**ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS
Andrew’s Downstairs
SPECIAL ADVOCACY BUSINESS MEETING
March 14, 2019**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome and Remarks – Ava Parker, Chair**
President Parker called the Special Advocacy Business Meeting of the Council of Presidents to order.

Mr. Brawer took roll of the presidents in the room and on the phone:

Greg Haile
Sarah Clemmons
Tom LoBasso
Jeff Allbritten
Ken Atwater
Stanley Sidor
Eduardo Padron (Lenore Rodicio)
Ava Parker
Ed Meadows
Angela Garcia-Falconetti
Georgia Lorenz
Thomas Leitzel
Carol Probstfeld (Todd Fritch)
Joe Pickens
Tonjua Williams

The Council had a quorum of fifteen members.

Ms. Heflin shared that the House and Senate higher education budgets will be released next week. The Committee meetings will take place on Wednesday, March 20.

President Parker shared that Tim Elwell suggested that there will be changes in the Performance Funding. She asked Ms. Heflin and the lobbying team to do an analysis of what is in the budget. Ms. Heflin shared that it would be helpful for presidents to reach out to Senate leaders in their delegation and remind them of the Florida College System budget ask and thank them for their support of the system. Ms. Heflin will be emailing, presidents who have House Committee members in their delegation, some talking points to help deliver the message.

Ms. Heflin stated that it would be important to have talking points that address the transfers from Fund 1 to Fund 7 as well as PECO. Ms. Heflin will take care of the Fund 1 to Fund 7 points. She asked the presidents for statements that would apply to the system and explain why the funding of PECO should not be overlooked.

Ms. Heflin asked the Council for direction in working with the staff and committee members on the language on a few policy bills dealing with career pathways and dual enrollment. She specifically asked for guidance in the current language of House Bill 7071. After much discussion the Council concluded that they would like to work with the Department of Education to create a statewide articulation process. Ms. Bonlarron asked the Council if drafting an amendment stating the associate degrees would stay at the colleges. The Council was in favor of drafting language for an amendment.

Ms. Heflin shared there are currently four bills dealing with dual enrollment. House Bill 189 and Senate Bill 1342 would prohibit the state colleges from charging private school dual enrolled students’ tuition. Commissioner Corcoran recognized that there is a cost in providing schooling to these students, currently there is no legislation that would compensate that cost. Ms. Heflin shared that the lobbying team has been working to document what the cost is at each institution. The college lobbyists have also been gathering the data that shows how many private school dual enrollment students are enrolled at each college. President Parker asked if an email could be forwarded to Mr. Brawer so he could send to the college president who do not have internal lobbyist currently working on this effort. Dr. Atwater stated that homeschool dual enrolled students should be included in the data, just for information as they also do not pay for schooling at the state colleges. President Parker shared that it is important that the compensation for these students needs to be funded outside of the budget request. Ms. Hebda will share the concerns that were discussed with Commissioner Corcoran as he is open to improving the bill. President Parker asked if there was a way to incentivize this with performance funding. Chancellor Hedba responded that Tim Elwell is the only one currently interested in changing performance funding. Chancellor Hebda asked if the Council would want to entertain having an external group come in and look the current performance model and make recommendations in collaboration with the Council. President Parker stated that the Council would view the Senate model first, then move forward with thoughts of using the external group for making recommendations.

President Parker asked about the status of the amendment that was filled to allow for Florida College System colleges to participate in four-year sports. Both the House and Senate have filled bills.

Dr. Meadows made a motion that the COP as a system, does not support any bill that would remove the Florida College System from the current NJCAA designation for athletics or authorize any Florida College System institution to do so. Dr. Sidor seconded the motion. President Parker made it clear that this was not to target any single college, but as what is best for the system currently. Dr. Allbritten stated that he was not in favor of the motion. All others present approved the motion. In total there were 14 presidents who approved the motion and one that did not approve the motion.
President Haile mentioned that the COP has had discussion about the potential to move forward with legislation that would allow moving forward with altering dual enrollment regulations. Currently a student needs a 3.0 GPA to participate, however there are students who are below 3.0 but could perform academically at the collegiate level. He shared that currently he is looking for language that would allow for a pilot program of institutions that are interested and willing to participate. He said they would be looking at students in the top 25% or those who have at 2.5 GPA. President Haile will be sending out an email to fins out what colleges would be interested in the pilot program. President Parker called on the lobbyist to begin working on language that would amend expanding dual enrollment. Chancellor Hebda shared this is currently being done with the Accuplacer test. Ms. Heflin mentioned taking that idea back to Commissioner Corcoran to see if he would support that kind of change for dual enrollment. Chancellor Hebda was in favor of taking the idea to Commissioner Corcoran.

Chancellor Hebda shared that she would be emailing some staffing changes at the Division.

Karen Moore reminded the Council that the TaxWatch results need to be shared. The TaxWatch press conference is available to anyone who would like to view it, it can be found on the AFC website and Facebook. Ms. Moore asked Mr. Brawer to send it to the college presidents. Ms. Moore encouraged the presidents to talk about the return on investments. Ms Moore reminded the presidents that if they need any help with messaging to please reach out to her. Ms. Moore also shared that her staff will be delivering copies of the TaxWatch report to all members of the House and Senate.

President Pickens mentioned the $20 million insurance reimbursement. He shared that he had met with Tim Elwell conceptually it seems like something that everyone thinks should be done. Ms. Heflin shared that Mr. Elwell asked to write the proviso and make sure that Representative Cummings is aware of it.

Dr. Williams asked on behalf of Dr. Probstfeld, that if you have any pass-through funds in your base budget, that they can not massage the budget with that consideration. That pass-through money must be removed from the base or that will be assumed as your funds.

President Parker shared that Mr. Brawer will be sending out an email regarding the April meeting. There may be changes to the current date and location.

President Parker adjourned the Special Advocacy Business Meeting of the Council of Presidents at 6:46 p.m.