

**Minutes  
District Board of Trustees  
Tallahassee State College  
Center for Innovation  
350 South Duval St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Monday, May 19, 2025  
Business Meeting – 2:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

On Monday, May 19, Chair Karen Moore called the Tallahassee College District Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Chair Moore asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Chair Karen Moore, Vice Chair Eugene Lamb, Trustees Jonathan Kilpatrick, Frank Messersmith, Monte Stevens, and Charlie Ward.

**Absent:** Trustee Monesia Brown

**Others Present:** President Jim Murdaugh, Candice Grause, Dustin Frost, Trevoris McDaniel, Shelly Bell, Cerissa Fondo, Lei Wang, Kalynda Holton, Calandra Stringer, Bobby Jones, Bill Spiers, Sheri Rowland, Amanda Clements, Jennifer Peavy, Sean McGovern, Christen Givens, Hope Childree, Heather Marie Mitchell, Barbara Wills, Nyla Davis, Carlecia Collins, Heather Mitchell, Nicholas Vick, Riley Landy, Bertie Culbreath, Kirk Pepper, Wayne Almy, and Calvin Cheung.

**COMMENTS**

- i. Chair's Remarks: Chair Moore shared the results of the subcommittee's annual evaluation of President Murdaugh, stating that it was universally recognized as exemplary. The president was scored on various criteria on a scale of one to five, with five being the highest rating. Chair Moore proudly announced that President Murdaugh was awarded a score of five in every category. She congratulated the president on the outstanding review and thanked Vice Chair Lamb for his support in reviewing the president's contract and evaluation. Chair Moore also expressed appreciation for President Murdaugh's unwavering support of the students, faculty, and staff.

Chair Moore concluded her remarks by recognizing several recent milestones, including the Healthcare Pinning ceremonies, Spring Commencement, the Heroes and Public Safety banquet and awards, the Veterans Coin and Cord ceremony, and the inaugural graduation ceremony for the Tallahassee Collegiate Academy, celebrated the graduation of twelve young women. She commended Trustee Kilpatrick for serving as the featured speaker at the Veterans Cord and Coin event.

ii. Trustee Remarks:

- a. Trustee Kilpatrick noted that the Healthcare Pinning Ceremony is a favorite due to the visible emotion and pride on graduates' faces. He expressed his honor at serving as the speaker at the Veterans Coin and Cord ceremony and extended his gratitude to the remarkable individuals who chose to attend TSC. He noted that the commencement ceremonies continue to be an exceptional celebration of student achievement.
- b. Vice Chair Eugene Lamb expressed his appreciation to the staff for their hard work organizing the many recent events.
- c. Trustee Ward thanked the staff for their hard work and congratulated Dr. Murdaugh on his evaluation, praising his excellent performance and leadership.
- d. Trustee Stevens praised the Healthcare Pinning Ceremony and mentioned that the Veterans' Cord and Coin Ceremony is a new favorite, noting the incredible joy in graduates' eyes. He also shared that TSC Athletic Director Chuck Moore has hired Chelsea Waters as the new Women's Basketball coach and said he looks forward to the team's future success.
- e. Trustee Messersmith remarked that the Healthcare Pinning and commencement ceremonies never fail to impress. He commended the college's progress and accomplishments under President Murdaugh's leadership, noting that he believes it seems deserving of even higher recognition. He extended his congratulations to the president on a job well done.

iii. President's Remarks: President Murdaugh began by thanking the subcommittee for reviewing his contract and evaluation and expressed his gratitude to the trustees for their insights. He emphasized any recognition he receives is a direct reflection of the amazing team he works alongside and accepted the trustees' kind comments on behalf of every team member.

He highlighted several recent events, including commencement and Healthcare Pinning ceremonies, noting that they are annual highlights

for him. This year, he added a new personal favorite: the Dual Enrollment graduation ceremony, where 75 students from three counties earned associate degrees at no cost to their families. This number was a significant increase from the previous year.

President Murdaugh also celebrated the graduation of the fifth cohort of the President's Leadership Institute. The success of the program has attracted interest from other colleges seeking to replicate it.

He shared that the Heroes in Public Safety Banquet saw record attendance, with around 450 attendees. The event honors outstanding individuals and highlights the college's commitment to recognizing excellence in public safety.

Special congratulations was given to Jazanae Rolle, a senior from the Tallahassee Collegiate Academy, who was named a Best and Brightest award winner in the leadership category. He noted that the college offers scholarships to Best and Brightest winners.

He then welcomed Chelsea Waters, the new Women's Basketball Head Coach. A former TSC assistant coach, she brings a wealth of experience from her playing career in Europe after graduating from Gonzaga University. Coach Waters expressed her excitement about the opportunity.

President Murdaugh invited VP Heather Mitchell to introduce lobbyists Carlicia Collins and Kirk Pepper from Gray Robinson, who provided a legislative update.

- Carlicia Collins thanked the College for its trust and shared a brief update on the legislative session.
- Kirk Pepper explained that only 7 - 10% of appropriations project requests typically receive funding, with actual disbursements usually closer to 5 - 10% of the total requested amounts, underscoring the challenge in securing state appropriations.

President Murdaugh asked for clarification regarding the status of the trustee term limits bill, which Mr. Pepper confirmed had failed.

Chair Moore requested additional details on budget implications and Trustee Stevens asked if there would be any interruption to employee health insurance coverage if the budget has not passed by June 30.

VP Barbara Wills assured trustees that operations and employee health coverage would continue without disruption. She noted that, per state requirements, the College must adopt a budget to be submitted to the State Department of Education by June 30. President Murdaugh added that adopting a continuation budget would fulfill this requirement and ensure uninterrupted operations.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 2025 April Board Minutes

Approve minutes as presented.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Lamb  
Motion passed unanimously.

**SECOND:** Trustee Messersmith

## INFORMATION AND NEWS ITEMS

VP Candice Grause provided an overview of recent media coverage for the college.

Highlights included:

- Tallahassee Collegiate Academy's graduating class, known as the Diva Dozen, gained significant media attention, boasting a collective GPA over 4.0, which underscored the value of dual enrollment programs.
- *Florida Politics* noted Tallahassee State College's prominence among academic institutions and acknowledged the school's Human Resources team for receiving the 2025 Innovation of the Year award from the League of Innovation
- The Forensics Team was commended for its stellar representation of the school.
- TSC was featured on the cover of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education Magazine*, a nationwide publication that partners with NISOD.
- Broadcast clips included commencement coverage and a feature on the Veterans Cord and Coin Ceremony.

Chair Moore acknowledged that this was VP Grause's final trustee meeting, and on behalf of the Board, expressed heartfelt appreciation for her leadership and contributions to the College. Several trustees offered personal remarks recognizing her professionalism, dedication, and impact.

VP Grause thanked the trustees for their kind words, sharing that the decision to move on was not an easy one, and that serving the College has been both an honor and a privilege.

## PRESENTATIONS

- President Murdaugh congratulated Nyla Davis, Director of Human Resources, and Heather M. Mitchell, Learning and Development Manager, for receiving the 2025 Innovation of the Year Award from the League of Innovation for the College's professional development program. Ms. Davis thanked President Murdaugh for investing 1% of the College's operating budget in professional development, noting the TSC serves as a model for other institutions. Ms. Mitchell expressed her passion for professional development and her pride in contributing to the College's growth.
- President Murdaugh welcomed John Schultz, Forensic Coach, to share highlights from the team's successful year. Mr. Schultz thanked the Board and College leadership, and introduced the team, noting their impressive achievements: winning the two-year state tournament for the 25th time in 27 years, and capturing the four-year state title for the second time in three years.

### ***Approval of Consent Agenda***

The consent agenda format is an organization process for meetings that allows the governing board to focus their time and attention on action items that require more elaboration, information, and/or discussion. The intent of the consent agenda is to support the efficiency and effectiveness of the meeting.

If a trustee has a question or plans to cast a negative vote regarding a specific recommendation, then the trustee/trustees need to acknowledge their intention to the Chair. This action item will be considered in the regular order of business as an individual action item.

Those action items that the trustees plan to approve without further question or discussion will remain on the consent agenda. Upon the final determination of the consent agenda, a motion, second to the motion, and unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees is needed to approve the action items. Upon approval of the consent agenda, the Board of Trustees will proceed with the remainder of the agenda.

2. Attorney Invoices – Bryant Miller Olive (April 2025)

Authorize payment of invoices as presented.

3. Human Resource Report  
Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** Trustee Kilpatrick

**SECOND:** Trustee Ward

Motion passed unanimously.

***TSC Foundation***

4. TSC Foundation Update

Presented as an information item only.

***Administrative Services***

5. Construction Status Report

Presented as an information item only.

6. Fund Analysis - April

Presented as an information item only.

7. Architect Invoice(s)

Authorize payment of architectural invoices as presented.

**MOTION:** Trustee Stevens

**SECOND:** Trustee Kilpatrick

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Sponsored Programs – Provider

Authorize funding for the awards and contracts as presented.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Lamb

**SECOND:** Trustee Stevens

Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** No public comment.

**WORKSHOP- Enrollment Update**

Dr. Sheri Rowland, Vice President for Student Affairs

Janet Hartman, Executive Director of the Florida Public Safety Institute

Shelly Bell, Vice President for Workforce Development

A PowerPoint presentation was shown and is available on the TSC website, [TSC.fl.edu](http://TSC.fl.edu).

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- May 21 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Nominee ceremony at FPSI
- May 22, Cheers and Tears-Farewell honoring Candice, 3-5 p.m.
- May 26 Memorial Day- Campus closed.
- May 29 AI Innovations Summit, TSC Turner Auditorium/SU Ballroom
- June 4 SUS & FCS President and Trustee Chairs Meeting in Miami-Commissioner's Summit

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 16, 2025

Location: **Main Campus**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Moore called for adjournment at 4:18 p.m.**

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**Karen Moore**  
**Chair**

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**Jim Murdaugh, Ph.D.**  
**President**