

Association of Florida Colleges
Policy and Advocacy Meeting
Friday, February 9, 2018
Tallahassee, FL

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

At 8:30 a.m., on Friday, February 9, 2018, Dr. LoBasso called the Policy and Advocacy meeting to order. Mr. Brawer took roll of the presidents in the room and on the phone.

The following members of the Council of Presidents were present: (proxy)

Mr. David Armstrong
Dr. Sarah Clemmons
Dr. Tom LoBasso
Dr. Jim Richey
Dr. Jeff Allbritten
Dr. Cynthia Bioteau (Dr. John Wall)
Dr. John Holdnak
Dr. Ken Atwater (Mr. Eric Johnson)
Dr. Ed Massey
Dr. Stan Sidor
Dr. Eduardo Padron (Ms. Lenore Rodicio)
Mr. John Grosskopf
Ms. Ava Parker (Dr. Nika Coleman Ferrell)
Dr. Tim Beard
Dr. Ed Meadows (Ms. Sandy Ray)
Dr. Angela Garcia-Falconetti
Dr. Ann McGee (Dr. John Gyllin)
Dr. Thomas Litzel
Dr. Carol Probstfeld
Dr. Jim Murdaugh

The following members of the Council of Presidents were present on the phone:

Dr. Jim Henningsen
Ms. Ava Parker

1.0 Policy and Advocacy Committee Minutes

1.1 Approval, Policy and Advocacy Committee Minutes -January 12, 2018

Action: *Upon a motion by Dr. Probstfeld and a second by Dr. Holdnak the January 12, 2018, Policy and Advocacy minutes were approved unanimously.*

2.0 Update 2018 Legislative Session

Dr. LoBasso reported to the Council that Commissioner Washington's proposals to the Constitution Revision Commission are moving, and will continue to update as things progress. He shared that the amendments to Senate Bill 540 had been provided. An additional tweak in taking out the governance piece had been delivered to the Senate.

Chancellor Pumariega reported that Senate Bill 540 is ready to go to the floor; it was scheduled twice and then put on special order. Currently the House Bill 831 has been put on the agenda to three committees. It has not been to its first committee. She shared 7055, K-12 Bill, is a priority for the House, it has not moved on the Senate side. Also Senate Bill 4 hasn't moved much on the House side. There are three bills, in the education space, that are important to the House Speaker and K-12. They include Hope Scholarship and the Omnibus Bill. In the Senate it continues to be higher education. Senate Bill 4, the University Bill appears to be of highest priority to the Senate President.

The Chancellor shared that the biggest issue currently is the budget issue. On the Senate side they took from the K-12 budget the Hope Scholarship money and Best and Brightest Scholarship and put into Florida Education Finance Program. The House then created a \$120 million amendment, taking that from the Universities and giving it to the Florida College System to enhance Baccalaureate degrees.

The Chancellor reported PECO list has come out with 13 Senate projects and 5 House projects. The Revenue Estimating Conference for PECO came out, it was not enough to re-do or re-adjust the list. Also there is no indication of bonding this year. It is also important that the House not tap into the reserves. Continued talks with delegations will help with this. For the state colleges talking points were put together explaining what the reserves are and when the funds are intended to be used.

The Chancellor shared that another policy that is out is House Bill 5203, Travel Transparency. It is a bill affecting many including state colleges and K-12.

The Freedom of Speech bill, House Bill 9090, is another to keep an eye on. The Chancellor encouraged strategizing in small groups.

Today is the Revenue Estimating Conference, should provide good news on the budget.

President Parker thanked those who attended the recent public hearing and were able to testify in support of Amendment 83, sponsored by Commissioner Washington.

The Chancellor shared the upcoming dates for CRC hearings. On February 19, CRC will be at Eastern Florida State College, February 20 at the University of North Florida, and February 27 at the University of West Florida, and March 13 at the University of South Florida. These hearings will provide an opportunity to thank Commissioner Washington and the Education Commission Committee for voting yes on Amendment 83 and to begin to make the case as to why the FCS has a place in the Constitution.

Dr. LoBasso adjourned the February 9, 2018, Policy and Advocacy meeting at 8:50 a.m.