




September 16, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Board of Trustees

FROM: Jim Murdaugh, President 

SUBJECT: New Board Policy 02-08 Public's Right to be Heard at Public Meetings

Item Description

New Board Policy 02-08, Sec. 286.0114 codifying the public's right to be heard at public meetings.

Overview and Background

In the 2013 Florida legislative session, Sec. 286.0114 was passed with an effective date of October 1, 2013 which requires that members of the public shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard subject to Board rules or policies that provide guidelines as to the process. Procedures must be outlined to allow for representatives of groups, rather than multiple speakers, to speak on behalf of a group, include forms to advise the Board of public interest in addressing and to designate a specific time during the meeting for public comment.

Past Actions by the Board

At the direction of the Board, Vice President Teresa Smith contacted the First Amendment Foundation (Barbara Petersen). The Foundation approved of the proposed policy language.

Funding/Financial Implications

None.

Staff Resource

Teresa Smith

Recommended Action

Approve the policy as presented.

**TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
P O L I C Y**

TITLE: Public’s Right to be Heard at Public Meetings	NUMBER: 02-08
AUTHORITY: Florida Statute: 1001.64, 1001.65; 120.286; 120.525(1)(2); 286.011(1); 286.0114. Florida Administrative Code: N/A	SEE ALSO:
DATE ADOPTED: 08/19/13	

The Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees meetings are open to the public and individuals and groups are encouraged to attend. Each Board business meeting will have time set aside for public input and petitions. Public comment will be heard immediately after the Board addresses Unfinished Business on the Board Business Meeting Agenda. The Board, in its discretion, may determine the time allotted for individual or total public comment.

A “Public Comment” card will be filled out with the individual's name, address, the topic about which the individual spoke and the date. If an individual is addressing the Board on behalf of a group, the speaker will identify the group on the public comment card. This card will be kept by the Board Recorder for denotation in the Board Minutes and for follow-up if required.

Any person or group challenging any Board action decided in a Board Business Meeting shall ensure that a verbatim record is made at that person or group’s expense of the portion of the Board Business Meeting which includes the action challenged and all testimony or other evidence upon which the challenge is made. Persons seeking to challenge any action of the Board are required to comply, in all respects, with Chapter 120 and Sections 286.0105, 286.0114, Florida Statutes.

The Board meeting schedule may be found on the College’s website at www.tcc.fl.edu