

**PLANNING/BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 27, 2026**

Members Present: Mr. John Eason, Vice Chair
Mr. Derren Bryan
Mr. Bo Conerly
Mr. Justin Fussell
Ms. Denise Grimsley
Mr. Scott Cole, College Attorney
Mr. Fred Hawkins, President/Secretary

Excused: Mr. Terry Atchley Mr. Devon Donaldson Ms. Alison Hancock

Staff Present: Mrs. Ashley Bennett Dr. Mark Bukowski Dr. Kathleen Cappel
Mr. Peter Elliott Mr. Harry Havery Dr. James Hawker
Dr. Michele Heston Mrs. Hutzelman Mr. Don Kesterson
Dr. Melissa Kuehne Dr. Asena Mott Mrs. Amie Kelly
Mr. Steve Ashworth Ms. Brenda Daniels

Excused: Ms. Cindy Garren

CALL TO ORDER

At 11:02 a.m., the Planning/Budget Workshop of the District Board of Trustees was called to order on the Highlands Campus by Board Vice Chair, Mr. John Eason.

Mr. Eason welcomed everyone to the Planning/Budget Workshop.

2026-2027 Budget

- a. Mr. Elliott began the workshop by stating that we do not currently have a signed budget. He highlighted House Bill 5001E– General Appropriations Act (GAA) and its associated companion bill that will be taken up by the House of Representatives and Senate on Friday, May 29, 2026. Mr. Elliott stated that the proposed budget is expected to be approved by the Governor by June 30, 2026. He stated that the proposed budget will not be approved by the June 24 DBOT meeting. Therefore, he will present this year’s budget at the June 24 DBOT meeting. Mr. Elliott highlighted what is in the proposed budget.

Student Fees

- a. Mr. Elliott highlighted the student fees and stated for the fourteenth consecutive year there is no proposed increases in tuition and out of state fees.

Lab Fees

- a. Mr. Elliott distributed the Lab Fee Analysis and Projections to the DBOT. He stated that lab fees have not been adjusted since 2019. Mr. Elliott gave a brief overview of lab fees. He is recommending at the next DBOT meeting to adjust lab fees for the new fiscal year. President Hawkins discussed the benefits of adjusting lab fees and that it will not negatively effect students. Mr. Elliott discussed the process and review of lab fees.

b. Mr. Elliott recapped what the DBOT will be asked to approve at the June 24 DBOT meeting as follows:

- * Reaffirmation of the existing tuition and fee rates at the same level as FY26
- * An amended College Salary Schedule
 - * Reflecting positions added, deleted, or amended as of June 1, 2026
- * General Fund (Fund 1) budget
 - * Authorizing revenues and expenditures for college operations
- * Unexpended Plant Fund (Fund 7) budget
 - * Authorizing revenues and expenditures for college capital outlay projects

Mr. Elliott stated that at this time there are no recommendations on salary increases or one-time, non-recurring, pay adjustments, until the Governor signs off on the proposed budget. He stated they will bring it back before the DBOT.

COMMENTS

Mr. Eason asked if there was any questions or comments for Mr. Elliott. He thanked him for his report.

There being no further discussion, the Planning/Budget Workshop adjourned at 11:20 a.m.