

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
 BOARD ROOM, SFSC HIGHLANDS CAMPUS  
 JANUARY 13, 2026**

**Members Present:**

Mrs. Julie Barber	Dr. Amy Bennett	Ms. Cheryl Brown
Mr. Chris Campbell	Mr. Jacob Cook	Dr. Catherine Cornelius
Mr. Devon Donaldson	Mrs. Sarah Evers	Mr. Parker Hall
Mrs. Lisa Jarrett		

**Excused:**

Mrs. Heather Beato	Dr. George Mousa	
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**Others Present:**

Mr. Fred Hawkins	Mrs. Emily Dabolt	Mr. Peter Elliott
Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Dr. Michele Heston	Mrs. Taylor Buenerkemper
Mr. Bob Swaine	Mrs. Teresa Vorous	Mrs. Mary Hutzelman
Mr. Mark Valero		

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 12:00 p.m., Mr. Hall, President, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt the agenda of the regular meeting of January 13, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No corrections to the minutes were proposed; Mr. Hall, as President of the Foundation, deems the minutes approved.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mrs. Vorous reviewed the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Investment Report, and Statement of Activities through November 30, 2025. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary Report from November 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. There were no questions or concerns. Mrs. Jarrett made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius, to approve the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. WARRANT LIST**

Mrs. Barber reviewed the Warrant List from October 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025. There were no questions or concerns. Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius, to approve the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS**

Faculty and staff returned to work on January 5, and students were welcomed back on January 9 for the spring term.

On January 7, a District Board of Trustees, Mr. John Eason and Deputy Kenny Johnson with the Highlands County Sheriff’s Office, held a mandatory Safety Awareness and Response Workshop for all College employees. Mr. Hawkins shared that there will be a live-action safety exercise scheduled to take place during the spring term.

Mr. Hawkins asked the Board to start thinking about options for the future of the Jacaranda Restaurant, as the College can no longer take on the operating expenses. He will be meeting with Mr. Elliott and Mrs. Dabolt to discuss future plans.

The legislative session began today, and the College will be asking for \$5 million recurring funds to help with faculty and staff to grow programs, and \$750,000 for EMS and Fire Science gear for the program.

**VI. FOUNDATION UPDATES**

- a. Mrs. Dabolt introduced the newest Board member, Mr. Jacob Cook, from AdventHealth. Mrs. Dabolt shared the master calendar, highlighting the Boots and Bling, Learning and Legacy Gala that will be held on April 17 and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Million Dollar Hole in One Golf Shootout on January 15 through January 17.
- b. Mrs. Dabolt asked the Board to complete this year’s Board Expectation survey, which will be emailed to them after the meeting.
- c. Mrs. Dabolt shared that Duke Energy has donated a Pallett Winder Trailer worth \$995.25 to our Linemen Program. Dr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the donation. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Mrs. Dabolt announced that a new tenant, Mamma Mia, has opened in the Hotel Jacaranda, and another tenant, Sweetwater Coffee Company, will not be renewing their lease; however, we have other businesses interested in the rental space.

Mrs. Dabolt shared that there were 60 door handles that had to be replaced in the dorms during winter break. The student residents, along with 15 recruits from the Martin County Sheriff’s Office, moved into the dorms on January 4 for the spring term.

- e. There are no new developments at this time regarding the student residence facility. Mrs. Dabolt shared that the next priority is to collaborate with college leadership on a comprehensive master plan, and Mr. Elliott is facilitating this process. She mentioned that they will remain committed to evaluating viable options for on-campus student housing, whether that means renovating the University Center or building a new building.

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

Mrs. Fuchser shared the spotlight of the month, Robert who received the SFSC General Scholarship. This scholarship has helped cover his textbooks and lab fees, helping him to take his first steps toward a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine.

Mrs. Fuchser gave a recap of this year's Giving Tuesday campaign. The goal was \$10,000, but the Foundation surpassed that amount, hitting a total of \$15,100.14 plus a \$10,000 match for \$25,100.14. She thanked the Thakkar Family Foundation for their matching donation of \$10,000 and for those who donated and assisted with Giving Tuesday.

Mrs. Fuchser invited the Board to participate or come volunteer at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Million Dollar Golf Shootout on January 15-17. Mrs. Fuchser announced that the Foundation has received \$8,524 in profit so far, going into the event, but she will give a final report at the next Board meeting in March.

Mrs. Fuchser announced that the Learning and Legacy Gala will be held at the Hotel Jacaranda on April 17, and the theme is Boots and Bling. There will be a sponsor cocktail hour with the College's leadership, live entertainment, student interactive learning stations, and food prepared by local culinary chefs.

Mrs. Fuchser shared a recap of the Jacaranda Jubilee that was held on December 1. There were 115 people who purchased tickets, with 100 in attendance. Mrs. Fuchser mentioned there were 20 people on a waiting list for the event, and she plans to look at options for next year in case there is another waiting list. She thanked Mr. Hall, Dr. Darrell and Mrs. Lynn Jensen for sponsoring the event, and Sandhill Grill at Pinecrest for sponsoring the beer and wine.

Mrs. Fuchser shared that there were 154 people in attendance at the Christmas Luncheon on December 4. She thanked Mr. Hall for sponsoring the event and Sandhill Grill at Pinecrest for sponsoring the wine.

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Mrs. Fuchser announced the 2026 Annual Sponsorships for this year. She thanked AdventHealth, Mosaic Company, Duke Energy, Jarrett Ford Avon Park, MidFlorida Credit Union, Cowpoke's Watering Hole, SouthState Bank, C&C Plumbing and Repair, Marmer Construction, Michelle and David Leidel, Oak Creek Preserve, and the Arcadia All Florida Championship Rodeo for their support.

Last August, Mrs. Fuchser and Mr. Hawkins kicked off the 2025-26 SFSC Gives Back campaign and have reported a total of 254.50 volunteer hours among 7 different agencies in Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto counties so far. She mentioned that she has lined up many volunteer opportunities for this spring.

In 2025, Mrs. Fuchser hosted five Panther Partner Lunch and Tours and already has one scheduled for this year.

Mrs. Fuchser announced the fourth Annual SFSC Panther Alumni Society Hall of Fame Honoree, Mrs. Pamela Karlson, who was awarded at the Christmas Luncheon on December 4. She attended SFCC from 1987 to 1989 and received her Associate of Arts. She served as the District Board of Trustees' Attorney for many years.

Mrs. Fuchser is hosting an Alumni Speaker Q&A event on campus this spring and fall with the Dental, Elementary Education, and Radiography programs. She is also hosting a Spring Alumni Reunion on April 11 and invited the Board to attend.

In 2025, Mrs. Fuchser sold 4 Alumni Membership cards and handed out more than 55 of the free, level 1 cards to graduates at the Commencement Ceremony in December to get them to come and purchase a level 2 or level 3 that includes more benefits.

As for the Young Alumni, Mrs. Fuchser will be helping with Club Rush on January 29 and will be hosting monthly meetups on the Highlands Campus on February 17 and April 7. She will meet with students on the Hardee and DeSoto campuses on March 3 and April 15.

#### **VIII. TIME FOR DIRECTORS**

Mr. Donaldson shared that the new baseball museum will be opening soon and asked if the Foundation would be willing to donate.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jarrett, to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Mr. Parker Hall*  
Board President