

c. On August 30, Mrs. Bateman met with key members at the college who play a role in the dorms for their thoughts and opinions on one multiple-story building versus tiny homes for the dorms. The Board discussed the two options.

d. Mrs. Bateman suggested a naming opportunity for the college's Mechatronics Lab in memory of Dr. Charles McLochlin if approved by the District Board of Trustees. Mr. Elwell made a motion, seconded by Judge Beato to proceed with the naming rights of the Mechatronics room in memory of Dr. McLochlin. The motion passed unanimously.

**XI. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Mrs. Fuchser shared more information on the new initiative, SFSC Gives Back, and the opportunities for the employees to volunteer within the local communities that we serve.

Mrs. Fuchser shared the student spotlight of the month, Paxton, an alumnus who decided to continue her education with the BSN program.

Mrs. Fuchser shared a recap of the Foundation's annual scholarship report for this year. The number of scholarships awarded has decreased from prior years, however, she and Mrs. Bateman are going to reconvene and meet the new financial aid team to make sure that all of the funding is being awarded.

The Foundation received a \$10,000 scholarship grant from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation matching for a total of \$20,000 to award to SFSC DeSoto County students. She shared that the Foundation also received \$150,000 from the Jacaralene Foundation for our Trades Programs. She thanked the Bank of America team who shared the scholarship opportunity to us. A press release for both scholarship opportunities is coming soon.

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In August, a new scholarship was established honoring Heidi Bates Arnold, a local paramedic and SFSC Alumna. The Bates family established the Heidi Bates Arnold Scholarship to remember and celebrate the life of their daughter and sister who was a banker, but found her calling in Emergency Medical Services, and through her training at SFSC, she became an EMT and then a paramedic.

Mrs. Fuchser shared a recap of the Gatsby's Getaway at the Jac on June 13. The Foundation received \$8,246 in sponsorships, \$3,185 in Silent Auction Raffles, and \$10,881.66 in expenses so the total profit was \$4,127. Mrs. Fuchser congratulated Dr. Cornelius who was honored as the 2024 Legacy Award recipient.

Mrs. Fuchser invited the Board to attend the Sebring Chamber luncheon this Thursday, September 12. She is presenting and showcasing all the college has to offer and how the Foundation can make an impact.

At Convocation on August 12, Mrs. Fuchser encouraged the faculty and staff to enroll in our monthly employee giving campaign to beat last year's numbers. Mrs. Fuchser shared that the Foundation increased this year by 15 individuals for a monthly total of \$1,039 and a projected \$12,468 a year.

Mrs. Fuchser shared that the Alumni Association has opened nominations for the Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame award through October 26. The recipient will be awarded at the Foundation's Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 5.

Mrs. Fuchser announced the new Alumni Advisory Council; Kelly Dressel, Chair; Lena Phelps, Vice Chair; and Heather Smith, Secretary. The members are Eric Bautista, Christmas Martin, Candra Polk, and Joseph von Merveldt.

Mrs. Fuchser has launched the new PAWSitive Alumni Program that pairs a mentee, a current student with a mentor, a graduate of SFSC to assist and guide them in their educational journeys.

The next Alumni Networking event will be held at the Sebring Soda and Ice Cream Works on October 10 at 5 p.m. As for Young Alumni, Mrs. Fuchser is meeting with students at Hardee and DeSoto campuses on September 19 and October 17. She is meeting with students on the Highlands campus on October 10, November 5, and December 10.

## **XII. TIME FOR DIRECTORS**

Dr. Jensen shared that the Foundation received a Letter of Intent on the Hotel Jacaranda. After further discussion, the Board agreed on a counteroffer and their final terms for the agreement.

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Dr. Jensen asked the Board if there were any questions, comments, or concerns.  
There were none.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Dr. Jensen adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Dr. George Mousa***

Board Secretary