

**ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES  
Policy and Advocacy Committee**

**Florida College System Council of Presidents**  
TCC Center for Innovation (Downtown)  
Plaza Conference Room  
300 W. Pensacola Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301

**February 19, 2020**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

At 3:00 p.m. on February 19, 2020 the Policy and Advocacy Committee meeting was called to order by chair, Joe Pickens. He stated that there was not a set agenda for this meeting, but he had a set of topics that would be covered.

**Dual Enrollment**

Mr. McKeel updated the Committee on the dual enrollment bill. He shared that Senator Stargel has language that puts in a scholarship for private school and homeschool students, but there is not currently funding for that. He stated that currently language proposes a funding mechanism, but he shared that the Committee needs to decide where they would like to see the funding. The funding ask was for \$16 million. President Pickens asked, if a private school facilitated the student attending an FCS institution via dual enrollment could their entire curriculum be free, to the student and the school? Mr. McKeel stated that he did not think that was the intent of Senator Stargel in that language. Dr. Falconetti stated that she understood the amount to be \$16 million in scholarship funding for dual enrolled, private and homeschool students. Dr. Lorenz shared that was what Commissioner Corcoran first proposed, but that was not in Senator Stargel's bill. Dr. Massey asked if that amount was to include the summer semester as well. Mr. McKeel replied that he understood it to include summer semester. President Pickens stated that it is important to be prepared for whatever the funding may be.

President Pickens asked President Grosskopf to share about the language regarding if a local state college was not able to handle dual enrollment numbers. President Grosskopf shared his concern is that the idea of community is dissolved, by a student choice/free market concept. Mr. McKeel suggested forming a workgroup to focus on the policy in the language in the bill. Dr. LoBasso clarified that there is \$16 million in the budget for dual enrollment work-load increase. President Pickens asked if dual enrollment should be worked on with Senator Stargel or Commissioner Corcoran. Mr. McKeel said it should be worked on with Commissioner Corcoran directly. He referred to prior conversations between the Commissioner and college presidents agreeing to work on the policy this year and appropriations next year. Dr. Holdnak shared that his concern is that a private school may be able to receive funding that FCS institutions have been unable to receive. Dr. Falconetti asked if Senator Stargel believes she is doing the best she currently can with

regards to funding dual enrollment. Mr. McKeel felt she is doing the best she can, and next year will be different as she does not have control of allocations currently. Dr. Massey asked if the \$10 million on the House side is part of the \$16 million on the Senate. Mr. McKeel clarified it is not part of the \$16 million.

### **Capital Outlay and PECO**

Dr. Murdaugh stated that the Commissioner asked what the FCS top priorities are. Dr. Murdaugh told him that the FCS needs \$50 million in new money run through the Tiered Model and the state to fund “sum-of-the-digits” repair and maintenance.

President Pickens shared that there is another shortage of PECO fund. He said that Commissioner Corcoran is lobbying for bonding. Mr. McKeel shared that in the second round of meetings with leaders, Chairman Bradley, Chairman Cummings, and President Galvano, bonding was encouraged.

### **Fund Balances**

President Pickens shared that the Commissioner indicated that he is still able to have conversations with the presiding officers, namely the Speaker of the House and President Galvano, about how the Council might want to alter the language of the fund balance issue. President Pickens shared that COBA had sent some suggested language to him. Mr. McKeel shared that the COBA language is in the Commissioner’s hands. He was told by the House that they would not look favorably on the amendment.

### **Nursing Shortage**

President Pickens said that the tech college nursing bill not going to move in the Senate this year. A workgroup will be put together via the Council of Workforce Education to try and come up with a global addressing of the issue about the role of FCS institutions versus the role of Technical colleges in preparing nurses. One option offered to Senator Stargel was for the technical colleges to offer more LPNs that could be employed and bridged to the FCS.

Preliminary conversations with Senator Simpson are about looking at the FCS and the relationship to the technical colleges. He suggested that the COP offer a solution that Senator Stargel and the House would like to see. Dr. Murdaugh stated that a group of presidents and CWE met to discuss what everyone (colleges and technical colleges) needs to do to meet the employers needs in Florida. The results from that meeting are still being written up for review and will then go before the Council of Presidents. Dr. Sidor shared that the group looked at the issue as a system wide view and how to address it together. Dr. Murdaugh shared that one important discussion from the meeting was ensuring that opportunities are being expanded.

Related to accreditation, it is important that students not get stranded out of the programs that are offered at FCS institutions and the technical colleges. Identifying opportunities for additional bridge programs as well as co-locations is an option. Mr. McKeel provided a status of the bill. Dr. LoBasso asked about using the data from a previous survey of the programs and the needs. Dr. Murdaugh shared that data requests have been made to Chancellor Mack, in hopes of having a graphic that will show areas of the state with needs

and how they are being addressed by the FCS and technical colleges. Dr. Holdnak proposed working on a joint program with the technical colleges.

### **Funding Formula Tiered Model**

President Pickens asked if the group chose to support the five or seven-tiered Funding Model Mr. Brawer stated that he recalled the Council choosing the seven-tiered Model in a previous Policy and Advocacy Meeting. Several others agreed they thought that the seven-tiered model was preferred, but an official vote was not taken.

### **Employee Health Insurance**

President Pickens brought up the pursuit of a study on employee health insurance to find out what the fiscal impacts would i.e., the benefits and detriments, if the FCS were brought into the state health care system. Dr. Holdnak referred to a message from Chauncey Fagler regarding the study. In the message Mr. Fagler refers to a previous Council of Presidents meeting when Dr. Murdaugh leaned over to him and asked him to find out what it would cost to get a study. Later, at a COBA meeting, Chancellor Hebda told Mr. Fagler to begin working on the study. Dr. Holdnak stated that the first study will cost about \$15,000 and could be absorbed in the Consortium. The information in that study would be controlled by Council. The follow-up study would cost \$80,000-\$100,000. The first study should provide enough information to decide if the second study is needed. President Pickens asked if there was any opposition to having the first study done. Mr. McKeel reported that Senator Stargel was comfortable with the idea of a study, but would need language from the Council. Mr. McKeel asked the group for assistance in crafting the language. President Pickens asked if he should communicate with Senator Stargel about crafting the study. If Senator Stargel is not able to move forward with the study, then the Council will contact the Consortium for a study.

### **FRS**

President Pickens referred to a conversation with the Commissioner on the Florida Retirement System issue. Mr. McKeel shared data from across the state. Dr. Murdaugh cautioned that the \$50 million LBR funding issue should not be tied to the FRS issue.

### **Other Issues**

Dr. Allbritten shared with the Council about his recent meeting with Tim Elwell regarding the change in the Tiered Funding Model.

President Haile brought up the matter of advocating on behalf of the FCS as well as advocating for projects at individual colleges. This matter had been previously discussed with Commissioner Corcoran.

At 4:44 p.m. the Policy and Advocacy Committee meeting was adjourned.