

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2025
ZOOM

Members Present:

Mrs. Cheryl Brown	Ms. Julie Barber	Mr. Fred Hawkins
Mr. Devon Donaldson		

Excused:

Dr. George Mousa		
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Others Present:

Mrs. Emily Dabolt	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Mrs. Taylor Buenerkemper
Mr. Peter Elliott	Mr. Bob Swaine	Mrs. Teresa Vorous

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 12:00 p.m., Mrs. Brown, Interim President, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Ms. Barber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, to adopt the agenda of the regular meeting of August 12, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Brown requested a review of the minutes from the April 8, 2025, Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Investment Returns through July 31, 2025. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary Report from April 31, 2025, through July 31, 2025. There were no questions or concerns. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, to approve the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hawkins welcomed back all of the college staff, faculty, and employees on Monday, August 11.

Mr. Hawkins is continuing to search for a new director who will replace his vote on the Board, as he desires to remain without a vote.

V. FOUNDATION UPDATES

- a. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the master calendar with the Executive Committee. She invited the members to join us at the Jacaranda Jubilee on December 1 and the Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 4. Mrs. Dabolt announced that the Foundation will host their first golf tournament in the fall of 2026.

With the help of Ms. Barber, the Foundation is planning a new event called “At Home with the SFSC Foundation.” Mrs. Dabolt shared her invitation idea with the Executive Committee and will present the idea to the Board in September.

Mrs. Dabolt shared that she would like to continue the Learning and Legacy Gala in the spring of next year. She shared two new ideas: a formal theme or a more casual one, like Boots and Bling. She will present both theme ideas to the Board in September for a vote.

- b. Mrs. Dabolt announced that she and Mr. Hawkins met with Sarah Evers from the Development Group in Wauchula and Mr. Chris Campbell with the Highlands County Board of Commissioners, and they are interested in being on our Foundation Board. Mrs. Dabolt will present them to the Board in September for a vote.

- c. The Hotel Jacaranda experienced a few repairs this summer. The First Baptist Church of Avon Park parking lot was resurfaced due to a hole, and the cost of this was \$10,300. There were two-bathroom remodel repairs on the dorm side for a total of \$10,000. The elevator required major repairs; the college graciously covered this expense, amounting to approximately \$53,508.

In an effort to streamline all rooms, additional dorm furniture was ordered over the summer, and now all rooms are double occupancy. Volleyball and Cross-Country athletes moved in on July 28, and the softball, baseball, and non-athletes moved in on August 11. Mrs. Dabolt thanked everyone who helped get these rooms ready for another great year.

Regarding the new AC unit that is being funded with the \$500,000 grant from the state, Mr. Elliott is working with our maintenance team to get the project underway and is looking into other necessary repairs.

Mrs. Dabolt announced that the Foundation is looking at filling the last retail space this fall.

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- d. At the last meeting, Mrs. Dabolt was asked to look into the possibility of converting the University Center into a residence hall. On July 14, Mrs. Dabolt received a proposal from Parker, Mudgett, and Smith Architects for \$7,350 to conduct a review to consider the feasibility of remodeling the space to house 90 students, or how many it may legally accommodate. Mrs. Dabolt would like to get feedback from the full board as to the next steps.
- e. With the help of Mr. Swaine, the Foundation Bylaws have been updated to reflect recent changes. Some changes include: the Alumni designee term limit was revised to a four-year term, instead of three, to be consistent with other directors, the position title was adjusted to Executive Director, Approval of contract limits was lowered for the Executive Director, a virtual meeting attendance clause was added, and revised to include that the Board of Directors without any recommendations by the Executive Committee can alter, amend, or adopt. Mrs. Dabolt shared that the revised Bylaws will be presented at the next meeting in September for a vote.

VI. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mrs. Fuchser reported that the Foundation awarded 499 students a scholarship for \$520,617 in fiscal year 2024-25.

Mrs. Fuchser announced that the Foundation has already received four reservations for the Jacaranda Jubilee, and the invitations haven't been sent out yet. She shared that Giving Tuesday will be held on December 2, and she has new ideas this year to make it fun and more interactive to help beat her goal of \$10,000. The Christmas luncheon will be held on December 4 at the Hotel Jacaranda.

Mrs. Fuchser welcomed and introduced herself to the student residents living in the Hotel Jacaranda this morning at the housing meeting. She was very excited to see the students and get to know them.

On August 16, Mrs. Fuchser will meet and speak to the athletes again to let them know that she is a resource for them through their time at the College and beyond as an alumnus.

Mrs. Fuchser will be attending Welcome Back at the college on August 13-14. She is looking forward to getting to know the new students.

Mrs. Fuchser announced that she will be hosting an SFSC Trivia Night at the 301 in downtown Sebring on August 21. She is also hosting a Fall Alumni Reunion on October 4.

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Mrs. Fuchser has scheduled a few upcoming Young Alumni monthly meetups events on October 2, November 4, December 8, and December 9.

Mrs. Fuchser shared an update with the Board on SFSC Gives Back. Last year, the team volunteered for a total of 295.75 hours with 82 volunteers among 8 different organizations in Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto counties. She looks forward to another great year of stepping off campus and giving back to our communities.

VII. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

Mrs. Brown asked the Executive Committee if they had any questions, comments, or concerns. There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Barber

Board Treasurer