

**FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS**  
**Business Meeting Minutes (DRAFT until approved)**

**February 24, 2026 – Tallahassee State College Center for Innovation & via Zoom**

**Call To Order**

President Georgia Lorenz called the Council of Presidents (COP) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. ET, wished presidents and guests a happy “CTE Month,” and thanked Tallahassee State College for hosting the meeting. Dr. Lorenz welcomed Dr. Anne Kerr, thanking her for serving as interim president at Polk State College, and congratulated Dr. Falconetti for her leadership with the COP as well as her appointment as interim president at University of North Florida.

**Roll Call and Quorum Check** *(15 presidents required for quorum)*

Broward: President Torey Alston	Palm Beach: President Ava Parker
Chipola: President Sarah Clemmons	Pasco-Hernando: President Eric Hall
Central FL: President Jim Henningsen	Pensacola: President Ed Meadows
Daytona: President Tom LoBasso	Polk: Interim President Anne Kerr
Eastern FL: Phil Simpson as proxy for President James Richey	Santa Fe: President Paul Broadie
FL SouthWestern: President Jeff Allbritten	Seminole: President Georgia Lorenz
Gulf Coast: President Glem McDonald	South FL: President Fred Hawkins
Lake-Sumter: President John Temple	St. Johns River: President Joe Pickens
North Florida: President Jennifer Page	St. Pete: President Tonjua Williams
Northwest Florida: President Mel Ponder	Tallahassee: President Jim Murdaugh
	Valencia: President Kathleen Plinske

A quorum was present.

**Council of Presidents Minutes**

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes of the Council of Presidents Business Meeting held January 23, 2026, as presented.**

**Report of the Chair**

President Lorenz congratulated presidents for achieving Governor DeSantis’ goal of being #1 in workforce education five years ahead of the goals established in executive order 1931, thanking the governor and legislature for the investments that made it possible, and especially the commitment and execution of the faculty and staff at the great 28.

President Lorenz thanked Commissioner Kamoutsas for his continued support and advocacy, as well as his update at the recent COP professional development meeting. Dr. Lorenz reviewed items discussed at the professional development meeting, including updates from Volunteer Florida and the Lumina Foundation.

President Lorenz thanked President Jim Murdaugh and Dr. Laura Byrd for agreeing to serve as the COP’s liaisons to the AFC Foundation.

President Lorenz thanked Presidents Gueverra and Pumariiega for their comments and support at the most recent State Board of Education meeting held at The College of the Florida Keys.

President Lorenz advised that the May COP meeting date will change given the new dates for the Commissioner’s Summit, now scheduled for May 14 & 15.

**Policy and Advocacy Committee Report**

President Fred Hawkins convened the Policy and Advocacy Committee at 9:08 a.m., thanked presidents for the work they and their teams are doing, and provided updates on the proposed FCS budget and bills related to LINE, campus safety, speech and debate, AI, and cybersecurity. President Lorenz discussed the updated bill tracking tool prepared by The Southern Group. President Hawkins closed the Policy and Advocacy Committee at 9:11 a.m.

**Report of the Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges**

Chancellor Kathy Hebda provided an update on the recent State Board of Education (SBOE) meeting held at the College of the Florida Keys and the upcoming meeting in April; the inaugural Sunshine State debate; the proposed legislative “agency bill”; the upcoming advising, recruitment, and admissions summit being coordinated by the Student Success Center, the Council of Student Affairs (CSA), and the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC); the upcoming Commissioner’s Summit on May 14-15 in Miami; the “strengthening community colleges” grant; and round 2 applications for LINE grants.

**Report of the Chancellor, Division of Career & Adult Education**

Chancellor Ashley Meros provided an update on CTE Month (February); Florida’s ranking as #1 in workforce education; apprenticeship goals for Florida; rule amendments from the recent SBOE meeting; and America 250 activities.

Senior Chancellor Kevin O’Farrell thanked presidents and colleges for the work to achieve the #1 ranking in workforce education and discussed strategies to maintain this position going forward. Senior Chancellor O’Farrell also provided an overview of preparation for the implementation of Workforce Pell.

**COP Committee and Workgroup Reports**

**Florida College System Risk Management Consortium (FCSRMC)**

President Jim Henningsen convened the FCSRMC at 9:44 am. Dr. Henningsen thanked Santa Fe College for serving as the fiscal agent for the Consortium for 36 years and announced that Pensacola State College would be the fiscal agent going forward.

Chauncey Fagler and Tony Ganstine of the FCSRMC provided an insurance market update; reviewed insurance coverages, exposure, allocations, premiums, and deductibles by coverage lines; and discussed the Consortium’s operations and budget. Mr. Ganstine highlighted proposed changes to the Risk Management Manual and reviewed the audit conducted by James Moore, noting that there were no significant risks, no significant changes to accounting policies, no significant corrected or uncorrected misstatements, no significant difficulties performing the audit, and no disagreements with management identified in the report. Mr. Ganstine also discussed the employee benefits discontinued following the FCS joining the state’s health insurance program, noting that the Consortium was finalizing the audit of outstanding claims with Florida Blue and had proposed a smaller budget for the coming year to pay for outstanding invoices. Once rebates, claims, and expenses are finalized, the Consortium plans to liquidate the employee benefit fund balance.

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to ratify the following action items included in the FCSRMC report:**

- **Action Item 1.a., motion to ratify the 2026-2027 Property/Casualty/Optional Program Renewal, as presented by Chauncey Fagler;**
- **Action Item 1.b., motion to ratify the 2026-2027 Property/Casualty and Administration Budget, as presented by Chauncey Fagler;**
- **Action Item 1.c., motion to ratify the Risk Management Manual Update, as presented by Chauncey Fagler;**
- **Action Item 1.d., motion to ratify the Property/Casualty Program Audit as submitted, including: 1. James Moore 2024-2025 Audit, 2. Management Letter, and 3. Actuary Letter;**
- **Action Item 2.a., motion to ratify the 2026 Employee Benefit Plans Budget, as presented by Chauncey Fagler; and**
- **Action Item 3.a., motion to ratify the 2026-2027 Pensacola State College Agreement, as presented by Chauncey Fagler.**

Chauncey Fagler reviewed the Operations Committee member list and thanked members for their support. President Henningsen closed the FCSRMC meeting at 10:02 a.m.

**Articulation Coordinating Committee**

President Paul Broadie provided an update on the recent meeting of the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) and reviewed the following reports: the 2026-2027 Dual Enrollment Course High School Subject Equivalency List, the 2025-2026 Gold Standard Career Pathways Articulation Agreements of Industry Certifications to AS/AA Degrees, updates to the Common Prerequisites Manual, and the Career Technical Education Framework Curriculum. The next meeting of the ACC is scheduled for June 10.

**Media and Public Relations Committee**

President Tonjua Williams thanked presidents and their colleges for all the strong favorable messaging in support of the FCS . Kendra Parson of the Moore Agency provided an update on recent marketing activities, earned media, and the upcoming “FCS month” campaign.

**COP Support Council Reports**

**Council of Trustees**

President Meadows reported that the Council would be working on an updated Board orientation manual for new Trustees. Mr. Carvajal noted that the AFC office was monitoring the Board appointments pending before the Senate and thanked Mr. Bill Mallowney at Valencia College for support provided to the Council of Trustees.

**Council of Instructional Affairs**

Dr. Nate Southerland provided an update on Council activities, highlighting activities of the History Faculty Workgroup, the Curriculum Process Workgroup, and the Institutional Effectiveness/Institutional Research Workgroup. Dr. Southerland also reviewed agenda items from

the recent Joint Councils Meeting held on February 19.

**Council of Student Affairs**

Dr. Jan Lloyd-Lesley provided an update on Council activities, highlighting the admissions, recruitment, and advising conference being planned in partnership with the Student Success Center and AFC; discussed project underway in partnership with the Florida College Student Activities Association (FCSAA) reviewing retention data for student involvement in various activities and athletics; and noted that planning was underway for the June Joint Councils meeting to be held at the Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor.

**Council for Workforce Education**

Dr. Alexia Rolle provided an update on Council activities, highlighting the recent Joint Councils meeting. Dr. Rolle also discussed Perkins, CTE programming, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment required by Pell, credentials flagged for removal from the Master Credentials List, and Workforce Pell.

**Council for Business Affairs**

Mr. James Duffie provided an update on Council activities, highlighting items from the January steering committee including discussion on the Risk Management Consortium, the Lightcast Economic Impact Study, ADA web interface compliance, and safety and security issues. The next COBA meeting is scheduled for June.

**Florida Council for Resource Development**

Dr. Laura Byrd provided an update on the recent FCRD Spring Conference held February in Pensacola.

**Report of the Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA)**

President Pickens introduced Kelly Warren and Rob Chaney for updates on FCSAA activities. Ms. Warren provided updates on the Winter Music Symposium, Brain Bowl, the Forensics State Tournament, and the annual Advocacy Conference of the FCS Student Government Association.

President Parker and Rob Chaney highlighted the #1 national ranking for the Palm Beach State College basketball team.

**Report of the Association of Florida Colleges (AFC)**

Dr. Dianne Valdivia thanked the Council of Presidents for their continuing support and acknowledged the standing committee chairs of the association; discussed the work of two AFC taskforces, one focused on member engagement and the other updating the organization's standing rules; provided an overview of the upcoming Leadership Summit and region meetings; and noted work underway to finalize an MOU with the COP, launch new learning communities, coordinate a statewide service project focused on food pantries at colleges, and plan for another joint annual meeting in the fall.

Mr. Tony Carvajal thanked the Council of Presidents, the Florida Department of Education, the Student Success Center, and the COP sub-councils for their continuing support and coordination with AFC on behalf of the Great 28; highlighted the positive comments and acknowledgments shared by the State Board of Education and Secretary of Commerce Alex Kelly at the recent SBOE in the Keys; discussed a recent convening by FCAN related to emergency aid for students; and noted work underway for an enhanced Professor of the Year award program.

**Other Business and Announcements**

President Lorenz encouraged colleges to submit items for the next State Board of Education report, reviewed the list of upcoming meetings, and encouraged colleges to visit the AFC office and presidents lounge located on the third floor of the TSC Center for Innovation.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the Council of Presidents meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. ET.

*Prepared and respectfully submitted by Tony Carvajal*  
***DRAFT until approved***

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