SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CONFERENCE ROOM, SFSC HIGHLANDS CAMPUS
AUGUST 11, 2026

Members Present:

Dr. Amy Bennett	Mrs. Sarah Evers	Mr. Devon Donaldson
Mr. Fred Hawkins	Ms. Julie Barber	

Excused:

Dr. George Mousa	Mr. Parker Hall	Dr. Mark Bukowski
Dr. Michele Heston		

Others Present:

Mrs. Emily Dabolt	Mrs. Anastasia Fuchser	Mrs. Taylor Buenerkemper
Mr. Bob Swaine	Mr. Peter Elliott	Mrs. Mary Hutzelman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hall, President, was unable to attend the meeting. At 12:01 p.m., Mrs. Evers, Vice President, called to order the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation. Dr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to adopt the August 11, 2026, regular meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Evers asked the Executive Committee to review the April 14, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Hutzelman reviewed the Investment Returns through June 30, 2026. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary Report for April 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026.

Mrs. Evers asked Mrs. Dabolt for a breakdown of the donations in the gift summary report. There were no other questions or concerns. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to accept 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 at Convocation yesterday, August 10.

Mr. Hawkins shared that the College had a great visit with the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Henry Mack, on August 4. Mr. Hawkins reminded the Board of the District Board of Trustees' retreat at 9 a.m. on August 18 at the Pavilion on Little Lake Jackson.

V. FOUNDATION UPDATES

a. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the master calendar with the Board. She mentioned that the Foundation is still trying to schedule a date in April for the Annual Learning and Legacy Gala.

b. The volleyball and cross-country athletes moved into the dorms on July 27, and softball and baseball moved in yesterday, August 10. There are a total of 66 athletes and 6 non-athletes living in the dorms this fall.

Mrs. Dabolt announced a new tenant, Bella Gusto Olive Oil Company, at the Hotel Jacaranda, which opened its doors last week. We also had another tenant open during the summer, Liam's Avon Park Soda and Ice Cream Works, and we had to replace the air conditioning unit in their store last week for $6,500.

Over the summer, the Foundation replaced two washers and a dryer in the dorms for a total of $3,000. Mrs. Dabolt mentioned that she is expecting another invoice for a large hotel elevator repair of $50,000. The maintenance team is currently working with an outside contractor to repair an ongoing leak in Tassel and Thread. Mrs. Evers requested a copy of the lease agreements for our hotel tenants.

Ms. Barber asked what the status was on the Jacaranda Restaurant. Mr. Elliott announced that the College, approved by the District Board of Trustees, has decided to close the restaurant. The Culinary Arts program will still need access to the kitchen, so it will still be used for special events, and outside caterers for events may be able to use it as well.

c. At the end of May, Mrs. Dabolt met with Building Tomorrow's Schools, and they are interested in working with us; however, there are no new updates until we have received the master plan.

d. Mrs. Dabolt thanked our lobby team and many others who helped this year in securing funding for multiple projects at the College. She shared that the College received the following appropriations: $5 million for the Firearms and Driving Training Facility on the Hardee Campus, $750,000 for the EMS and Fire Science equipment and program needs, $500,000 for renovation of the Testing Center, and $1 million in recurring funds for recruitment and retention of faculty and staff.

e. A new donor, the owner of All American Pools, recently created a scholarship and is requesting to award $500 in the first year and $500 in the second year of the scholarship; these amounts will be over the spending policy of 4%; therefore, a motion is needed to approve this change. Ms. Barber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, to accept the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Mrs. Dabolt shared that Leadership Highlands asked the Foundation about providing a scholarship to a potential attendee. In looking at the fund that was created many years ago for Leadership Highlands, she found it necessary to create criteria reflective of the initial funding principles to help Leadership Highlands moving forward. The fund usage criteria and policy were reviewed by the current Leadership Highlands Board, and we will need a motion to approve the fund usage and policy. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to accept the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Mrs. Dabolt shared that the Foundation's Bylaws will need to be updated regarding Executive Committee meetings via Zoom. The Florida statute that previously allowed Sunshine Law meetings to be held via Zoom is no longer in effect. The Bylaws will need to be revised to reflect this change. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bennett, to accept the revised Bylaws as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

a. Mrs. Fuchser shared an updated scholarship report with the Board. She reported that the Foundation awarded 630 students a scholarship for a total of $429,741.15 in fiscal year 2025-26.

Mrs. Fuchser shared that the Jacaranda Jubilee is on November 30, Giving Tuesday is on December 1, and the Christmas Luncheon is on December 3. The Culinary Arts students will be preparing the food for the Jacaranda Jubilee, and Pink Pineapple Catering Company will be catering the Christmas Luncheon this year.

Mrs. Fuchser met the student residents at their mandatory housing meeting this morning, and she will be meeting with the student athletes tomorrow, August 12, to speak with them about the Alumni Association. She is also excited to be a part of Welcome Back on August 12 and August 13.

Mrs. Fuchser hosted an Alumni summer social at the Pour House on Main in Avon Park on July 14, and has scheduled an Alumni Bingo Night at the 301 in Sebring on August 19. Mrs. Fuchser announced the next Fall Alumni Reunion will be on October 17.

As for Young Alumni, Mrs. Fuchser will be assisting with Club Rush on August 17. She will be meeting with students on the Highlands Campus on October 1, November 3, and December 7, then students on the Hardee and DeSoto campuses on September 17 and October 8.

Mrs. Fuchser shared a recap with the Board on SFSC Gives Back. Last year, the team volunteered for a total of 447.50 hours with 144 volunteers among 13 different organizations in Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto counties. She hopes to have another great year.

Mrs. Fuchser announced that the Foundation received another 2026 annual sponsorship from Hall's Tiger Bay Ranch, and recognized the other sponsors and thanked them for their support.

VII. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

Mrs. Evers asked the Executive Committee if they had any comments, questions, or concerns.

Mr. Donaldson shared that Mr. Wendell Williams, a former President of the Foundation Board, passed away.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Evers adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Sarah Evers
Board Vice President