

Florida State College at Jacksonville
District Board of Trustees
Minutes of the February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting
Administrative Offices, Board Room 405, 1 p.m.

PRESENT: Roderick D. Odom, Chair
Andrew B. Shaw, Vice Chair, Duval County
Michael M. Bell
Thomas R. McGehee, Jr.
O. Wayne Young

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roderick Odom called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance.

PLEDGE: Chair Odom led the Board and attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: Chair Odom opened the Public Comments portion of the meeting, during which members of the public were invited to address the Board on matters under its consideration. He noted that consideration of the day's action items also constituted a public hearing under the Administrative Procedures Act and advised that any comments related to the revised Board Rules should be presented at that time.

Chair Odom informed the Board that no member of the public had requested to speak. He then invited comments from the Trustees; none were offered.

MINUTES:
(Ref. Board Agenda for February 17, 2026; Pages 5 – 35)
Chair Odom noted that, in the interest of efficiency, he would entertain a motion to approve the Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) District Board of Trustees (DBOT) meeting minutes as presented on pages 5 – 35 of the agenda, including: the November 4, 2025, Business Dinner Meeting, on agenda pages 5 – 6; the November 12, 2025, Finance & Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting, on agenda pages 7 – 9; the November 12, 2025, Workshop, on agenda pages 10 – 12; and the November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting, on agenda pages 13 – 35.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to approve the FSCJ DBOT meeting minutes as presented on pages 5 – 35, from the November 4, 2025, Business Dinner Meeting; the November 12, 2025, Finance & Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting; the November 12, 2025, Workshop; and the November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE
PRESIDENT:

President's Circle:

College President John Avendano, Ph.D. shared information with the Board regarding the President's Circle:

- The College looks forward to the FSCJ President's Circle event this evening at The River Club.
- This annual event honors the College's generous donors whose support makes its work possible.
- FSCJ will recognize select donors with special awards for their generosity and will also share additional highlights from Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the FSCJ Foundation Scott Evans and the Foundation.
- At last count, FSCJ has over 116 attendees, compared to approximately 72 last year.

Junior Achievement
Partnership:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the Junior Achievement Partnership:

- Last month, FSCJ announced a partnership with Junior Achievement to establish an Early Learning Center (ELC) at the College's Urban Resource Center through a 50-year land lease.
- Plans are underway for the state-of-the-art facility, which is projected to serve more than 30,000 students annually across the region. The ELC will bring career-connected learning to life, allowing students to run businesses, earn paychecks, manage budgets, and explore career pathways through hands-on simulations, effectively bridging classroom learning with real-world application.
- The College has enjoyed hearing the community's excitement about the partnership.
- This partnership reflects the College's commitment to serving as an educational anchor for our community.
- Construction is targeted to begin this year, with a soft opening projected for fall 2027.

Men's Cross Country
Academic Rankings:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the Men's Cross Country Academic Rankings:

- The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association recently announced its NJCAA All-Academic Team and All-Academic Athlete Awards. FSCJ's men's cross country team was named the No. 1 academic-

performing team in the nation for the 2025 season, achieving the highest team grade point average among all NJCAA programs nationwide with an exceptional 3.90 GPA.

- Team members Benjamin Hale, Cole Fleming, Matt Leitheiser, Noah Blake Looney, and David Beasley each earned All-Academic Athlete honors for maintaining a GPA of 3.60 or higher while competing at the national level.

Cecil Center Update:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the Cecil Center Update:

- As previously approved by the Board, the College is pursuing the purchase of property adjacent to the Cecil Center to support the expansion of workforce programs.
- Since the last meeting, the City agreed to allocate \$5m in funding to help launch the Cecil Training Institute. Combined with \$4m designated by the College, this investment will significantly expand FSCJ's capacity to deliver high-demand workforce training at the Cecil Center.
- Through Lippes Mathias, the College made an official offer to purchase the building.
- The plan is to develop the site in phases. The Institute will initially expand skilled trades programs in Welding and HVAC/R, with future phases adding advanced manufacturing and logistics. These fields have been identified by the Florida Department of Commerce and local employers as experiencing unmet and growing workforce demand in Northeast Florida.
- The Training Institute will double welding capacity – from 20 to 40 stations – addressing the current downtown program, which is operating at full capacity. The eight-month welding program, costing under \$4k, provides a direct pathway to strong wages averaging more than \$50k annually.
- Similar workforce needs exist in HVAC, where the region faces a shortage of approximately 250 installers and mechanics relative to annual openings. FSCJ's 12-month HVAC program, costing just over \$4k, will help address this gap.

- Future phases introducing logistics and advanced manufacturing programs will meet near-term workforce demands while aligning with JAXUSA's priority industries, which are considered essential to Jacksonville's long-term economic competitiveness.

President Avendano asked Director of Government and Community Relations Taylor Mejia Roberts to provide an update on the recent Tallahassee visit held on Monday, February 2, 2026.

Director Mejia Roberts summarized the visit, noting that the College delegation met with several key legislative leaders and staff to discuss FSCJ's current priorities. A highlight of the visit included a meeting with Florida House Speaker Designate Sam Garrison, during which the delegation discussed matters related to the cost of health insurance, planned updates to the Cecil Center and continued support for skilled trades programs. She noted that the conversation was constructive and reinforced the importance of these initiatives to the region's workforce and economic development needs.

Additional meetings throughout the day focused on house and senate budget proposals, including the College's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) project requests. Overall, the visit was productive and provided valuable opportunities to advance the College's advocacy efforts.

The Board expressed appreciation for the update and support for ongoing advocacy efforts.

Board Retreat Recap:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the Board Retreat:

- He expressed appreciation to the Trustees for their participation in the Board Retreat held last month, noting the value of bringing everyone together for constructive dialogue, collaboration and fellowship as the College looks toward the future.
- He asked that Trustees share their feedback by completing the survey or contacting him directly.

MarCom Awards:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding MarCom Awards:

- He congratulated the College's Marketing and Communications team for earning Medallion Awards from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations

(NCMPR), the premier regional competition recognizing outstanding marcom and public relations achievements at community and technical colleges across NCMPR's seven districts.

- FSCJ received gold awards for the Gym Lobby Redesign and the "Become Irreplaceable" television advertisements, as well as a silver award for the "Become Irreplaceable" digital advertisements.
- The team also earned a 2025 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations Paragon Award in the Digital Advertisement category. The Paragon awards recognize the best creative and strategic work produced by colleges nationwide.
- Final placements – Gold, Silver, or Bronze – will be announced at the national conference scheduled for March 18–20 in Washington, D.C.

Commencement:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding Commencement:

- Commencement 2026 will be held on Thursday, May 7, at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.
- The College has secured Brian Pieninck, President and CEO of Florida Blue, as its Commencement speaker.
- A Grad Bash event is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at the Deerwood Center. Graduates will have the opportunity to pick up honors and military cords, take photographs, connect with the alumni team, and celebrate with family and friend.
- Additional communications will be shared with further details. Trustees were encouraged to mark their calendars and join in the celebration.

Data Dashboard:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the February 2026 Data Dashboard and high-level view of the institutional data sets:

- Spring Term College Credit Enrollment:
 - Positive variance of just under 3% credit hours for spring 2026 over spring 2025.
 - Positive variance of 6-1/2% to 7% compared to the same day in the enrollment cycle for Spring Term 2025 relating to clock hour enrollment.

- Two Dashboard Spotlights:
 - Six Sigma project in which the FSCJ’s PTK officers participated to help improve FSCJ’s Ask Rayzor AI bot.
 - Graduation Rates.
- Grants Report:
 - For the 2025-26 award year to date, FSCJ has received close to \$9.2m, of which \$344,554 was awarded during the current reporting period.

STRATEGIC
PROGRAMMATIC
DISCUSSION:

Chair Odom asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board related to President Avendano’s Report, Data Dashboards, or other College Strategic matters; none were received.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(Ref. Board Agenda for
February 17, 2026; Items 1
through 6, Pages 36 – 41)

Chair Odom noted that the Trustees had thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda items prior to the meeting and that any questions or concerns had been addressed and resolved in advance. He then asked whether any Trustee wished to remove an item from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration or discussion under Action Items; none were requested.

ACTION ITEMS:
(Ref. Board Agenda for
February 17, 2026; Items 1
through 9, Pages 42 – 84)

MOTION: (Bell – McGehee) The motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration’s recommendation on Action Item 2, Administrative Procedure Act – Board Rules, Section 4 – Finance, on agenda pages 43 – 73.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to approve Board Rule 6Hx7-4.7, Investment of Surplus Funds, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board.

Trustee Thomas McGehee, Jr. reported that the Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee had reviewed several action items on the day’s agenda. He stated that the Committee reached a consensus to provide the full Board with a brief overview and to convey their approval of the items.

As Committee Chair, Trustee McGehee shared the following information relating to Action Item A-2:

The item was discussed during the F&A meeting, noting that technology evolves rapidly, as do applicable rules and regulations. Over the past year, the Board has had the opportunity to review the rules and procedures to ensure they remain current, accurate and compliant with applicable state and federal laws. Recommendations were made to modify the rule to incorporate necessary clarifications and updates to College practices. Consequently, the rule was condensed from 29 pages to one.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 3, Human Resources: Termination – James Scott, Professor – Downtown Campus, on agenda page 74.

MOTION: (McGehee – Bell) The motion was made to approve the termination of James Scott, Professor – Downtown Campus, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 4, Finance: Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operating Budget Amendment No. 3, on agenda pages 75 – 76.

MOTION: (Bell – McGehee) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operating Budget Amendment No. 3, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee shared the following information relating to Action Item A-4:

Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Wanda Ford and Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Steve Stanford discussed the proposed budget amendment, which requests an increase to the operating budget by \$593k. The amendment reduces the current expense budget by \$557k to allow for the transfer of \$557k in Pipeline Nursing funding for design services related to renovations of the Nursing facilities at North Campus and \$100k for the campus-wide computer refresh project.

Additionally, current expenses are increased by \$300k to provide funding for outside security services to enhance coverage and overall campus security. The amendment also increases the equipment expense budget to address higher costs for academic equipment.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any additional questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 5, Finance: Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Outlay Budget Amendment No. 2, on agenda pages 77 – 79.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Outlay Budget Amendment No. 2, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee shared the following information relating to Action Item A-5:

Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Wanda Ford and Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Steve Stanford presented the proposed amendment to increase the Capital Outlay Budget from \$47,078,362 to \$47,735,956. This adjustment reflects the addition of \$657k in funding being transferred from the operating budget for the Nursing Pipeline project and the campus-wide computer refresh initiative.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any additional questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 6, Academic Affairs: Academic Calendar for 2026-2027, on agenda pages 80 – 81.

MOTION: (Bell – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Academic Calendar for 2026-2027, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 7, Academic Affairs: Inactivation of Correctional Officer Career Certificate Program, on agenda page 82.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to approve the Inactivation of Correctional Officer Career Certificate Program, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 8, Academic Affairs: Activation of Business Entrepreneurship Operations Technical Certificate Program, on agenda page 83.

MOTION: (Young – Bell) The motion was made to approve the Activation of Business Entrepreneurship Operations Technical Certificate Program, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 9, Academic Affairs: Activation of Florida Correctional Officer (Correction Officer) Career Certificate Program, on agenda page 84.

MOTION: (McGehee – Bell) The motion was made to approve the Activation of Florida Correctional Officer (Correction Officer) Career Certificate Program, as recommended.

Chair Odom asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:
(Ref. Board Agenda for February 17, 2026; Items A – G, Pages 85 – 96)

Chair Odom asked the Board whether there were any questions or comments related to Information Items A – G, on agenda pages 85 – 96; none were received.

REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR:

Chair Odom thanked everyone who had a role in organizing the 2026 FSCJ Planning Meeting and Retreat. From his perspective, the event was a tremendous success, with strong participation and discussion topics that generated meaningful, in-depth conversation. He also noted that the venue was very nice.

Chair Odom shared that he and President Avendano discussed the possibility of holding joint events with Foundation members twice a year for the duration of the Capital Campaign. The proposed joint events would convene in the late afternoon and include either a social gathering or dinner.

Chair Odom congratulated FSCJ as a whole on the recent recognitions, noting that the College is truly a jewel and expressing his belief that the Capital Campaign will be a tremendous success.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES:

There were no reports provided by Trustees.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR:

FSCJ F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the Board with an overview of the written report from the February 2026 quarterly meeting. (Appendix A)

The next meeting of the FSCJ F&A Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at the College's Kent Campus. The Committee will convene at 10:45 a.m. in Room D-111.

REPORT OF THE BOARD
LIAISON, FSCJ
FOUNDATION BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:

FSCJ Foundation Board Liaison Michael Bell provided the Board with an overview of the written report, which detailed the FSCJ Foundation Board of Directors' quarterly meetings, as well as updates on related committee meetings and activities. (Appendix B)

REPORT OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND
PROFESSIONAL
COLLABORATIVE (APC):

Administrative and Professional Collaborative Chair Ashli Archer addressed the Board and presented an overview of the written report outlining current APC initiatives and activities. (Appendix C)

REPORT OF THE CAREER
EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL
(CEC):

Career Employees' Council Chair Rebecca Nelson provided the Board with a written report outlining current CEC initiatives and activities. (Appendix D)

REPORT OF THE FACULTY
SENATE (Senate):

Faculty Senate President Dr. John Woodward provided the Board with a written report outlining current Senate initiatives and activities. (Appendix E)

REPORT OF THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION (SGA):

Collegewide Student Government Association President Vlad Sadowski provided the Board with a written report outlining current SGA initiatives and activities. (Appendix F)


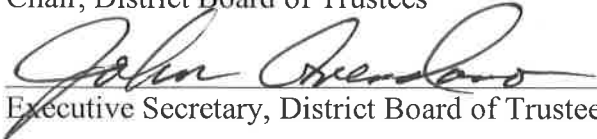
NEXT MEETING:

Chair Odom announced that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the College's Kent Campus, Room D-120.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Odom declared the meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:


Chair, District Board of Trustees

Executive Secretary, District Board of Trustees

Submitted by: Kimberli Sodek, Administration Support Manager – Office of the College President



REPORT OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE CHAIR, TRUSTEE THOMAS MCGEHEE, JR.
FEBRUARY 17, 2026

PFM Presentation:

Representatives from PFM Asset Management presented an overview of the investments for the College's surplus funds and the quasi-endowment fund. The current market value of the surplus funds is approximately \$40m. The portfolio is currently outperforming the benchmarks. The market value of the quasi-endowment fund is \$9.6m as of 12/31/2025 in comparison to \$9.4m as of 10/1/2025.

Preliminary Budget Outlook FY 2026/27 & Discussion of Interim Financial Statement:

Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Wanda Ford and Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Steve Stanford provided a preliminary budget outlook for FY 2026/27. The estimates were based on several assumptions and showed the projected fund balance based on 3%, 5%, 7% and 10% enrollment increases. The most significant concern is the increase in the cost of the state health insurance. If the State does not provide financial support to offset the cost of State Group Insurance and, even if enrollment remains stable, the College may be unable to maintain the required 7% fund balance in future years.

The committee also received an overview of the Interim Financial Statement as of December 31, 2025. Total liabilities, deferred inflows and net position is \$64m. Student fees are trending upward, and other revenues are trending as anticipated. Expenses are also trending as projected. The estimated fund balance is 10%.

Laptop Loaner Program:

Chief Information Officer Pete Snell provided an overview of the student laptop loaner program. The program launched in 2020 and was initially funded through grants and federal dollars. The initiative has progressed from providing 100 laptops to 646, including 3,929 checkouts.

The program currently provides a reliable, cost-effective, high-quality pipeline of laptops to support student success. The project also provides hands-on hardware repair and IT ticketing system experience for student workers.

This concludes my report.



REPORT OF THE BOARD LIAISON, TRUSTEE MIKE BELL
FEBRUARY 17, 2026

1. FBOD 4th Quarter Board Meeting - December 3, 2025:

- The Foundation Board held its 4th Quarter Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 3rd in the College's AO Boardroom.
- The agenda included the following respective reports:
 - Committee on Directors Report, Jeff Edwards.
 - Campaign Report, Carl Cannon.
 - Alumni Relations Committee Report, Consultant Dr. Carolyn Strickland.
 - College Update, Dr. John Avendano.
 - Executive Director Report, Scott Evans.

2. Action Items:

- The Board approved the nominations of four new members:
 - Michael Gordon (FSCJ alumnus and President of Gate Hospitality).
 - Patricia McElroy (Senior Vice President and President of the VyStar Foundation).
 - Jean Ibanez Payne (CEO and Founder of TI Verbatim Consulting).
 - Ellen Wiss (President of HOMKOR Florida, Inc.).
- The Board approved the Slate of Officers for 2026 and 2027. They are as follows:
 - Michael Corrigan, Chairman.
 - Paige Hakimian, Vice Chair.
 - Jeff Mall, Treasurer.
 - Sasha Poulos, Secretary.

3. Recognition:

The Board recognized Danny Berenberg, Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr. and Chris Verlander for their years of service as their terms ended.

4. Committee on Directors Report:

Committee on Directors Chair Jeff Edwards provided an update on Board composition, succession planning and plans for Board assessments and evaluation.

5. Campaign Report:

Campaign Chairman Carl Cannon reported cash and pledges as of December 3, 2025, totaled \$5.6 million with another \$700,000 in verbal pledges with much more in the pipeline of potential pledges and gifts.

6. Alumni Relations Committee Report:

Consultant Dr. Carolyn Strickland presented a three-year plan for alumni engagement to the Board. This will serve as a roadmap for the new alumni relations director once hired and the Foundation team for the next few years.

7. College Update:

President John Avendano, Ph.D. provided an update on the College to Foundation Board members noting several recent accomplishments, encouraged Foundation Board members to attend the annual retreat on January 30, 2026, and recognized members of the College leadership team in attendance at the meeting including all vice presidents from every area.

8. Executive Director Report:

Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the FSCJ Foundation Scott Evans provided updates on fundraising activities, programs and examples of specific gifts received recently. He shared a preview of upcoming events. He also recognized Chairman Brent Lister for his tireless efforts and contributions over the last two years as chairman.

9. Upcoming Board Meeting:

The next Foundation Board meeting is Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

This concludes my report.



Date: February 17, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Ashli Archer, Chair of the Administrative and Professional Collaborative, 2025-2026

Re: February 2026 Administrative and Professional Collaborative Report

Dear Chair Odom and Trustees:

The Administrative and Professional Collaborative (APC) is proud to share updates since our last report.

Our January meeting was held virtually, and Dr. Avendano joined. He discussed the following College initiatives and invited questions and feedback:

- 2026 Outlook: Expected to be one of the busiest years with multiple initiatives.
- Junior Achievement Partnership: Groundbreaking for new experiential learning center downtown; opening projected Fall 2027.
- Cecil Center Expansion: Plans underway for trades programs; acknowledgment of Taylor Mejia's contributions.
- Legislative Session: Awaiting appropriations; major funding requests pending.
- Professional Basketball Partnership: Jacksonville Waves to use South Campus as home practice facility.
- Quiet Phase Campaign: Significant progress; notable \$500K donation received for Cecil project.
- Professional Development Day: Scheduled for tomorrow; robust agenda.
- Budget Update: \$8M shortfall due to state health insurance plan transition; enrollment growth projected at 4–5% for the year; legislative proposals \$70M–\$90M increase for Florida College System.
- Unlocking Opportunities Initiative: Review of academic programs based on wage and enrollment metrics; potential program adjustments.
- America 250 Celebration: Seeking ideas for partnerships/events; current proposals include debate and welding competition.

In an effort to increase connection with APC employees and colleagues, the APC Campus representatives will be scheduling campus-based meetings in March, 2026. Additionally, the Events and Service Committee has organized several gatherings for the spring semester, including a matinee show at the Alhambra Dinner Theatre in February. The Professional Development Committee will be scheduling a series of Spring Brown Bag lunches.

The APC Committee's next meeting will be on February 5, 2026.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashli Archer".

Ashli Archer
Department Chair of Humanities
Administrative and Professional Collaborative Chair, 2025-2026



Date: February 17, 2026
To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees
From: Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employees' Council Chair
Re: February 2026 Career Employees' Council Report

Chair Odom and Trustees:

There will be no written report provided by the Career Employees' Council (CEC) this month.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "RAMUSA", is written in dark ink.

Rebecca A. Nelson
Career Employees' Council Chair
Florida State College at Jacksonville
904-632-3274 / Rebecca.Nelson@fscj.edu



Date: February 17, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees.

From: John A. Woodward, PhD

Re: February 2026 Faculty Senate Report

Chair Odom and Fellow Trustees:

The faculty remain at a crossroads determining the best route to take on this long road of academic rigor and generative AI. Our initial statement from 2024 helped provide some guidance. Its purpose, however, was to present the broadest boundaries for the faculty, allowing them to determine on a discipline or program level how to best approach the questions surrounding the use of generative AI. The feedback from our colleagues was that the boundaries were too vague, however. In December of last year, we amended the document to include the following:

January 2026 Clarifications:

The Senate offers the following clarifications as amendments to the statement above:

1. Full-time and adjunct faculty (henceforward known as “Faculty”) should make every effort to deter students from using generative AI in a way that “replaces the academic skills and/or processes required to know, understand, and demonstrate the material, methods, techniques, and/or practices of the course, whether that be in the workforce or in an academic area”; and
2. Faculty should make every effort to deter students from using generative AI in a way that “supplant(s) the necessary memorization of facts, algorithms, and methods/processes essential to knowing and understanding the material of the course;” and
3. Faculty should be mindful of the severe limitations of AI-checking software when determining a grade for an assignment; and
4. Faculty should be respectful of Senate’s position, and should be mindful, even considering their extensive academic freedoms, that other faculty may liberally allow, narrowly regulate, or strictly forbid the use of generative AI in their courses; and
5. Faculty should consider using but should not solely rely on TurnItIn or any other AI-checker in order to determine if generative AI has been used by a student—remembering that these checkers are not perfectly accurate; and
6. Faculty should be clear in how generative AI will be permitted or restricted in their course, although they must not be bound to that decision as each incident might entail a unique response; and
7. Faculty should be aware of the ethical and legal implications of using generative AI, including the implications to intellectual property and the possibility of addiction and other potential threats to a student’s mental health.

While AI may prove to be a useful tool to supplement standard research methodologies, AI should not be the primary author of assignments given to students by an instructor, nor should it be the primary authority used by students to complete their assignments.

February 2026 Faculty Senate Report
February 17, 2026
Page 2

The Senate is trying to address several questions with these amendments. The first concern is the pedagogical and ethical concern, namely that faculty have to take it as their individual responsibility to ensure that students are not misusing AI in their course. It is the individual faculty member's responsibility to determine the best course of action. The second is that detection software is not infallible and should never be used solely to determine the grade of a student unless there is other compelling evidence, especially the quality of the submission. We also wanted to stress that we cannot ever expect a 'one-size-fits-all' solution for the issue of AI even within departments and programs. In other words, different faculty will work on different approaches that may include a high level of use or no allowed use whatsoever, so long as the faculty remember the core tenets in 1) and 2). We wanted to make sure faculty were being clear in their syllabi about how AI would be allowed or would not be allowed. And finally we wanted to make sure faculty were very mindful of the ethical, legal, and pedagogical questions surrounding AI so they do not use it blindly.

The Senate is continuously engaged in the issues online testing; however, it seems as though we do finally have a technical solution to the problem. We now have a two camera system which, once functional again, will allow faculty to more readily confirm that students are being honest in completing their assignments. Moreover, we are close to possibly piloting a software solution for writing, as well. I hope to report more on that in a future letter.

Finally, I would like to mention Alexandr Solzhenitsyn who was expelled from the Soviet Union on February 13, 1974. Solzhenitsyn's critique of the Gulag, a system of prison camps for the 'socially undesirable,' as well as his firsthand accounts of life in them, helped turn the tide against tacit acceptance of Soviet authoritarianism in Europe and elsewhere. When states outlaw dissent and free speech, then all those who speak freely will be outlaws.

As always, we deeply appreciate all of your support for our College and thank you for your service on the Board.

That concludes my report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Woodward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Arrington Woodward, PhD
Professor of Humanities and Film Studies
Faculty Senate President
C2326B, DWC
Florida State College at Jacksonville
john.a.woodward@fscj.edu
904-997-2703



Date: February 17, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Florida State College at Jacksonville Student Government Association Executive Board

Re: February 2026 Student Government Association Executive Board Report

Greetings, Chair Odom and Trustees:

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the voice of the student body at Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Please see the following updates and accomplishments. All the programming shared is led by students and for all students.

Since the last report, the SGA would like to share the following:

- During the first week of December, all campuses hosted Stress Relief Week, where students could take a break from academics and enjoy a cozy vibe with winter-themed activities.
- During the 12th – 15th of December, all campuses hosted Welcome Back Week, where the College welcomed new and returning students.
- On January 20th, Kent Campus hosted Club Rush, where a wide variety of student organizations and clubs were introduced to students.
- On January 21st, North Campus hosted a Student Mixer where students connected across academic programs through interactive activities.
- On February 9th – 11th, FSCJ SGA representatives will go to the FCSSGA Conference in Tallahassee.
- From January 27th to February 4th, Downtown, North, South Campuses, and Deerwood Center will host Club Rush, where students will have a chance to get to know about different clubs and organizations across the College.
- On February 19th – 20th, danceWORKS presents the 29th annual Spring Dance Concert.

On behalf of the student body, we would like to thank the District Board of Trustees and College President Dr. John Avendano for continuing to provide the SGA the opportunity to share updates and accomplishments of our students. Thank you for your time and all that you do for the students of FSCJ.

Sincerely,
Vlad (Uladzislau) Sadouski
FSCJ Collegewide Student Government Association President