

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
BOARD ROOM, SFSC HIGHLANDS CAMPUS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Members Present:

Mrs. Cheryl Brown	Dr. Catherine Cornelius	Mr. Devon Donaldson
Mr. Parker Hall	Mr. Fred Hawkins	Mrs. Lisa Jarrett
Dr. George Mousa		

Excused:

Ms. Julie Barber	Mrs. Heather Beato	
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Others Present:

Mrs. Emily Dabolt	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Mrs. Taylor Buenerkemper
Mr. Peter Elliott	Dr. Michele Heston	Mr. Bob Swaine
Mrs. Teresa Vorous	Dr. Kate Calvin	Dr. Mintoo Patel
Mrs. Therese Tippie	Mrs. Candra Polk	

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:32 p.m., Mrs. Brown, Interim President, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, to adopt the agenda of the regular meeting of September 9, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dabolt asked for recommendations for a new Board President. Mrs. Jarrett nominated Mr. Hall, and Mr. Hall accepted the position.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Brown requested a review of the minutes from the May 13, 2025, Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Hawkins made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall, to approve 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, 2025. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary Report from May 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025. There were no questions or concerns. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, to approve the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. WARRANT LIST

Ms. Barber was unable to attend the meeting, so Dr. Cornelius reviewed the Warrant List from April 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025. There were no questions or

concerns. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, to approve the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. ENDOWED CHAIR PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Dabolt introduced Dr. Minto Patel, Dr. Kate Calvin, Mrs. Therese Tippie, and Mrs. Candra Polk, who are recipients of the Endowed Teaching Chairs for 2022-24. They each presented an update on their Endowed Chair to the board members.

VI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

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

Mr. Hawkins announced that there will be a site visit with HLC on April 13 and April 14, and it is really coming together.

He shared that he is working on the appropriations requests and will be submitting those very soon. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Elliott will be attending the Safety Summit in October.

VII. FOUNDATION UPDATES

- a. Mrs. Dabolt invited the board members to attend the Jacaranda Jubilee on December 1, Giving Tuesday on December 2, the Christmas Luncheon on December 4, and the Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout on January 15-17, 2026.

Mrs. Dabolt shared that the Foundation will host its first golf tournament next fall. She asked the Board if they had a preference on the golf course and date. They had none.

Our events committee met this summer to discuss incorporating a new event this year. Inspired by Ms. Barber's innovation in creating a down-home, intimate gathering at a community leader's home, we aim to build donor relationships by sharing the Foundation's good work. The new event will be called "At Home with the SFSC Foundation." The first event will be held in Hardee County, and we hope to grow this event in each county on an annual rotation.

- b. Mrs. Dabolt met with Mrs. Sara Evers from The Development Group in Wauchula, Mr. Chris Campbell with the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, and Dr. Amy Bennett from the Desoto County School District

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who would like to become part of the Board of Directors. Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, to accept the new members as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- 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.

Mrs. Dabolt reported several leaks in the retail space for The Grove, and Tassel and Thread. Maintenance has addressed the ongoing water issues as best as possible; however, these are not long-term solutions. Unfortunately, today, The Grove had another ceiling leak. Mrs. Dabolt hopes some of the \$500,000 from the State of Florida can address some of these water intrusion issues.

The AC unit in the Edward Jones office space has been limping along for the last few years. The unit continues to leak water onto the floor, and the tenant continues to clean it up as best they can. Our maintenance team is assessing the situation as to next steps.

There was a major leak on the third-floor kitchen about two weeks ago in the dorms, coming from a pipe in the ceiling. The third-floor kitchen is closed for now. The repairs to stop the leak have been made; however, the entire ceiling will have to be replaced in the kitchen, and our maintenance team will continue to watch for signs of any other damage.

In an effort to streamline the rooms, additional dorm furniture was ordered over the summer, and as a result, all rooms are now 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. Mrs. Dabolt is currently working with the Martin County Sheriff's Office to coordinate accommodations for 16 recruits who will be living in the dorms in the spring during their 14-week law enforcement training program.

Mrs. Dabolt mentioned that she does not have any new information to report regarding the purchase of a new rooftop AC unit, which will be funded by the \$500,000 appropriation from the State of Florida. Mr. Elliott is working with our maintenance team to get this project underway, and we will also be looking at other necessary repairs that are of top priority for the Hotel Jacaranda.

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

- 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. Two weeks ago, Mrs. Dabolt had a walkthrough of the University Center with the architects, and they provided positive feedback about the building and the space, and our desire to convert it into student housing. Mrs. Dabolt said that the conversation was encouraging, and she looks forward to sharing more details once she has them at the next meeting on November 11.
- 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.

Dr. Cornelius recommended in Section 2, Amendments, Alterations or Rescissions of the Bylaws that we make it a two-meeting minimum. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, to accept the updated Bylaws as provided with the amended recommendation of a two-meeting review of adopting, changing, or amendments to be made to the Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- a. Mrs. Fuchser shared an updated scholarship report with the Board. She reported that the Foundation awarded 499 students a scholarship for \$520,617 in fiscal year 2024-25.

Mrs. Fuchser shared the student spotlight of the month, Concepcion, who shared how the scholarship funds have helped his overall expenses for classes and relieved stress. He appreciates the class flexibility, the convenience of receiving his education close to home, and the availability to meet with his professors and staff, helping him attain his goals.

She announced that the Foundation received the Edward K. Roberts Scholarship of \$40,000. The funds are designated to aid students who attend college part-time and

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may not qualify for other forms of financial aid, and students who are parents, whether single or married. The Foundation also received the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation Scholarship for \$30,000, and it will benefit our DeSoto County students with financial need. This is the third year with this scholarship, and each year, the Selby Foundation has increased its donation.

Mrs. Fuchser invited the Board to attend our upcoming events, share our events with others, and invite them to attend and participate.

Mrs. Fuchser had the opportunity to tour the Gator Wilderness Camp in DeSoto County in July. She shared that it was an amazing space and program helping young men through tough times to make a better life. Mrs. Fuchser thanked Mr. Hall for the connection and introduction. He thought it would be a good connection for the College to share the degree-seeking and trade programs, as they would be a great fit for these young men. On September 11, this group will attend College for a Day at the DeSoto campus.

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.

Mrs. Fuchser announced that nominations are now open to honor an alumnus for the SFSC Alumni Society Hall of Fame. Nominations are open through October 31, and the recipient will be awarded at the Christmas Luncheon on December 4.

On August 21, Mrs. Fuchser hosted an SFSC Trivia Night at the 301 in downtown Sebring and had a great turnout. She is also hosting a Fall Alumni Reunion on October 4. There have been 9 people already registered for the event, and we hope to gain more traction.

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

Mrs. Fuchser thanked our annual sponsors for 2025 for all that they do for the college and community.

IX. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. George Mousa
Board Secretary