

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
F102 BOARD ROOM, SFSC HIGHLANDS CAMPUS
MAY 5, 2026

Members Present:

Dr. Amy Bennett	Mr. Chris Campbell	Mr. Jacob Cook
Mrs. Sarah Evers	Mr. Parker Hall	Mr. Fred Hawkins
Mrs. Lisa Jarrett	Dr. Catherine Cornelius	

Excused:

Mrs. Julie Barber	Mrs. Heather Beato	Mrs. Cheryl Brown
Mr. Devon Donaldson	Dr. George Mousa	Mr. Bob Swaine
Dr. Michele Heston	Dr. Mark Bukowski	Dr. Kate Calvin

Others Present:

Mrs. Emily W. Dabolt	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Mrs. Taylor Buenerkemper
Mr. Peter Elliott	Mrs. Mary Hutzelman	Mrs. Candra Polk
Dr. Mintoo Patel	Mrs. Therese Tippie	Mr. Mark Cox
Mr. Corey Dixon	Mrs. April Ricker	

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:32 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 May 5, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

- a. Mrs. Jarrett nominated Mr. Hall to continue as President. Mr. Hall nominated Mrs. Evers as Vice President. Dr. Bennett nominated Dr. Mousa to continue as Secretary. Mr. Hall nominated Ms. Barber to continue as Treasurer. The motions 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. Hutzelman reviewed the Investment Report through March 31, 2026. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary Report from March 31, 2026, through April 30, 2026. There were no questions or concerns. Mrs. Evers made a motion, seconded by Dr. Cornelius, to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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Dr. Bennett announced that Building Tomorrow's Schools is giving another \$5,000 scholarship to a DeSoto County student.

IV. WARRANT LIST

Ms. Barber was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Hall reviewed the Warrant List from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026. There were no questions or concerns. Dr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. 2025 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Mr. Cox from Wick, Brown, and Williams, & Co., CPA's LLP, presented the 2025 Financial Audit to the Board. Mr. Cox reported there were no findings this year. He asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mrs. Jarrett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to accept the 2025 Financial Audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. FOUNDATION RECERTIFICATION

Mrs. Dabolt requested a motion to present the Foundation Recertification to the District Board of Trustees at their meeting on May 27. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jarrett, to accept the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. FINAL 2024-26 ENDOWED TEACHING CHAIR PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Kate Calvin, the recipient of the Norm and Laurie Stephens Endowed Teaching Chair, was unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Mintoo Patel, the recipient of the Bill and Lisa Endowed Teaching Chair in Business; Mrs. Candra Polk, recipient of the Highlands County Health Facilities Authority Endowed Chair for Nursing Education; and Mrs. Therese Tippie, recipient of the Highlands County Health Facilities Authority Endowed Chair for Dental Education, presented an overview of their Endowed Chair projects and final reports.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hawkins congratulated Mrs. Dabolt on the completion of her Master's degree.

Mr. Hawkins announced two new District Board of Trustees, Mr. Justin Fussell and Mr. Robert Conerly. The other Trustees have all been re-appointed by Governor DeSantis.

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The Spring Commencement Ceremony will be held on May 13. There will be two ceremonies at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., with 180 students walking in each.

Mr. Hawkins shared a brief update on the Appropriations Requests. He is still waiting on a finalized budget from the state.

IX. FOUNDATION UPDATES

- a. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the master calendar, pointing out the proposed 2026-27 meeting dates and times. She mentioned that Executive Committee meetings will be in-person and will no longer be held via Zoom. Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the proposed meeting dates and times as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dabolt reminded the Board to save the date for the District Board of Trustees retreat on August 18. The time and location are to be announced.

Mrs. Dabolt asked the Board to revisit the decision of changing the Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout to a golf tournament next year. Mrs. Jarrett made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bennett, to continue with the Tenth Annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout in January 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Mrs. Dabolt shared the South Florida State College Performing Arts sponsorship opportunities and benefits for 2026-27. Dr. Cornelius made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the SFSC Performing Arts Platinum level sponsorship of \$10,000. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Mrs. Dabolt presented the lease agreement between the Hotel Jacaranda and South Florida State College to the Board 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. Dr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jarrett, to accept the lease agreement as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Mrs. Dabolt shared a few updates on the Hotel Jacaranda. The kitchen stove has been fixed, and we will be replacing a washer and a dryer in the laundry rooms on the dorm side.

Mrs. Dabolt announced we are welcoming a new tenant to the Hotel Jacaranda, Liam's Avon Park Soda and Ice Cream Works, LLC. They might be open by the end of this week.

The planned HVAC system upgrade is on track to begin soon. Mrs. Dabolt shared that we have completed all the state requirements to move forward with the project. Mr. Elliott has a meeting with Trane this week.

All student residents will be moved out of the dorms by May 13. Our maintenance team at the Hotel Jacaranda will start cleaning, painting, and preparing the rooms for our first move-in on July 27.

The Jacaranda Restaurant will be closing for the summer after Mother's Day, and a decision about reopening will come from the District Board of Trustees during the summer.

- e. At the last meeting on March 10, Dr. Bennett introduced the idea of working with a Public-Private Partnership to build the dorms on campus. She shared her experience of working with Building Tomorrow's Schools, and she shared about their project building the new high school in DeSoto County.

Mrs. Dabolt shared that Building Tomorrow's Schools will be providing the Foundation with an unsolicited proposal sometime in June for consideration.

X. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mrs. Fuchser shared the student spotlight of the month, Tyler, who is in the Fire Science and EMS program. He has a passion for helping those in need and caring for them in emergencies.

Mrs. Fuchser attended the Highlands County Bar Association's Law Day Luncheon on April 30. She enjoyed the guest speaker and future Chief Justice of Florida, Justice John D. Curiel, of the Florida Supreme Court. The Highlands County Bar Association introduced two new scholarship recipients from Avon Park and Sebring High School and presented the Foundation with a \$10,000 check to continue to grow their scholarship.

Mrs. Fuchser attended the Rotary Club of Highlands County meeting on May 4, where she enjoyed presentations by two students in SFSC's Undergraduate Research program. The Rotary Club of Highlands County presented Mrs. Fuchser with a \$5,000 check to the Foundation to continue to grow their scholarship as well.

- a. Spring Commencement will be held on May 12 at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts. Mrs. Fuchser announced that 601 students are graduating, with 180 students walking at each ceremony. Mr. Don Elwell, the former President of the Foundation Board, will be the guest

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speaker at the first ceremony, and Mr. Blaise Ingoglia, Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal for the State of Florida, will be the guest speaker at the second ceremony.

- b. The Boots and Bling, Learning and Legacy Gala on April 17 was a huge success. We sold 158 tickets and received 10 sponsorships, contributing a total of \$7,250, with 4 in-kind sponsors. The silent auction included 35 donated items valued at \$12,676, but we received \$4,610. Overall, the total profit made for the event was \$11,750.96. Mrs. Fuchser shared that the Gala has continued to grow each year, and she received great feedback on the event this year.

Mrs. Fuchser thanked our 2026 Annual Sponsors for their support of South Florida State College and our students.

XI. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

Dr. Bennett requested that the annual graduation percentage rate be shared with the Board so they can share it when they are out and about in the community.

Dr. Cornelius asked the Foundation to make an option available to donate to the greatest need in addition to our general scholarship funds and athletics.

Mr. Hall asked the Board if they had any additional questions, comments, or concerns. There were none.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Dr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Parker Hall

Board President