

**The Florida College System
Policy & Advocacy Committee
Friday, February 10, 2017
TCC Capitol Center
Tallahassee, Florida**

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. Tom LoBasso, Policy and Advocacy Committee Chair, called the meeting of the Policy and Advocacy Committee to order at approximately 8:31 a.m. on Friday, February 10, 2017 at TCC Capitol Center in Tallahassee, Florida.

The following members of the Policy and Advocacy Committee were present:

Mr. David Armstrong
Dr. Sarah Clemmons
Dr. Jim Henningsen
Dr. Tom LoBasso
Dr. Lawrence Barrett
Dr. Jonathan Gueverra
Dr. Cynthia Bioteau
Dr. John Holdnak
Dr. Ed Massey
Mr. John Grosskopf

Dr. Devin Stephenson
Ms. Ava Parker
Dr. Tim Beard
Dr. Ed Meadows
Dr. Eileen Holden
Dr. Jackson Sasser
Dr. Thomas Leitzel
Dr. Carol Probstfeld
Dr. Bill Law

Also present were:

Ms. Madeline Pumariega
Dr. Chris Mullin
Ms. Wendy Sikora
Dr. Karinda Barrett
Ms. Lisa Cook
Mr. Rod Duckworth
Mr. Scott Kittel

Mr. Eric Godin
Ms. Judy Green
Ms. Yvette Hargreaves
Ms. Suzanne Pridgeon
Mr. Juan Mestre
Ms. Angela Long

Mr. Michael Brawer
Mr. Robert Batsel
Mr. Brian Babb
Mr. Eric Johnson
Mr. Andy Treadwell
Ms. Victoria Hernandez
Mr. Steve Schroeder

Ms. Sandra Cesaretti Ray
Mr. Ed Woodruff
Mr. Liam McClay
Mr. Brian Thomas
Mr. Scott Balog

Dr. Robert Flores
Ms. Kelly Warren
Ms. Kaitlin Santiago
Ms. Abby Whiddon
Mr. Don Payton
Mr. Jack Parker
Mr. Patrick Rinard
Mr. Kyle Brawdy

Mr. Tony Ganstine
Ms. Marsha Kiner
Dr. Judith Bilsky
Mr. Peter Elliott
Mr. Craig Johnson
Ms. Sheryl Vittitoe
Ms. Loretta Costin

Dr. Tim Beard introduced the Pasco-Hernando State College SGA students.

Ms. Kaitlin Santiago reported the SGA held their Legislative Conference on February 8-9. Ms. Santiago added that 290 students and advisors attended and participated in educational sessions as well as individual meetings with their local legislative delegations.

1.0 Approval, Policy & Advocacy Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2017

Action: *Upon a motion by Dr. John Holdnak and a second by Dr. Ann McGee, the minutes of January 13, 2017 meeting of Policy & Advocacy Committee were approved without objection.*

2.0 Update, 2017 Legislative Priorities

Dr. Tom LoBasso reported the Trustees held a successful conference.

Ms. Sandy Cesaretti Ray reported the lobbyists are currently tracking 185 bills.

Dr. Bill Law asked for approval for the following resolution:

From its earliest days, The Florida College System has provided a means for Floridians to have affordable access to a college education. We have done this within a strong commitment to equality – we take great pride in our efforts to enroll, support and graduate a diverse student population that mirrors the communities in which we live.

At present, we are proudly serving the needs of those students who were not born in the United States but who have lived in Florida, graduated from a Florida high school and seek to join the ranks of productive citizens by obtaining a postsecondary credential. These students – collectively referred to as “DACA students” – are permitted to enroll in the Florida College System and to attend courses paying the same as other Florida high school graduates. We supported and assisted in getting this beneficial legislation passed.

The uncertainty in America regarding the continued supportive status of DACA students is creating a stressful and debilitating environment for learning and success. The Council of Presidents of the Florida College System urges both the Florida Legislature and the Federal Government to maintain current permissions and legal protections for these students to enroll, attend and complete their college education.

Action: *Upon a motion by Dr. Bill Law and a Mr. David Armstrong, the resolution as presented was approved without objection.*

Dr. Tom LoBasso adjourned the Policy and Advocacy meeting at 8:40 a.m. without objection.