

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

**March 27, 2026 – via Zoom**

**Call To Order**

President Georgia Lorenz called the Council of Presidents (COP) meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. ET.

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

Broward: President Torey Alston	Palm Beach: Abby Ross as proxy for President Ava Parker
Chipola: President Sarah Clemmons	Pasco-Hernando: President Eric Hall
Eastern FL: President James Richey	Pensacola: President Ed Meadows
FL SouthWestern: President Jeff Allbritten	Seminole: President Georgia Lorenz
FSCJ: President John Avendano	South FL: President Fred Hawkins
Indian River: Heather Belmont as proxy for President Tim Moore	St. Pete: Melissa Gonzalez as proxy for President Tonjua Williams
Lake-Sumter: President John Temple	Valencia: President Kathleen Plinske
North Florida: President Jennifer Page	
Northwest Florida: President Mel Ponder	

A quorum was not present. The meeting proceeded for informational purposes only.

**Council of Presidents Minutes**

**Approval of the minutes of the Council of Presidents Business Meeting held February 24, 2026, were tabled.**

**Report of the Chair**

President Lorenz thanked presidents for their consistent messaging and advocacy through the legislative session. Dr. Lorenz also noted that the April COP report to the State Board of Education will focus on student and faculty achievements.

**Policy and Advocacy Committee Report**

President Hawkins convened the Policy and Advocacy Committee at 1:07 p.m., thanked presidents for the trust and support throughout the legislative session, reviewed legislation that passed and is awaiting the governors signature, and noted that legislators appeared to be indicating that they would not return until after the Easter holiday to address the budget. President Hawkins closed the Policy and Advocacy Committee at 1:13 p.m.

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

Chancellor Kathy Hebda introduced David Colon, new Coordinator for Academic and Student Affairs, and provided updates on the upcoming State Board of Education meeting, April Florida College System month activities, the Commissioner’s Summit scheduled for May 14 and 15, round 2 of LINE, and noted that the next COBA meeting would feature a discussion on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) migration.

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

Chancellor Ashley Meros introduced Dr. Mark Baird, new Associate Vice Chancellor for CTE, thanked

presidents for the letters of support provided for the US DOL Maritime Paper Performance Grant, provided an update on PCOG grants, and discussed efforts underway to provide a consistent statewide approach to addressing Workforce Pell.

#### **Florida College System Risk Management Consortium**

No report

#### **Articulation Coordinating Committee**

No report.

#### **Media and Public Relations Committee**

Kendra Parson of the Moore Agency provided an update on recent marketing activities, earned media, and campaigns related to “FCS month” in April.

#### **COP Support Council Reports**

##### **Council of Trustees**

President Meadows reported that the Council of Trustees will hold a quarterly call in April and continues its efforts to develop Trustee education tools, including an updated manual and orientation programs for Boards. Dr. Meadows asked presidents to share suggestions or concerns about tools being developed in order to assist the Council at this stage.

##### **Council of Instructional Affairs**

Dr. Heather Belmont provided an update on Council activities, highlighting discussions from the February Joint Councils meeting, including review of web accessibility compliance, a survey on curriculum and instruction by the Curriculum Workgroup, and draft recommendations for history instruction and teaching guide developed by the History Faculty Workgroup.

##### **Council of Student Affairs**

Dr. Mark Bukowski provided an update on Council activities, highlighting the Re-energizing Admissions, Recruitment, and Advising summit held in collaboration with AFC and the Student Success Center.

##### **Council for Workforce Education**

Dr. Brian Mann provided an update on Council activities, highlighting the recent Joint Councils meeting and discussing required activities and performance metrics related to the Perkins Grant, the upcoming release of the Master Credentials List, and the CTE program audit.

##### **Council for Business Affairs**

No report.

##### **Florida Council for Resource Development**

No report.

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

President Avendano provided highlights on FCSAA activities, including Brain Bowl, Forensics, Men’s and Women’s Basketball, and Swimming and Diving. Dr. Avendano also thanked the FCS for supporting FSCJ in the NJCAA Bracketology “best mascots” competition, and advised that Kelly Warren had asked to delay her retirement date until another date in the future.

### **Report of the Association of Florida Colleges**

Dr. Dianne Valdivia thanked presidents for their continuing support and reviewed progress on three key goals of the organization in 2026: membership engagement, visibility and impact, and financial sustainability. Dr. Valdivia highlighted the recent Leadership Summit; the launch of additional learning communities; upcoming regional conferences; a statewide service project initiative focused on food pantries; plans for retooling the Professor of the Year award; and MOUs pending finalization with the COP, Trustees, and Councils. Dr. Valdivia also discussed the new proposed membership structures scheduled to begin in July; requested that Presidents provide names for a faculty member, administrator, and a staff member that could participate in a focus group on premium membership offerings; and announced the dates for the AFC Annual Meeting and Joint Councils convening, scheduled for November 18-20 in Orlando.

Mr. Tony Carvajal thanked the Council of Presidents, the Department of Education, and the Student Success for their continuing support, and noted that the May AFC Board meeting would include discussion on budget, dues, and programming for 2026-27.

### **Other Business and Announcements**

President Lorenz noted that the April State Board of Education meeting had been changed to April 17 and that the May COP meeting had been cancelled due to conflict with the new dates for the Commissioner's Summit.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, the Council of Presidents meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m. ET.

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