

**ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES  
Florida College System Council of Presidents  
Policy and Advocacy/Business Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

**July 24, 2023**

**Roll Call and Quorum Check**

Dr. Meadows called the Council of Presidents meeting to order at 11:01 am EDT. Mr. Tony Carvajal, AFC CEO, took the roll of the presidents who were present to ensure that a quorum was met.

President Greg Haile  
President Sarah Clemmons  
President Jim Henningsen  
President Tom LoBasso  
President Jeff Allbritten  
President John Avendano  
President Glen McDonald  
President Ken Atwater  
President Heather Bigard  
President Madeline Pumariega

President Devin Stephenson  
President Ava Parker  
President Timothy Beard  
President Ed Meadows  
President Angela M. Garcia Falconetti  
President Georgia Lorenz  
President Fred Hawkins, Jr.  
President Joe Pickens  
President Kathleen Plinske

Dr. Meadows asked the new presidents; President Glen McDonald, Gulf Coast State College, and President Fred Hawkins, South Florida State College, to introduce themselves and share a little about their backgrounds.

Dr. Meadows stated that he would like to have an opportunity for Dr. Cheryl Flax Hyman to join a future meeting to recognize her for the job she did as interim President during the presidential search process at Gulf Coast State College.

Dr. Meadows introduced the new Association of Florida Colleges CEO, Tony Carvajal. Mr. Carvajal thanked the presidents for their support and the visits allowing him to learn more about the Council of Presidents, who we are, and what we do. He discussed three things briefly, including the new committee which he calls the 4x4 oversight committee, which will assist with the evaluation of overall organization and structures within the Association of Florida Colleges, Council of Presidents, and the AFC Foundation. He thanked the presidents who had paid their dues. If any institutions had questions regarding the dues, let him know. His final announcement was the reminder to save the date for the AFC Annual Conference and Meeting being held November 1 -3 at the Wyndham Bonnet Creek Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

## **Nomination and Election of COP Vice Chair-Elect**

Dr. Meadows shared that Dr. Lorenz has agreed to be nominated for Vice Chair-Elect. Dr. Meadows asked if there were any other nominations from the group. As the Vice Chair, she would automatically be added to the steering committee. There were no other nominations. Dr. Meadows made the motion for President Lorenz to become the 2023-2024 Vice Chair-Elect, and the motion carried.

## **Nomination and Election of Steering Committee Members**

Dr. Meadows stated that he will reactivate the Steering Committee this year and he will have further discussions later to determine if the Steering Committee will meet before or after Professional Development. He stated that Dr. Lorenz is automatically added to the Steering Committee by the guidelines of the COP bylaws. Dr. Meadows directed the Council to the agenda for review of the current Steering Committee members and their term expirations. Dr. Jim Henningsen (2024), Dr. Kathleen Plinske (2024), and Dr. Paul Broadie (2024). Dr. Meadows said he would like to appoint Ms. Ava Parker, JD as his one appointee which is allowed by the COP bylaws. Dr. Meadows stated three more Presidents are needed to serve through 2025. He asked for volunteers, sharing that President Pumariega had volunteered. Dr. Angela Garcia-Falconetti, Dr. Tom LoBasso, and Dr. John Avendano volunteered to serve.

President Pumariega suggested that one of the new presidents should be nominated, as this will be a good way for new presidents to become engaged with the COP and committees. Dr. Meadows stated he planned to ask President Hawkins to become the parliamentarian. As parliamentarian, he could attend steering committee meetings. President Hawkins agreed to serve as the parliamentarian. After discussion, it was determined that President Pumariega would become Dr. Meadow's appointee for the Steering Commission, not President Parker. Dr. Meadows made the motion for Dr. Angela Garcia-Falconetti, Dr. Tom LoBasso, and Dr. John Avendano to serve on the Steering Committee. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried. Dr. Meadows stated that anyone can attend the Steering Committee meetings as an attendee, they would not be able to cast any votes. President Atwater asked for clarification on the parliamentarian appointment. He questioned if the parliamentarian was included in the vote. Dr. Meadows clarified that the position is appointed not voted on.

**Policy and Advocacy Workgroup** - Dr. Meadows said the Policy and Advocacy Workgroup would need Presidents to fill the available positions. Dr. Meadows stated that he and Dr. Allbritten reviewed legislative leadership and determined that Dr. Broadie and Dr. LoBasso both have leadership experience to serve for the upcoming year. President Pumariega volunteered. Dr. Broadie was not present, and Dr. LoBasso agreed to serve on the workgroup. The workgroup would consist of: Dr. Meadows, Dr. Allbritten, Dr. Lorenz, Dr. Broadie, Dr. LoBasso, and President Pumariega.

**Media and Publications Relations** - Dr. Meadows stated that Dr. Stephenson is the Chair and that Dr. Falconetti is the Co-Chair. He shared that Dr. Stephenson has had one call thus far. He asked Dr. Stephenson to provide the details of the call. Dr. Stephenson stated the COP had a public records request from Ryan Daily with the News Service of Florida. Mr. Daily was requesting to speak with the COP or the Department of Education to learn more about the state board's authority over the Florida College System as a whole, how it functions, and if the board has authority over individual school presidents' contracts. It is believed the questions were related to a June 14 article that appeared in the news media which discussed university appointments. He was attempting to find out if there was oversight and if there is oversight for the FCS regarding president contracts. Dr. Stephenson shared that after speaking with General Counsel, a response was prepared and shared with three points to Mr. Daily. Dr. Stephenson stated the response included; that the board adopts rules based on bylaws by the Florida Legislature ranging for all personnel positions, however, more specific policy and oversight is based on the responsibility of each institution's District Board of Trustees (DBOT), and that the state board does not have direct authority over the presidents' contracts individually, the state board has entrusted that to the DBOT, and the state board does distribute basic standards for contracts in rule 6A14.026 under employment of a president and that is the responsibility of each DBOT to communicate their expectation for the president through the presidents contract and the DBOT evaluate the president and submit the evaluation annually to the Chancellor. Dr. Meadows asked if there were any questions for Dr. Stephenson regarding the statement. Dr. Lorenz asked if the request came directly to him at his institution or to the COP and if it was delegated to him. Dr. Stephenson shared that the request came through Kendra Parsons at The Moore Agency. Dr. Stephenson also shared that he would be meeting with The Moore Agency to discuss the COP strategy going forward that pertains to messaging. Dr. Meadows stated that this is a reminder for everyone to understand if the media contacts you individually for a statement on the system as a whole, to please contact him or Dr. Stephenson to ensure a reply is coordinated.

**Florida College System Activities Association** – Dr. Meadows asked Dr. Avendano if he needed more committee members, Dr. Avendano said not unless someone is interested in learning more about the FCSAA. That he is happy to continue as the COP representative for the FCSAA. Dr. LoBasso explained that he serves as the President of the FCSAA until the end of this academic year, and he share there is always a president on the committee. It was recommended that Dr. Avendano's name be placed in consideration for President of the FCSAA at the end of Dr. Lobasso's term.

**Florida College System Risk Management Consortium** – Dr. Jim Henningsen is Chair, and Dr. Tonjua Williams is Co-Chair, along with Dr. Falconetti. Dr. Henningsen stated that only two presidents serve on FCSRM. Dr. Falconetti said she spoke with Dr. Williams, and she is interested in serving as Vice-Chair. Dr. Falconetti stated that Dr. Henningsen is correct, only two presidents serve on the committee. That the Vice Chair in the position for two years will become the Chair. She also stated that Dr. Henningsen stepped in as Chair last year,

and she served as Vice-Chair. She also shared that she would like to have the opportunity to speak with Chauncey Fagler as a courtesy regarding the change in leadership.

**Dual Enrollment Committee** - Dr. Meadows shared that Dr. Murdaugh as chair suggested that the COP did not need a Dual Enrollment Committee. Dr. Meadows asked the presidents to share thoughts if the committee was needed. After discussion, the presidents agreed the committee was not needed. President Pumariega said she didn't think we needed the committee, but a workgroup would need to be created to discuss the thought leadership process with presidents around dual enrollment. She stated the workgroup would work closely with Mr. Carvajal and the AFC, and the AFC Foundation around dual enrollment. Dr. Meadows asked if the workgroup would be composed of different people from different levels in the COP system, and asked if a president should serve on the workgroup as a liaison. President Pumariega said yes, at least two presidents would be needed. She stated that she would work with Mr. Carvajal to schedule the meetings and plan for the convening to offset some of the expenditures for the COP and build professional development.

**Career Tech Workforce Committee** - Dr. Meadows asked if this committee was needed. Dr. Lorenz stated the COP has the sub-committee Council of Workforce Education and questioned if the COP took advantage of the sub-committee, it would be redundant to have the Career Tech Workforce Committee. Dr. Meadows stated he thought it was no longer needed. The COP was formulated after the COP decided there was a focus needed on Career Tech.

Dr. Meadows stated that he would need presidents to agree to be the liaisons for the COP with the sub-committees.

- Dr. Plinske volunteered to serve as the liaison for the CIA, Council of Instructional Affairs, CSA, Council of Student Affairs, CWE, Council for Workforce Education, and CSA, Council of Student Affairs
- Dr. Heather Bigard volunteered to serve as the liaison for COBA, Council of Business Affairs, and FCRD, Florida Council for Resource Development
- Dr. Meadows stated that Dr. Broadie was appointed as the Articulation Coordinating Committee Chair and though he was not present, he had indicated that he would like to continue in the role.

**Meeting schedule** - Dr. Meadows discussed changes to the 2023 – 2024 schedule. The TCC Innovation Center was not available for October 12 and 13. Dr. Meadows stated that he and Mr. Carvajal would work on an alternate location for the October meeting. Dr. Meadows stated there will always be conflicts with the scheduling, particularly around the DBOT meetings. President Pumariega said the October 12-13 dates present a conflict with the annual ACCT meeting, she has Trustees presenting at the convention and would ask for a reconsideration of the dates if the October COP meeting is in-person. Dr. Meadows asked Mr. Carvajal for the two of them to revisit the October dates and to leave the calendar as TBA. Dr. Meadows did state if he is unable to make the October dates, Dr. Allbritten would

preside over the meeting. Dr. Meadows stated that Dr. Plinske requested the April meeting be held at Pensacola State College, and he asked Dr. Allbritten to view his calendar for hosting the June COP meeting.

President Parker asked if Dr. Meadows recalled a conversation around engaging Trustees with Commissioner Diaz. Dr. Meadows stated he does remember that, and plans will be made to schedule those discussions in early fall. Dr. Atwater stated that he is hoping that all of the presidents will share ideas for the Commissioner. Dr. Meadows said he was going to have a Steering Committee conference call soon to decide on an agenda and if the meeting is before the State Board makes their budget recommendations as well as the governors. Dr. Falconetti suggested that a location for the Trustee reception is secured soon to ensure that a facility is available to host the reception. Dr. Meadows stated that he would work with Mr. Carvajal to secure a location.

**Policy and Advocacy Committee** – Dr. Allbritten stated the first order of business starting July 1 will be addressing the LBR (Legislative Budget Request). He stated that the goal is to acquire state insurance. The second question is what do we look for in an LBR? He asked Mr. Seth McKeel, The Southern Group, to provide updates before further discussion on the LBR. Mr. McKeel stated the House begins its interim committee meetings in September and his office has begun regular meetings with Dr. Allbritten and Dr. Meadow. He agrees that asking for state insurance will be the top ask and the support is great to support asking for state insurance. Dr. Allbritten said a decision must be made, the recommendation from the Commissioner was approximately 100 million. He stated as a council this recommendation would need to be determined. President Pumariega said the funding formula workgroup should be assembled again because the numbers for last year were based on the 70/30 formula to have an accelerated catch-up for some institutions, the numbers need to be run through the formula again. The discussion was paused for Chancellor Hebda to join the meeting. Dr. Meadows updated her on President Pumariega's suggestions to reactive the funding formula workgroup. Dr. Meadows asked Chancellor Hebda what it would take to expedite the workgroup. Chancellor Hebda stated they have enrollment numbers from last year and they will have the FTE estimated numbers by the first week of August, by the end of the month the data will be clean, the completer data is not ready, however, the data should be ready by the end of August.

Dr. Meadows asked President Pumariega if her suggestion was for the same presidents in the workgroup last year. President Pumariega stated that is a great start, and the invitation to join should be extended to anyone interested in the workgroup. It is important to reconvene the group to determine a recommendation on the ask. The group from last year would understand the strategy used to build the funding request. Dr. Meadows stated he has Dr. Plinske, Dr. Bigard, Dr. Henningsen, and President Pumariega on the workgroup. He asked who would like to serve on this workgroup. President Parker reminded Dr. Meadows that Dr. Probstfeld was on the workgroup. President Hawkins along with Dr. Meadows, Dr. Allbritten, and Dr. Lorenz.

**Chancellor Hebda Report** – Chancellor stated she does not know the final date for the LBR she will confirm the date. The commissioner supported funding into the FCS dedicated to faculty, recruitment, and retention. She reminded the COP the DOE only has the system amount, not individual amounts. She shared that August has a lot of rules, which can be found on the State Board of Education website. She shared they will open the *articulation rule*, to include the new updates to military credits, and the first batch of Law Enforcement experience and instruction for standardized credits. There will be an update on the new *foreign influence rule, rule 6A-14.097*, to mirror the Board of Governors language. *Purple Star Campus*, if you would like a designation as a purple star campus the rule and the form will be available after the August board meeting. There will be an update to the *accounting manual*. It will be the same accounting manual with one edit that COBA voted on during their last meeting. Rule updates on the *name, image, and likeness* rules for student-athletes. One of the major changes to this rule will be adding entrepreneurship to the required training that has to be provided to student-athletes. Updating and taking the dates and technical changes out of the *LINE Fund rule. Rule 6A-1.00612, the designation of restrooms and changing facilities in the FCS institution facilities*, to make sure restrooms are designated male, female, or unisex. This ruling will require institutions to update the student code of conduct, and faculty discipline procedures. Dr. Meadows asked Mr. Carvajal if he would assist with setting up the first meeting and electing a chair for the funding formula workgroup.

Chancellor Hebda also shared during the October meeting they are anticipating having the rule under Senate Bill 266, which will define the prohibited expenditures around DEI, social and political activism. They are working with the Board of Governors to ensure the language mirrors that of the Board of Governors. Chancellor Hebda said she would encourage institutions to follow the same instructions given to universities by Chancellor Rodriguez to remember what your institution reported as DEI spending last year. She stated this will help to have a good discussion on the proposed rulemaking. Dr. Meadows asked when the October meeting is, she stated it is in Orlando, October 18-19. Dr. Atwater asked for clarity purposes after this rulemaking decision will any feedback or an audit be given, as none was given last year. Chancellor Hebda stated she was not sure; she would have to provide an answer later.

**Announcements and Other Business** – President Pumariega reminded the group about the memo seeking input to reduce regulation in public postsecondary. She and Dr. Meadows are members of a statewide committee to review recommendations. Dr. Meadows asked the presidents to share any accolades from their institutions. Dr. Meadows also encouraged the presidents to have college lobbyists attend the COP meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM