

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**BUILDING H, CLASSROOM 110**  
**MAY 13, 2025**

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Lisa Jarrett	Ms. Julie Barber	Mr. Fred Hawkins
Dr. George Mousa	Mr. Parker Hall	Mr. Devon Donaldson
Dr. Catherine Cornelius	Mr. Don Elwell	Mrs. Heather Beato

**Excused:**

Dr. Vinod Thakkar	Mrs. Cheryl Brown	Dr. Darrell Jensen
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**Others Present:**

Mrs. Emily Dabolt	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Mrs. Taylor Buenerkemper
Dr. Michelle Heston	Mr. Mark Cox	Mrs. April Ricker
Mrs. Teresa Vorous	Mr. Bob Swaine	

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Jensen was unable to attend the meeting. At 5:33 p.m., Mr. Elwell, Treasurer, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Mr. Elwell requested a motion to accept the agenda for the May 13, 2025, meeting. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Elwell requested a review of the March 4, 2025, Foundation Board meeting minutes. Mrs. Jarrett made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius, to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Balance sheet, Investment report, and Statement of Activities through March 31, 2025. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary report from March 31, 2025, through April 30, 2025. There were no questions or concerns. Ms. Barber made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jarrett, to accept the financial reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. WARRANT LIST**

Mr. Elwell reviewed the Warrant List from January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025. There were no questions or concerns. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded

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by Mr. Donaldson, to accept the Warrant List as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**V. 2024 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

Mr. Mark Cox from Wicks, Brown, Williams, & Co., CPA's LLP presented the 2024 Financial Audit to the Board. Mr. Cox reported no issues or findings. Mr. Cox asked if there were any questions or concerns. There were none. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to accept the 2024 Financial Audit as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. FOUNDATION RECERTIFICATION**

Mrs. Dabolt requested a motion to present the Foundation Recertification to the District Board of Trustees in June. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jarrett, to accept the motion as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Hawkins shared that the college hosted Panther Palooza on Wednesday, April 30, for the students, staff, and faculty to celebrate the end of the year. Spring Commencement was held last Thursday, May 8, and there were a total of 294 students who participated in the Commencement ceremonies.

**VIII. FOUNDATION UPDATES**

- a.** Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the master calendar and proposed meeting dates, times, and locations for the 2025-26 Foundation Board meetings. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Beato, to accept the proposed meeting dates and times for Executive Committee meetings to be held via Zoom. The motion carried unanimously.
- b.** Mrs. Dabolt shared the South Florida State College Performing Arts sponsorship opportunities and benefits for 2025-26. Mr. Donaldson suggested increasing the sponsorship from \$5,000 to \$10,000 this year. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius, to approve the SFSC Performing Arts sponsorship of \$10,000. The motion carried unanimously.
- c.** Mrs. Dabolt presented the lease agreement between the Hotel Jacaranda and South Florida State College to the Board members for approval. The monthly lease cost for the hotel and restaurant is \$7,044, covering classrooms, laboratories, offices, and other ancillary spaces as needed for college-sponsored programs. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to accept the lease agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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- d. Mrs. Dabolt thanked our maintenance team for repairing the back ramp at the Hotel Jacaranda. She shared that Sherco Surveying, Inc., has asked our maintenance team to look into their window frames along Lake Avenue, as they have potentially rotted and have a bad smell. Our maintenance team has this request in and is assessing the situation.

Mrs. Dabolt introduced Mitchell Presas from Marcus and Millichap, who are interested in listing the Hotel Jacaranda on the market. Mr. Presas and his team presented their market analysis to the Board. After the presentation, the Board members discussed different options with the Hotel Jacaranda.

- e. The First Baptist Church of Avon Park reached out to the Foundation regarding the hole in the parking lot that the Foundation leases from the Church. Mr. Elliott and Mr. Hawkins have worked through this situation and have agreed to pay up to \$15,000 for the parking lot repair. The repairs will begin during the last week of May.

- f. There are no updates on the Capital Campaign during this time.

- g. Mrs. Fuchser presented to the Board an overview of the Foundation's events for 2024. Mr. Hawkins suggested that the Foundation host an event in DeSoto and Hardee Counties as well. Ms. Barber and Dr. Cornelius agreed with the idea.

- h. The student residents moved out of the dorms on May 9 for the summer. Mrs. Dabolt shared with the Board an idea that was presented to the Foundation by Twin Lakes in Avon Park. They have 30 units available for rent if the Foundation is interested in another housing option for students.

## **IX. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Mrs. Fuchser shared the Student Spotlight of the Month, Carlisha. Carlisha grew up with a single mother, which taught her the values of hard work, perseverance, and resilience at a young age. She admires her mother's unwavering determination, and it has been her greatest inspiration, fueling her ambition to excel academically and professionally.

Mrs. Fuchser thanked the Board for supporting the college and our students, helping over 290 graduates build a brighter future through higher education. On May 8, there

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were 25 High School Diplomas, 58 Associate in Science degrees, 110 Associate in Arts degrees, 1 College Credit Certificate, 40 Career Certificates, 13 Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management degrees, 8 Bachelor of Science in Elementary Teacher Education degrees, and 7 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

b. Mrs. Fuchser shared that people seemed to enjoy the Learning and Legacy Gala held on March 28. The donors, friends of the foundation, and the guests got to “See, feel, and touch” who they are supporting, and what they are supporting. The event was truly a learning event, and we shared with our guests how they are leaving a legacy.

**X. TIME FOR DIRECTORS**

Mr. Hawkins recommended that the Board include a member from the Avon Park City Council and Board of County Commissioners on the Foundation Board. Mr. Swaine suggested a member from the Airport Authority as well.

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 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dr. George Mousa*

Board Secretary