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An Open Letter To The Membership Ray Coulter, AFC 2021 President

The AFC President's oath of office contains the following statement: "As the Association President, I will promote the advancement, development, and interests of all individual and institutional members of the Association in seeking solutions to matters of concern regarding Florida's public colleges." Our individual members have been represented well over the years on AFC's Board of Directors and Executive Committee, but our College Presidents, who serve as CEO's of our institutional members historically have not been provided such representation. At this time, to further strengthen the AFC/COP (Council of Presidents) partnership and enhance our ability to serve our members and our Colleges, adjustments are necessary.

We will be proposing several amendments to our bylaws at Annual Meeting and Conference that propose to give our institutional members meaningful voice, and as with all amendments to the bylaws, we need your approval. Essentially, the COP has requested, and the Board of Directors has agreed, that members of the COP (up to three) be appointed to serve on the AFC's Board of Directors as voting member(s) and a COP member be appointed to serve on the Executive Committee as a voting member. These proposed amendments are brought to you following intensive review and conversations over a two-year period, resulting in this collaborative approach that ensures a mutually beneficial outcome. These collaborative efforts were conducted with attention to transparency on a level that I have never experienced in my four years on the Executive Committee. Our conversations with the COP have been candid, honest, and always looking towards a bright future for our Association.

I want to assure you that these amendments do not signal diminished authority or control of our Board. Rather, the Presidents have come forward with a genuine interest in the long-term health of our association and want to lend their experience and perspectives to our work. This is a very good thing for us, because the COP now will be able to see firsthand our hard work, leadership and dedication and will better appreciate the value we bring to our members and their Colleges. Your approval at Annual Meeting and Conference will affirm our collaborative efforts with the COP and will ensure the vitality and success of one of the premiere state college membership associations in the country. We absolutely need our institutional support for the sustainability of AFC.

I encourage you to attend the Proposed Bylaws Townhall Meeting via Zoom scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, at 1:00 pm (EST). You will have an opportunity to express your thoughts and to ask questions of the Executive Committee and Bylaws Chair. Lastly, I humbly request that you make plans to virtually attend the AFC Annual Meeting and Conference Assembly of Delegates to vote for and support these proposed amendments.

Thank you,
Ray Coulter
AFC President
Palm Beach State College