

Minutes
District Board of Trustees
Tallahassee State College
444 Appleyard Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32304
Monday, August 18, 2025
Business Meeting – Workshop, 2:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

On Monday, August 18, Chair Karen Moore called the Tallahassee College District Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Chair Moore asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Chair Karen Moore, Vice Chair Eugene Lamb, Trustees Monesia Brown, Christian Caban, Jonathan Kilpatrick, Frank Messersmith, and Monte Stevens.

Others Present: President Jim Murdaugh, Sheri Rowland, Riley Landy, Martin Balinsky, Sean McGovern, Brendie Hawkins, Heather Mitchell, Mandy Rogen, Paul Posey, Dustin Frost, Jennifer Carr, Angela Long, Camden Smit, Bobby Jones, Calandra Stringer, Wayne Almy, Katharine Bahmann, Nyla Davis, Jason Fowler, Lei Wang, Bill Spiers, Barbara Wills, Amany Hilario, Tricia Rizza, Shelly L. Bell, Amanda Clemnts, Kayla Dover, Hope Childress, Calvin Cheung, Sila Lott, Anthony Jones, Tarrah Gordan, Christen Givens, Cerissa Fondo, and Bertie Culbreath.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

- i. Chair Remarks:
Chair Moore welcomed recently-appointed trustee, Christian Caban, and recognized the reappointment of Trustee Monesia Brown. She noted that she attended the AI for Good Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, where Dr. Murdaugh and Dr. Angela Long led a featured session.

Chair Moore thanked Vice President Heather Mitchell and her team for their outstanding work on Eagles Rise, which she and Trustee Eugene Lamb attended. She also shared that TSC was named one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges by NewsNow.

In addition, she thanked Provost Calandra Stringer and Dr. Tricia Rizza for their incredible work with Tallahassee Collegiate Academy, which earned its second consecutive A grade from the Department of Education in its second year of operation. She announced the new TCA leadership team: Dr. Robin Oliveri, Principal; Sherrhonda Faison, Assistant Principal; and LaNandra Watkins, Dean of Students.

- ii. Trustee Remarks:
 - a. Trustee Christian Caban expressed his honor to serve on the Board and reflected on his time as a student at TSC from 2011 to 2013, crediting that experience as foundational to his success. He praised the College's intimate learning environment. He noted that he and his partner, Alex, recently welcomed their son, Colt.
 - b. Trustee Brown shared that she enjoyed participating in Convocation and noted the students' strong interest in being engaged beyond academics. She thanked Dr. Rowland for guiding her around campus.
 - c. Trustee Kilpatrick observed that campus parking was a challenge—a good reflection of the growth and activity on campus. He announced that his daughter and son-in-law finalized the adoption of their three children.
 - d. Vice Chair Lamb thanked VP Heather Mitchell and her team for delivering a fantastic Eagles Rise event.
 - e. Trustee Messersmith expressed his appreciation for the appointment of Dr. Camden Smit as Chief of Staff, noting her strong record of service in Wakulla County. He noted his recent tour of the Innovation Hub and the impressive changes taking place there.
 - f. Trustee Stevens shared that the energy of a full campus makes him proud to serve as a trustee. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to continue serving.
- iii. President Murdaugh introduced Dr. Camden Smit as the College's new Chief of Staff. Dr. Smit brings extensive experience from Wakulla County Schools and, most recently worked with Florida Virtual School. She began her role on July 21. He then expressed gratitude to Charlie Ward for his time on the Board.

Dr. Murdaugh noted that TSC recently hosted Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas. He visited Tallahassee

Collegiate Academy, the Library, Dental Clinic and Simulation Center, and the Transfer Services Office during his tour.

President Murdaugh extended birthday wishes to Trustee Lamb. He highlighted the one-year anniversary of the College's name change to Tallahassee State College and congratulated three members of the Forensics Team for being named to the FSCAA All-Academic Team.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2025 June Board Minutes

Approve minutes as presented.

MOTION: Trustee Lamb
Motion passed unanimously.

SECOND: Trustee Stevens

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. Election of Officers for 2025-2026

Chair Moore opened the floor for 2025-26 Chair and Vice Chair nominations.

Trustee Kilpatrick nominated Trustee Lamb for Chair and Trustee Messersmith for Vice Chair.
Nominations passed unanimously.

President Murdaugh presented outgoing Chair Moore with a gavel plaque in recognition of her service as Board Chair of 2024-25.

INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS

Amanda Clements, Interim Vice President and Director of Communications, provided an overview of recent media coverage for the college.

Highlights included:

- Coverage of the appointment of Trustee Caban and reappointment of Trustee Brown.
- The launch of two new healthcare A.S. degrees.
- Recognition of TSC having one of the lowest tuition rates in the country.
- The launch of the Innovation Academy of Excellence.

- The Tallahassee Chamber Conference, mentioning Dr. Long's session, and the participation of other TSC representatives.

Broadcast clips highlighting recent coverage were also shared.

PRESENTATIONS

VP Heather Mitchell introduced Amanda Roden, Executive Director and President of the Florida College System Foundation. Ms. Roden shared that the Foundation is the direct support organization for the Florida College System and, along with Karen Moore, the chair of the FSC Foundation board, presented a check for \$43,499 for student scholarships.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Consent Agenda

The consent agenda format is an organization process for meetings that allows the governing board to focus their time and attention on action items that require more elaboration, information, and/or discussion. The intent of the consent agenda is to support the efficiency and effectiveness of the meeting.

If a trustee has a question or plans to cast a negative vote regarding a specific recommendation, then the trustee/trustees need to acknowledge their intention to the Chair. This action item will be considered in the regular order of business as an individual action item.

Those action items that the trustees plan to approve without further question or discussion will remain on the consent agenda. Upon the final determination of the consent agenda, a motion, second to the motion, and unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees is needed to approve the action items. Upon approval of the consent agenda, the Board of Trustees will proceed with the remainder of the agenda.

3. Attorney Invoices – Bryant Miller Olive (July 2025)
Authorize payment of invoices as presented.
4. Human Resource Report
Motion to Approve Consent Agenda
MOTION: Trustee Kilpatrick **SECOND:** Trustee Moore
Motion passed unanimously.

TSC Foundation

5. TSC Foundation Update

Presented as an information item only.

Academic Affairs

6. General Education Institutional Review Certification
Approve the College's list of general education courses for 2026-2027.
MOTION: Trustee Stevens **SECOND:** Trustee Brown
Motion passed unanimously.
7. Dual Enrollment Articulation Amendment
Approve the amendment to the 2025-2026 dual enrollment articulation agreements.
MOTION: Trustee Moore **SECOND:** Vice Chair Messersmith
Motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Services

8. Fund Analysis - July
For information only, no Board action required.
9. Disposition of Surplus Property Assets
Authorize the College to dispose of the items designated as surplus.
MOTION: Trustee Moore **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens
Motion passed unanimously.
10. Sponsored Programs – Provider
Authorize funding for the awards and contracts as presented.
MOTION: Vice Chair Messersmith **SECOND:** Trustee Kilpatrick
Motion passed unanimously.
11. Architect Invoices
Authorize payment of architectural invoice(s) as presented.
MOTION: Trustee Stevens **SECOND:** Trustee Moore
Motion passed unanimously.
12. Construction Status Report
Presented as an information item only.
13. Resubmit Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2026-27 Through 2028-2029
Approve the updated 2026-27 through 2028-29 CIP, as provided on the attached CIP-1 and CIP-2 forms.
MOTION: Trustee Kilpatrick **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens
Motion passed unanimously.

14. FY 2025-2026 College Operating Budget Amendment #1
Approve Amendment #1 of the College's FY 2025-2026 Operating Budget.
MOTION: Vice Chair Messersmith **SECOND:** Trustee Brown
Motion passed unanimously.
15. Spot Survey 3.2
Approve the attached Educational Plant Spot Survey 3.2.
MOTION: Trustee Stevens **SECOND:** Trustee Moore
Motion passed unanimously.

Information Technology

16. Information Technology Plan for FY 2025-26.
Approve the Information Technology Plan for FY 2025-26.
MOTION: Trustee Kilpatrick **SECOND:** Trustee Brown
Motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Effectiveness

17. Transition of Institutional Accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).
Approve the transition of institutional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).
MOTION: Vice Chair Messersmith **SECOND:** Trustee Stevens
Motion passed unanimously.

President Murdaugh explained that two years ago, the legislature mandated all Florida colleges and universities to identify a new accrediting body. Following discussions across the system, institutions collectively agreed that transitioning to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) would best support seamless transfers from a colleges to universities. He noted that Florida's university system also expressed interest in establishing a state-specific accrediting body.

President Murdaugh emphasized that accreditation is critical for access to federal financial aid programs, including Pell grants. He assured trustees that the College will remain accredited and that updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Trustee Stevens asked whether the transition was essentially a direct response to the legislative mandate requiring all colleges to pursue new accreditation, which President Murdaugh confirmed.

18. The District Board of Trustees 2025 Board Self-Evaluation. Recommend that the District Board of Trustees of Tallahassee State College acknowledge and accept the results of the 2025 Board Self-Evaluation as presented.

MOTION: Trustee Moore

SECOND: Trustee Brown

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amany Hilario addressed the Board regarding concerns with a student conduct process and his removal from leadership roles. He shared his experience as an active student and expressed feeling harassed and silenced after raising questions about transparency and budgets. Mr. Hilario stated that his termination from student employment and subsequent conduct ruling jeopardized his professional opportunities. He asked the Board to ensure future student leaders are supported rather than discouraged and called for an audit of the athletic and student affairs departments.

WORKSHOP – BUDGET PRESENTATION

Vice President and Chief Business Officer Barbara Wills presented an update to the annual budget workshop, explaining that because the legislative session was extended, the College operated under a continuation budget until final appropriations were received. She reviewed FY25 financial data and outlined the proposed FY26 budget, noting challenges related to state-mandated changes in retirement and health insurance costs.

VP Wills explained that the College's participation in the state group health insurance plan has created new expenses, including the requirement to refund certain pre-tax FICA-related amounts and to budget for a 9% increase in insurance premiums effective January 1, 2026. She emphasized that while these changes increased costs, employees have benefited from lower monthly premiums.

She also noted that revenue projections are based on an anticipated 2% increase in credit hours and that year-end fund balances are reported annually to the state.

Vice Chair Messersmith asked how premium increases are handled. VP Wills clarified that the state sets premiums and cost-sharing, not the College. Trustee Stevens added that employee premiums are capped by the legislature, leaving institutions to absorb additional costs. President Murdaugh provided context on the legislative move to shift colleges into the state plan, including a previously approved \$80 million hold-harmless allocation that the Governor later vetoed.

Trustee Brown asked about coordinated advocacy efforts, and both President Murdaugh and Trustee Moore emphasized the critical role trustees play in advancing funding priorities.

Trustee Moore encouraged attendance at the upcoming statewide trustee commission meeting at the Capitol, highlighting it as an opportunity to advocate for recurring health insurance support.

Trustee Caban inquired about whether the fund balance represents reserves or cash on hand. VP Wills confirmed that the fund balance is a rolling year-end figure based on audited financials, not a total reserve amount.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Murdaugh announced that the College will be closed on Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day. He also shared that Dr. Lei Wang will be retiring in September and expressed his appreciation for her leadership and years of service. He noted that Dr. Stephen Nettles has been hired and will begin on September 8.

Chair Lamb asked the TSC counsel, Ms. Riley Landy, to research how trustee elections are conducted at several other state colleges. The Board will review her findings and decide which system to adopt.

NEXT MEETING DATE

September 15, 2025

Location: **Wakulla Environmental Institute**

ADJOURNMENT at 3:57 p.m.