

**ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES  
FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS  
TCC Capitol Center  
300 W Pensacola St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2019**

President Ava Parker called the April 11, 2019 meeting of the Council of Presidents to order.

The following members of the Council of Presidents were present in the room or on the phone: (proxy)

Greg Haile  
Tom LoBasso (phone)  
Jeff Allbritten (Bob Jones)  
John Holdnak  
Ed Massey (phone)  
Stanley Sidor  
Eduardo Padron (Lenore Rodicio)  
John Grosskopf  
Devin Stephenson (Jack Capra)  
Ava Parker  
Tim Beard (phone)  
Ed Meadows (phone)  
Angela Garcia-Falconetti (phone)  
Georgia Lorenz (phone)  
Carol Probstfeld  
Joe Pickens (phone)

Chancellor Hebda gave an update from the Florida College System. She shared that the 2019 Chancellor's Best Practices Convening on Innovation and Excellence Conference will be June 19; it will be held following the Florida Chambers Learners to Earners Workforce Summit in Orlando. A Save the Date will be emailed to college presidents. President Parker asked Mr. Brawer to outline the dates and times for the Council's Annual Meeting. Mr. Brawer shared that the Council will meet June 6-7, in Orlando in conjunction with FACU. The hotel information and meeting registration can be found on the Association of Florida Colleges website.

Chancellor Hebda referred to the Free Speech Chicago letter information that had been previously passed around, in preparation for a press conference that Governor DeSantis will be holding on Monday, April 15. She shared that Commissioner Corcoran had sent over a request and had spoken with President Parker about talking with institutions to solicit their support for a letter expressing their support for the freedom of speech on campus. There were a couple of sample letters sent around and the Division provided information and examples of what the Board of Governors are doing with their institutions. An edited version that could be used was

also shared. President Parker stated there were some questions about the press conference. She asked the Chancellor what action the COP would be able to have completed before the press conference. Chancellor Hebda stated that the press conference will be hosted by Florida State University. The Florida State and Florida A&M Presidents as well students from both institutions will be in attendance to applaud free speech on campus in a very positive way. The request from Commissioner Corcoran was for institutions to say whether or not they were supporting this either through a letter from individual institutions or a joint letter. It was stated that the letter should be addressed to the Governor. President Parker asked the Chancellor if she thought a letter from individual colleges or a joint Council of Presidents letter would be more appropriate. Chancellor Hebda stated that the Commissioner did not specify, but stated the importance of having a letter. She also shared that the Governor wants to broadcast that Florida is leading the nation in higher education, highlighting the recent Aspen winners, the number one ranking in U.S. News and World Report, and focus on the importance of the Florida College System. Chancellor Hebda encouraged all presidents to attend. She asked that the Council inform her of the way they plan to respond with either one letter or several letters. President Parker shared that after discussion during Professional Development the group thought that a letter or statement of support could be crafted very quickly, but due to conflicts a majority of the COP was unavailable. The plan will be for Mr. Brawer to send out a correspondence to the entire Council indicating the position that the Council is leaning toward and ask for any input from presidents as well as inviting them to the press conference. President Parker asked the Chancellor to share with the Commissioner that AACC is currently taking place and many presidents are in attendance there, which means they are unable to attend this event in Tallahassee. Mr. Brawer will be working with Karen Moore and Logan Lewkow of the Moore Agency to craft a letter for the Council to approve. President Parker asked that they take the recommendations from the Chancellor for letter and then have the letter sent out to all members of the Council to reply with a vote support or not. If a majority supports the letter, then one letter in support will be sent on behalf of the Council of Presidents. The details of the votes, whether unanimous or majority will be shared with the Governor, so he has an idea of where the Council stands.

Ms. Heflin provided a legislative update. She shared that there are 21 days left and everything should be completed on time. Both the House and Senate passed their budgets last week, so that put us in the posture of waiting for conference allocations and begin budget conference allocations. The bills that were traveling with the House budget, conforming bills, were temporarily postponed. The Senate declined to accept them as conforming bills; they will not be traveling with the budget. In regards to HB 5501, it is not likely that it will be taken back up. It does not necessarily do away with all the issues in the bill. She shared that in other policy bills they are seeing the beginnings of trains being put together, so there different versions of policy in different bills being bedded in committee. She shared that she would expect if anything was going to be done with HB 5501 it is going to be done in that sort of way.

Ms. Heflin shared that it will likely be after Easter before budget negotiations will begin. She shared that the Senate does not expect to be negotiating with Chairman Fine. The Higher Education Budget will be negotiated at a higher level. The Senate has stated that they are going to hold their position and support the Florida College System, both in budget and policy.

President Parker asked the Chancellor for more information in regards to the \$550,000, which has been set aside for private school dual enrolled students. Would there be additional money added to help with covering additional costs for each student? Chancellor Hebda responded that the amount will be based on courses taken by a student and it will likely be a proration. She also shared that it is not limited to the Florida College System; it includes the Board of Governors as well. The amounts per college will be decided at the conclusion of the year, when all items have been calculated. Chancellor Hebda shared that there was no legislation about how to divide up the \$550,000 that was decided on by the Department. President Parker asked if more money is added to the \$550,000 for private school students, would the System follow that same rule or would additional rules be in place. Chancellor Hebda stated that it would depend on the amount added and if there is any instruction provided. Ms. Heflin added that the Senate was looking at adding a proviso to direct how the funds would be allocated.

President Parker asked Ms. Heflin for a recommendation on the best way to achieve positive results as the 2019 session is ending. Ms. Heflin responded that it is important to reach out to your delegation to tell them to support the Senate budget and why you and the Florida College System support this budget. President Parker asked the Council to share any information from any delegation meetings.

Mr. Brawer asked President Parker to call for a motion to approve the meeting minutes which were itemized on the meeting agenda. Dr. Probstfeld called for a name correction on the March 29, 2019 COP Legislative update teleconference. Mr. Brawer sent around a copy of the minutes for any edits.

**Action:** *Upon a unanimous motion the meeting minutes from February 8, 2019, March 14, 2019, March 22, 2019, and March 29, 2019, were approved unanimously.*

President Parker asked Mr. Logan Lewkow from The Moore Agency to provide a media update to the Council. Mr. Lewkow shared thanked President Parker for her participation in an interview with Politico which highlighted the Senate and House budgets and where the Florida College System stands. She also completed a video series with the Florida Chamber Foundation that highlights the good work of the Florida College System and the TaxWatch Report findings.

Mr. Lewkow referred to a distributed document, which recapped the first half of the 2019 session. The document also highlights what all is available to every college. Mr. Lewkow shared that the document will be provided to the presidents on the phone through email. Mr. Lewkow shared with the Council that there is still an effort to geofence the capital and that will continue through the conclusion of session.

President Parker asked if there is any value in publishing editorials or if reaching out to local delegations was enough? Mr. Lewkow replied that taking the stories that have been created and pushing them out on social media would be the best and most time efficient approach. Ms. Heflin shared that Southern Strategy Group has been sharing and reposting as much as possible to aid in spreading the story for the Florida College System.

President Parker shared that Commissioner Corcoran does have an interest in doing a study that would determine whether or not the entire Florida College System budget should be based upon performance. Ms. Heflin shared that the study is already in 839 and it was amended during this week's meetings. Chancellor Hebda shared that there are currently two states that have funding based solely on performance. She emphasized that the study does not mean using the same model that is currently in place. The Commissioner wants to take a look at all aspects and determine what would work best for the entire system. She also stated that the Commission plans to work with the presidents throughout this study.

Mr. Brawer shared that the AFC Campus Safety Symposium and B.I.T Level II Training are open for registration. Both events will be held at the Palm Beach Gardens campus of Palm Beach State College. The B.I.T Training will be held July 9-10 and the Campus Safety Symposium July 11-12.

President Parker adjourned the meeting.