SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
BOARD ROOM, SFSC HIGHLANDS CAMPUS
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Members Present:

Mr. Parker Hall	Ms. Julie Barber	Mrs. Lisa Jarrett
Mr. Fred Hawkins	Dr. Amy Bennett	Dr. George Mousa
Mr. Chris Campbell	Mrs. Heather Beato	Mr. Jacob Cook

Excused:

Mrs. Cheryl Brown	Dr. Catherine Cornelius	Mrs. Sarah Evers
Dr. Michele Heston	Dr. Mark Bukowski	

Others Present:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:36 p.m., Mr. Hall, President, called the meeting of the South Florida State College Foundation to order. Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to adopt the September 8, 2026, regular meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

III. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Hutzelman reviewed the Consolidated Balance Sheet, Investment Report, and the Statement of Activities through July 31, 2026. Mrs. Dabolt reviewed the Gift Summary Report for May 1, 2026, through August 31, 2026.

Mr. Donaldson asked the Foundation to include the Gift Summary Report from the previous year for comparison. There were no other questions or concerns. Mr. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. WARRANT LIST

Ms. Barber reviewed the Warrant List from April 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026. There were no questions or concerns. Dr. Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cook, to accept the Warrant List as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hawkins thanked the Board for attending the District Board of Trustees Retreat on August 18. He mentioned that the first Pizza with the President is scheduled for tomorrow, September 9, and he is looking forward to meeting and talking with the students. Mr. Hawkins shared that he will begin planning for next year's appropriation requests soon.

Mr. Hawkins announced that the search for a new Vice President of Academic Affairs continues. He offered the position to a candidate last week, but the candidate did not accept it.

VI. SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING

Mr. Swaine shared an overview of Sunshine Laws with the Board.

VII. FOUNDATION UPDATES

Mrs. Dabolt congratulated Mr. Hall on being appointed as a Judge in DeSoto County.

Mrs. Dabolt thanked the Board members who attended the District Board of Trustees retreat on August 18. After the retreat, the District Board of Trustees were asked if they wanted to pursue on-campus housing and create a new Housing DSO. After hearing the discussion at last week's DBOT meeting, she said it seemed very positive. We will hear their recommendation at the next DBOT meeting in September, and we will move forward accordingly.

a. Mrs. Dabolt shared that the Annual Learning and Legacy Gala will be held on April 22 at the Hotel Jacaranda and invited the Board to attend.

b. Mrs. Dabolt shared that 70 new student residents have moved into the dorms and 6 of them are non-athletes. Over the summer, we had to replace two washers and a dryer in the dorms for a total of $3,000. There was also an emergency repair for the elevator right before the first dorm move-in for $3,600, and she is expecting another invoice for a large elevator repair around $50,000.

Mrs. Dabolt announced that the Foundation welcomed a new tenant, Bella Gusto Olive Oil Company, to the Hotel Jacaranda over the summer. We also have another tenant, Taylor Made Memories, who is turning our last rental space available into a photography studio.

Mrs. Dabolt shared an update on the HVAC project. In July, the College received the formal grant agreement for the first time from the program manager with the Division of Historical Resources through the Florida Department of State. Upon review, two provisions require negotiation before the College can accept the funds. As a condition of accepting the grant, the State of Florida would hold a security interest against the Hotel Jacaranda in the amount of the grant funds for five years from the date the improvements are completed. During that period, any attempt to sell the property would require the state's interest to be addressed first.

The grant also includes a fifteen-year restrictive covenant requiring that any changes to the property receive prior approval from the Division of Historical Resources before work can begin. If changes occur without that approval during the first ten years, the Department can require full repayment of the grant. This covenant would also transfer to any future owners of the property.

Mrs. Dabolt shared that the Jacaranda Restaurant is permanently closed, approved by the District Board of Trustees, following careful consideration of the restaurant's ongoing financial losses and the College's responsibility to use its resources and facilities effectively and efficiently. The hotel, its event spaces, dorm facility, culinary program, retail and office spaces remain fully open and continue to operate as usual.

c. There are no new updates on the student residence facility. Mrs. Dabolt shared that we will move in step with the District Board of Trustees as the Master Plan unfolds.

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. Mrs. Dabolt asked for the Board to review the revised Bylaws. Mrs. Jarrett made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barber, to accept the revised Bylaws as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ALUMNI RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This past month, Mrs. Fuchser shared that the Foundation has helped many students in the EMS and Nursing programs purchase items needed for their programs, including gear needed to attend the fire science program and an online program

required for nursing clinicals. These students were on a deadline of being dropped from their programs if they did not get these items.

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 Foundation has recently received the following scholarships: $40,000 from the Edward K. Roberts Foundation; $1,000 from All American Pool Services; a scholarship in memory of Mrs. Ruth E. Handley that was established by her children to honor her; $30,000 from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation; and $100,000 from the Jacarlene Foundation.

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 Jacaranda Jubilee and Christmas Luncheon invitations will be mailed out at the end of October, and there are sponsorship opportunities available for both events.

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 shared that it will be another great year of giving back to the communities we serve.

Mrs. Fuchser hosted two Alumni summer socials at the Pour House on Main in Avon Park on July 14, and Bingo Night at the 301 in Sebring on August 19. She has scheduled another Fall Alumni Reunion on October 17 and already has 10 Alumni registered for the event.

As for Young Alumni, Mrs. Fuchser met with students at Club Rush on August 27, and she mentioned that it was a good turnout. 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 announced that the Foundation received another 2026 annual sponsorship from Hall’s Tiger Bay Ranch, and South State has confirmed increasing to gold-level sponsorship for 2027. She recognized the other sponsors and thanked them for their continuous support.

IX. TIME FOR DIRECTORS

Mr. Hall asked the Board if they had any additional questions, comments, or concerns.

Mr. Hall thanked Dr. Bennett for inviting the Board to tour the new DeSoto High School. Mr. Hawkins thanked Mr. Donaldson for his efforts in trying to bring in another local restaurant to sublease the Jacaranda Restaurant space, though it did not go through.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Hall adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. George Mousa
Board Secretary