

**Council of Presidents
Legislative Update Teleconference Minutes
April 5, 2019**

The call began at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Presidents (proxy) who were present on the call:

Greg Haile
Jim Henningsen (Jessica Kummerle)
Tom LoBasso
John Holdnak
Ken Atwater
Ed Massey
Stanley Sidor
Eduardo Padron (E.H. Levering)
John Grosskopf
Devin Stephenson (Jack Capra)
Ava Parker
Tim Beard
Ed Meadows
Angela Garcia-Falconetti
Georgia Lorenz (Don Payton)
Thomas Leitzel
Carol Probstfeld
Jim Murdaugh (Candice Grause)

President Parker congratulated Dr. Massey and Indian River State College as well as Dr. Padron and Miami Dade College on their recent Aspen Awards.

Allyce Heflin gave a legislative update. She shared that the House and the Senate passed their budgets off the floor earlier this week, so we are now ready for budget conference. Currently there are no budget conference allocations. There have been rumors that President Galvano said they will take their time doing the allocations and likely will not start budget conference meetings until April 22 at the earliest.

The next two weeks for the budget could move a little slower, but for the policy bills it could cause some running around and worry. The main policy bill that has caused concern for the Florida College System is HB 5501. This bill was originally traveling with the budget as the budget conforming bill, but on Wednesday was temporarily postponed. House Bill 5501 does not have a Senate companion, however there are Senate higher education bills that are moving and could tack on language from HB 5501. There are three bills in the House that could be used or already have some part of what is in HB 5501. Ms. Heflin shared that the college lobbyists are tracking those bills very closely.

Rachael Bonlarron asked Ms. Heflin to talk about the Risk Management consortium funds for the Florida College System that were put into the budget by Senator Bradley. Ms. Heflin responded by reminding the Council that both the Senate and House have been asked to bond the \$18.6 million of payout that came out of the Florida College System Risk Management Consortium over the last couple of years due to hurricane impacts. Initially this was not included in either budget; Senator Bradley did an amendment to add in that funding, however he took the funds from the PECO maintenance line item from the colleges.

Ms. Heflin shared that House Bill 189 and Senate Bill 1342 are the main dual enrollment bills. Senator Stargel is the sponsor in the Senate and Representative Zika is the sponsor in the House. Both bills were heard and amended. Last week the House bill was amended to remove the fiscal impact to the state colleges, and then this week it was amended to put the same language back in the bill and make it a little harder on the system. President Haile asked if there was any system-wide data on the headcount of dual enrollment. Ms. Heflin said there is 2017-18 data on the head count of private school and homeschool students who were dual enrolled in at least one course. The 2017-18 cost of at least one course (3 credit hours) for those populations is about \$1.3 million. The Senate Bill has been amended to lower the GPA for student eligibility from 3.0 to 2.5. Ms. Heflin shared that she has spoken with Senator Stargel's aide to see if she would be interested in a pilot program to see how the change would work with students who are seemingly not as prepared as others. Senator Stargel's office has asked for a reply of how many colleges would be interested in the pilot program. Ms. Heflin shared that she has heard from several school districts that do not support lowering the GPA. Dr. LoBasso shared that having the statute to create certain programs and waive the 3.0 GPA to a blanket 2.5 GPA might create a greater financial impact on the system.

Dr. Sidor asked if there has been any discussion about the money following the student. Ms. Heflin was not aware such discussions, but added for private and homeschool students there isn't any money to follow the student unless they are tax credit scholarship students in a private school. Dr. Beard shared that the 2.5 GPA is concerning to him as there are currently issues even with students who have a 3.0 GPA. He said it is setting some students up for failure. President Haile shared that he was an early supporter of the pilot program as it was something that the Council had previously discussed. He shared some ways that Broward College is actively working to help all students succeed. President Haile feels a pilot program would be a great idea. Any president who is interested in the idea of a dual enrollment pilot program should contact Allyce Heflin.

Dr. Holdnak made the Council aware that career certificate dual enrollment courses only require a 2.0 GPA. Dr. LoBasso made it clear that Daytona State College would be open to change that would allow such ability to develop a special program with the school district if needed. President Parker stated that the dual enrollment initiative seems to be important to both House and Senate leadership and will move forward. Ms. Heflin replied that due to how it is described by Representative Zika and Senator Stargel it seems to be a big priority. Their words used included, "removing barriers", "students having the opportunity", "ensuring that all students, regardless of where they are taking courses are served in the same way." The House perception is that colleges are putting up barriers for private school and homeschool students to take dual enrollment courses and the intent of the bill is to remove those barriers. Ms. Heflin advised the Council to be cautious on taking a position. President Parker made it clear that she was not suggesting taking a position; she just wanted everyone to be aware of what was going on with the

bill. Dr. Falconetti shared that she will be following up with Ms. Heflin on this issue as she has received an inquiry from Senator Stargel's office about her perspective on this issue. Dr. Beard shared that he has shared with Representative Zika that "we support education to the highest degree, but we need the funding to carry out his request." Ms. Bonlarron shared that in the meeting when Representative Zika presented his amendment, he did state that it would be a cost to the colleges of \$5-7 billion. On top of that, there is a provision that was placed into HB 7071 for public schools being able to utilize their buses in order to transport students to colleges for career education programs. Ms. Bonlarron will provide a summary in her weekly legislative update.

President Parker asked Ms. Heflin if there were any other budget or policy that need to be discussed. Ms. Heflin replied that there are four big policy bills that are related to higher education, they are primarily focused on Universities, but they could be a vehicle used to tack on policies to state colleges. Ms. Heflin shared that there is a lot of focus on the House as that is where most of the policy items are coming from. Ms. Bonlarron shared that while it seemed that HB 381 had been killed, which would allow for school districts to offer Associates of Science Degrees in nursing, there is a chance that it will come back in the Senate. Since there was no Senate companion to HB 381, it does not have to be heard by a committee prior to being amended onto a bill in the Senate. However there could be a point of order called if it moves into a Senate bill without having been heard by a committee first.

Dr. Meadows suggested that the Council work with a favorable legislator to file a bill that states that any Technical Center that feels the need to meet workforce needs and offer Associate Degrees would be placed under and a part of the Florida College System and merged into a college in the district. He shared that strategy would send a clear message that if they feel compelled to compete for dollars, degrees and students, that there should be only one segment of higher education doing that and therefore they would be absorbed into the Florida College System. Dr. Holdnak agreed and has had conversations with legislators on the matter. Dr. LoBasso shared that there needs to be a conversation about what the Technical Centers are trying to do with adding the Associate Degrees. Dr. Meadows stated that the Council needs to have a long range goal with an amendment to make it known that the Florida College System is not going to stand by and let this happen. Dr. Falconetti agreed and asked what would be the best way to stall or stop this. Ms. Helfin replied that it is rumored the amendment will be added to a Senate Bill, but currently there is nothing to proactively block or counter amend. As previously mentioned since the bill does not have a Senate companion, it could be added to a Senate bill. Once it passes the Senate and passes to the House, then the Council could find someone in the House to make a point of order based on Senate rules. Dr. Probstfeld asked if the Council should prepare language that in the event the bill is amended, then the Council is ready with language to counter amend. Ms. Heflin agreed that language should be prepared, but it will depend on which bill this will be added to and whether this is a leadership priority bill. President Parker asked the lobbyists to prepare language that could be used when needed and also to give an update on this item at next week's meeting.

President Parker asked Ms. Helfin for an idea of what next week would look like in the legislature. Ms. Helfin shared that on Tuesday the House Education Committee would be meeting. The agenda has not yet been posted. On Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. there will be an appropriations Committee meeting. Presidents should have a chance to meet with Senate delegation members on Wednesday and Thursday. As far as House delegations Wednesday and Thursday mornings may be best.

President Parker shared that she is still working on the form that discusses fund balances.

President Haile asked about the language in the House Bill that would require colleges to have 7% in their reserve balance, if there was less than that, colleges would have to find a way to make it up. Ms. Heflin replied that bill was temporarily postponed on the floor.

Mr. Brawer shared that the meeting next week in Tallahassee would be at the TCC Capitol Center on Thursday, April 11. Presidents Professional Development will begin at 2:30 p.m. and the Business meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Karen Moore shared that over 100 college stories have been shared recently. The Moore Agency is geofencing the Capital with digital media. She has received calls for additional copies of the TaxWatch report. Presidents were encouraged to contact Karen Moore or Michael Brawer if they need additional copies.

President Parker adjourned the call at 11:40 a.m.

**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.