

MINUTES: May 18, 2021

MEETING: NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE  
MADISON, FLORIDA

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mr. Ricky Lyons, Chair  
Mr. Billy Washington, Vice Chair  
Mr. J. Travis Coker  
Mrs. Sandra Haas  
Mr. David Howell  
Mr. Al Williams  
Mr. Mike Williams  
Mr. Gary Wright

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Mrs. Sharon Benoit

STAFF PRESENT: President John Grosskopf  
Larry Akers  
Tyler Coody  
Kay Hogan  
Judy Lundell  
Dani Mays  
Jennifer Page  
Micah Rodgers  
Connor Starling, Audio/Visual Technician  
Kristin Summers

Rob Sniffen, Board Attorney

VISITORS PRESENT: Isaac Goyette, Madison County School Board

The Board meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Ricky Lyons who asked Mr. Howell to open with prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**MOTION:** (Haas/Wright) That the District Board of Trustees adopts the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** (Washington/Howell) That the District Board of Trustees adopts the minutes for the April 20, 2021 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Lyons asked for public input and the President stated that no requests were submitted.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Dean Page presented the following items for approval:

**MOTION:** (Haas/A. Williams) That the District Board of Trustees approves the attached LUMEN Inc. Agreement. The cost of the services provided to the students by this vendor has gone from \$10 to \$25 per student but includes more services that faculty and students are really enjoying. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** (Haas/Wright) That the District Board of Trustees approves the advertisement of 2021-2022 student programmatic fee updates for public feedback. This will fulfill the College's responsibility to announce student fees and allow time for student feedback before submitting fees to the NFC Board in June 2021 for approval. A new annual student fee review procedure has been implemented in response to the recent audit finding regarding student fees. Student/public input is part of the procedure. The motion carried unanimously.

## **ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT SERVICES**

Dean Hogan presented the corrected Academic Calendar for approval.

**MOTION:** (Washington/ Coker) That the District Board of Trustees approves the revised 2021-2022 academic calendar for North Florida College. There was a typo in the date grades are due in May of Spring 2022. This calendar shows the corrected date of May 4, 2022. This recommendation will allow NFC to submit the calendar to the State for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

## **EMPLOYEE SERVICES**

Tyler Coody presented the following items for approval:

**MOTION:** (Coker/Haas) That the District Board of Trustees approves the personnel recommendation as outlined in the attached memorandum. This will fill the vacant position and complete the hiring process. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** (A. Williams/Haas) That the District Board of Trustees approves the annual Faculty contracts attached. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** (M. Williams/Coker) That the District Board of Trustees defers the salary discussion until July to allow the College staff work on the President's Salary and the entire College Salary Schedule to try to alleviate the inequities of current wages. This would allow more time to develop a plan for presentation and lengthy discussion during the Summer Workshop. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lyons asked the group to fill in the calendars provided with the trustees' availability for the Summer Workshop to be held in July.

**MOTION:** (Haas/Washington) That the District Board of Trustees approves to advertise the new policy on ethics and integrity with the correction of moving number 3 down on the page. The motion carried unanimously.

President Grosskopf added that this policy is not the result of anything that has happened, but rather a proactive step to protect our compliance with SACSCOC. As a SACSCOC Board member, President Grosskopf has observed institutions without integrity policies or adequate procedures and mechanisms in place to create proper boundaries. Such institutions are vulnerable to dishonesty and can be found out of compliance on this key principle. Mr. Lyons stated that the language of the policy is intentionally broad so that the principle of integrity can be applied to many situations.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

Micah Rodgers presented the following items:

**MOTION:** (Washington/A. Williams) That the District Board of Trustees approves the Warrant List for April 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Statement of Account was presented as an informational item as was the Current Funds Unrestricted Revenue and Expenditure Report.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Judy Lundell discussed the following from the Foundation Report for May 2021:

- Alumni Promotion
- Summer 2021 Scholarships
- CDL Scholarship
- Last Mile Scholarship
- New Scholarships: Fast Track Enroll Now, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Koch Companies Scholarship
- Hamilton County Career and Workforce Scholarship Giveaway
  - Mr. Howell commented that the event was very inspiring. The recipient of the full scholarship was very deserving and truly needed the assistance. Seeing the faculty teary-eyed and the students rally around the winner with excitement was an emotional and heartwarming experience.

### **PRESIDENT'S HIGHLIGHTS**

Kristin Summers presented Board Policies that are being aligned with SACSCOC Principles:

**MOTION:** (M. Williams/Haas) That the District Board of Trustees approves the following edits to current policies for May 2021 to align with SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. The

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applicable SACSCOC standards have been noted at the end of each policy. The motion carried unanimously.

President Grosskopf gave updates on the following:

Upcoming Events:

May 19- Orlando FL for FCSRMC Board Co-Chair

This meeting considered potential vendors and coverage limits for property casualty and health insurance for the upcoming purchasing cycle and optional coverages such as hearing, vision, sports, forensic accounting, etc.

May 21- COP Meeting in the morning and professional development in the afternoon

Unsure if Commissioner Corcoran will be in attendance.

Hoping for more guidance from DOE on CDC's current recommendations.

Looking for updates and guidance on the American Recovery Plan.

**ATTORNEY TIME**

Attorney Sniffen provided updates on the following:

Day-to-day discussions and contract review with staff.

Ideas for Training during the upcoming Summer Workshop:

- Trusteeship and Governance
  - Refresher on roles of trustees vs staff
  - Protocols and legal responsibilities
  - Ethics
  - Public Records/Sunshine Law
- Legal Trends Update
- Title IX (upcoming changes are still pending – maybe too soon to train)
- Education trends in the context of the law
- Legislation changes at State level

Mr. Washington suggested inviting others in the community to share in ethics training and create an opportunity to show the campus to others as the campus reopens. Mr. Sniffen suggested waiting until the fall when COVID restrictions might be lifted further. President Grosskopf commented that it would be preferable to keep the focus of the Summer Workshop on the trustees and save the community training event for a later time. By consensus, the Board agreed to save the training piece of the workshop for the fall when others can be invited.

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Mr. Sniffen then followed up on last month's discussion regarding use of Van H. Priest Auditorium for outside events such as dance recitals. With constantly changing CDC guidelines his research concluded with the following:

- Peer institutions in Florida are all still very hesitant to allow large events. Conversations are beginning about the possibility of these happening later in the summer. As of now, the consensus is to keep campuses closed in the absence of the CDC lifting restrictions for schools. He pointed out that CDC does have separate guidance on large gatherings for K-12 and post-secondary institutions.
- Focus has been on restoring access for students to cultural events, but CDC maintains that end-of-year school events and other large gatherings are still very much discouraged. Indoor events are still considered risky due to ventilation and circulation issues.
- CDC still says to mask, social distance, limit attendance, limit duration, and avoid events that involve yelling/singing crowds for indoor gatherings.
- Bottom line: A dance recital event is uninsurable
- Without control over third parties, there is too much risk.
  - People can claim to have been vaccinated and refuse to mask
  - Sanitizing fees would have to be assessed for at least \$5,000
- Per FCS, the Governor's executive orders do not apply to State Community Colleges. Those mandates did not address post-secondary education at all, so we are still bound by CDC guidance. The executive orders are focused on private businesses.
- COVID liability is not protected by these mandates and the risk of litigation is still very much in play.
- We need to wait for the green light on large events from DOE, even though many are anxious to restart commercial events in our facilities.

Mr. Washington asked if we are anticipating news by the next meeting so our community theater group could begin ordering materials for the January 2022 show. Mr. Sniffen senses that news will be forthcoming and hopes for good news very soon. This is the number one topic in the community college forums that the firm follows. A lot of frustration is coming from the lack of guidance for our sector. Class actions lawsuits are a real threat as several of our sister institutions have already been hit on student fees related to COVID. The damages sought in one of the cases in the university system were \$500,000,000. These suits are being driven by lawyers from all different parts of the country and the State Community Colleges are not immune from this risk. If they win, the damages for SUS and FCS will run into the billions of dollars. There is so much at stake that Mr. Sniffen's professional opinion is that the risk is too high.

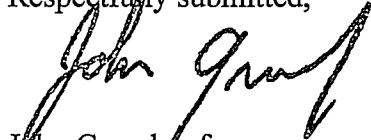
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Chair Lyons announced that the next meeting will be held on June 15, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in the Student Center and reminded the trustees to fill out their calendars and turn them in before leaving tonight. He asked Mr. Williams to pray before dinner and the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Grosskoppf  
President



Ricky Lyons  
Chair

/mmw