

**The Florida College System  
Policy & Advocacy Committee  
Friday, April 11, 2014  
Tallahassee Community College Capitol Center  
Tallahassee, Florida**

**MINUTES**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Dr. Jim Henningsen, P&A Chair, called the meeting of the Policy and Advocacy Committee to order at approximately 8:29 a.m. on Friday, April 11, 2014 at the Tallahassee Community College Capitol Center.

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

Dr. Jim Henningsen	Mr. John Grosskopf
Mr. David Armstrong	Dr. Ty Handy
Dr. Jason Hurst	Dr. Dennis Gallon
Dr. Gene Prough	Dr. Katherine Johnson
Dr. Jeff Allbritten	Dr. Ed Meadows
Dr. Chuck Hall	Dr. Ann McGee
Dr. Cynthia Bioteau	Dr. Thomas Leitzel
Dr. Jim Kerley	Dr. Carol Probstfeld
Dr. Ken Atwater	Mr. Joe Pickens
Dr. Ed Massey	Dr. Bill Law
Dr. Chuck Mojock	

Also present were:

Mr. Randy Hanna	Ms. Wendy Sikora
Dr. John Holdnak	Ms. Carrie Henderson
Ms. Kasongo Butler	Ms. Suzanne Tart
Ms. Lisa Cook	Mr. Liam McClay
Mr. Michael Brawer	Ms. Sandy Cesaretti Ray
Mr. Matthew Holliday	Mr. Don Payton
Ms. Sharon Crow	Mr. Steve Schroeder
Mr. Eric Johnson	Mr. Jack Hall
Mr. Andy Treadwell	Mr. Ed Woodruff
Mr. Jeff Schembera	

Dr. Ed Bonahue	Ms. Sheryl Vittitoe
Dr. Gina Doeble	Mr. LeRoy Darby
Mr. EH Levering	Mr. Joe Sarnovsky
Mr. Peter Elliott	Ms. Tami Cullens

## 1.0 Approval of Minutes

### 1.1 Approval, Policy & Advocacy Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2014

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Dr. Ed Massey and a second by Dr. Katherine Johnson the minutes of the March 14, 2014 meeting of Policy & Advocacy Committee were approved without objection.*

## 2.0 Substantive Issues

Dr. Jim Henningsen reported the bill regarding baccalaureate degrees has been amended. The legislature would like a review done; however, no specifics are available yet.

Mr. Michael Brawer reported two bills on the FRS are moving forward. Both bills only apply to new employees hired after July 1, 2015. Both close the pension option to senior managers and elected officials effective July 1, 2015. Anyone already in the pension plan who matriculates to a senior management position will be grandfathered in. The bill also extends vesting back to 10 years for all new hires entering the pension plan effective July 1, 2015. New employees will be initially enrolled in the pension plan, and if the employee fails to make a formal selection of pension or investment plan within the first 8 months following the month of hire, he/she will be defaulted into the investment plan.

He also reported colleges do not have the flexibility to reclassify a senior management position when vacated or upon knowledge of an impending vacancy. This often hinders colleges' ability to re-organize staff or move positions as needed. The proposed provision would allow such flexibility when a position is vacant or anticipated to be vacant. However, there has been only one bill that opens up the right section of F.S.121 so far this year, and it was not an appropriate bill for the AFC to attach its language to. Other bill amendment options are being explored, but we may need to wait until next year.

Mr. Matthew Holliday reported SB 1076 is still moving, but different provisions are also in HB 5601 which was heard April 10<sup>th</sup> in Senate Appropriations. The proposed bill decreases the sales tax rate on sales of electricity from seven to four percent and increases the gross receipts tax rate on electrical power or energy delivered to a non-exempt retail consumer from two and one-half to five and one-half percent. The new gross receipts tax additional rate will incorporate the existing exemptions from the sales tax in order to make this change revenue neutral to both the state and to taxpayers. These changes will result in an increase in the amount of revenue deposited in the PECO Trust Fund.

Mr. Holliday reported the bills on technical colleges are moving. HB 7057 passed the House. SB 1202 has two more stops before going to the full Senate.

The textbook affordability bills, SB 530 is in its last committee before going to the full Senate and HB 355 is ready for vote by the House.

Mr. Holliday referred to the handout entitled The Florida College System Summary Budget Side-by-Side (Attachment A.)

Mr. Holliday introduced Mr. Eric Johnson, the new Hillsborough Community College lobbyist.

Dr. Jim Henningsen adjourned the Policy and Advocacy Committee meeting at approximately 8:57 a.m. without objection.