

**Florida State College at Jacksonville**  
**District Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting**  
**Kent Campus, Room D-120, 1 p.m.**

PRESENT: Roderick D. Odom, Chair  
Michael M. Bell  
Virginia H. Berg  
April A. Carney  
Thomas R. McGehee, Jr.  
O. Wayne Young

ABSENT: Andrew B. Shaw, Vice Chair, Duval County  
Daniel F. Martell  
Alan S. Wachs

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roderick Odom called the meeting to order at 1:09 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 regarding matters being considered. He noted that consideration of the day's Action Items also constituted a public hearing pursuant to 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 April 14, 2026; Pages 5 – 47)  
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 – 47 of the agenda, including: the January 30, 2026, Deep Dive Workshop/Planning Meeting, on agenda pages 5 – 22; the February 17, 2026, Finance & Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting, on agenda pages 23 – 24; the February 17, 2026, Workshop, on agenda pages 25 – 28; and the February 17, 2026, Regular Meeting, on agenda pages 29 – 47.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to approve the FSCJ DBOT meeting minutes as presented on pages 5 – 47, from the January 30, 2026, Deep Dive Workshop/Planning Meeting; the February 17, 2026, Finance & Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting; the February 17, 2026, Workshop; and the February 17, 2026, 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:

Welcome to New Trustees:

College President John Avendano, Ph.D. welcomed the College's newly appointed Trustees, noting that Trustee Virginia Berg is no stranger to FSCJ or to Board meetings. He also welcomed Trustee April Carney, recognizing her background in education and her service on the Duval County School Board.

President Avendano acknowledged that Trustees Daniel Martell and Alan Wachs were unable to attend the meeting; however, he noted that Trustee Martell participated in the Workshop and the Finance and Audit Committee Quarterly meeting.

President Avendano expressed his confidence that the addition of the new Trustees further strengthens the already exemplary District Board of Trustees and stated that he looks forward to working with all Board members in the years to come.

Legislative Update:

President Avendano asked Director of Government and Community Relations Taylor Mejia Roberts to provide a legislative update.

Director Mejia Roberts shared information with the Board on the following:

- Session Overview:
  - Legislative Session: January 13 – March 13 (adjourned on time without a final budget).
  - Bills are currently moving forward to the Governor for action.
  - A special session will be held the week of April 20 (redistricting).
  - An additional special session is likely to address the state budget and property tax reform.
  - The state budget must be finalized by July 1, the start of the fiscal year.
- Budget Update:
  - The Council of Presidents (COP) requested \$90M in funding for the Florida College System (FCS).

- Senate Proposal: \$85M increase for FCS; \$0 allocated for deferred maintenance.
- House Proposal: \$25M increase for FCS; \$50M allocated for deferred maintenance.
- A compromise between the House and Senate proposals is anticipated.
- A key issue remains “sprinkle funding” (member projects).
- FSCJ Priorities:
  - \$5M for the Cecil Training Institute.
  - \$3.5M for the Career Connection Center.
- SB 1246 LINE Fund (Nursing):
  - Expands eligible grant partners beyond healthcare providers to include philanthropic organization and individuals.
  - Matching funds may now be monetary or non-monetary (with priority given to monetary contributions) and must include some monetary component.
  - Allows for upgrades to existing facilities, including renovation to classrooms and simulation labs (no new construction permitted).
  - Provides for multi-year funding opportunities (up to two academic years).
  - Not yet transmitted to the Governor’s Office.
- HB 757 Guardian Program:
  - Permits postsecondary institutions to participate in the Guardian Program.
  - Allows trained and certified staff to carry weapons on campus.
  - FSCJ Impact:
    - Coordination with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO) for training and certification.
    - Likely alignment with existing campus police and security operations.
  - Requires rulemaking and a related budget appropriation.
  - Not yet transmitted to Governor’s office.
- HB 1471 Terrorist Organizations:
  - Prohibits the promotion of terrorist organizations on campus.
  - Establishes risk of state funding loss for violations.
  - Requires reporting of visa-holding students engaged in promoting terrorism.

- Mandates expulsion and loss of tuition and financial aid for violations.
- Restricts the use of public funds for related programs and activities.
- Signed by the Governor on April 6, 2026; effective July 1, 2026.

FSCJ Projects Update:

President Avendano provided the Board with an update on several ongoing and planned FSCJ projects, including:

- San Jose Tech/Cecil Training Hub.
- River City Science Academy (RCSA).
- Burn Building.
- Junior Achievement.
- Wounded Warriors.
- Richard and Annett Bloch Cancer Survival Park.

Fraudulent Student  
Registration Update:

President Avendano provided the Board with an update regarding fraudulent student registration activity. He advised that the Board would consider and take action on a related agenda item later in the meeting.

President Avendano explained that colleges across the country have identified a deliberate effort to create fraudulent student accounts for the purpose of obtaining financial aid funds. These individuals register under false identities or through identity theft, falsify financial information to qualify for aid, and in some cases submit limited coursework to meet initial requirements for disbursement. Once funds are received, the fraudulent students cease participation in their courses, which ultimately requires repayment of the funds to the U.S. Department of Education, leaving College responsible for reimbursement.

He further noted that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Education are aware of this activity, and that the College's auditors have advised repayment of the impacted funds.

Meetings and Connections to  
Advance FSCJ's Priorities:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding recent meetings and connections established to advance FSCJ's strategic priorities. These engagements included:

- Participation in discussions with the Northern Coalition, representing Nassau and Northern Duval Counties.

- A meeting with Andres Villegas of Rayonier.
- A meeting with Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan.
- A meeting with Pat Svatek, Chief Executive Officer of Otto Aviation.
- A meeting with Ken Flechler, Chief Executive Officer of Health Alliance Global.
- A meeting with Paul Jones of W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Inc.
- A meeting with Superintendent Dr. Kathy Burns and Congressman Aaron Bean regarding utilization of the Nassau Center and renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

NJCAA Mascot Bracket Challenge:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the NJCAA Mascot Bracket Challenge. He reported that, thanks to the support of faculty, staff, students, and community voters, the FSCJ Manta Rays received 55% of the votes, defeating the Cuyahoga Community College Triceratops in the Championship round of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Mascot Bracket Challenge.

He further noted that the Manta Rays remained in the top position for seven consecutive rounds, beginning in December 2025 and continuing through the championship.

Jumbo Shrimp Game:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the upcoming FSCJ Night at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game. He noted that FSCJ Night will take place during the Jumbo Shrimp vs. Charlotte Knights game on Saturday, April 18.

President Avendano encouraged attendees to arrive early, as the first 2,000 fans entering through the Main Gate will receive a red replica Jumbo Shrimp FSCJ jersey. He also shared that the FSCJ Recruitment team will be on site to engage with prospective students, and that Rayzor Ray will be available for photos with fans.

He concluded by advising Board members to contact the College if they have questions or need to update their RSVP and expressed hope that they would be able to attend.

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Updates:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding updates related to the College's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration:

- On March 26, the College dedicated a special 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mural at Downtown Campus.
  - The mural was created by Professor Dustin Harewood and supported by student artists enrolled in his Special Topics in Art class.
- On April 2, the College hosted its inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at South Campus. During the event, several distinguished individuals and teams were inducted into the Hall of Fame, including:
  - The 1982-1983 Women’s Cross Country Team:  
Susan Ingram, Jeanie Messinese, Lyn McDonald, Becky Motley, Janie Regis, and Jenny Ward.
  - Jeffrey Gidcumb, Baseball Player.
  - Larry Monts, Country/Track & Field Coach.
  - Howard Roey, Baseball Coach.

Commencement:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding FSCJ’s Commencement:

- As a reminder, the Commencement Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 7, at Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena. The College looks forward to this annual event to celebrate the success of its graduates.
- A Grad Bash event will be held at the Deerwood Center on Saturday, May 2. Graduates have been invited to attend to pick up honors and military cords, take photos with their families, visit the alumni team, and participate in related activities.
- Additionally, a dinner for the DBOT will be hosted following the Commencement Ceremony on May 7.
- Additional communications with further details will be shared in the coming weeks. Trustees are encouraged to attend these events.

Foundation Events:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding recent FSCJ Foundation events:

Legacy Luncheon:

- The Foundation hosted another successful Legacy Luncheon on April 2, honoring scholarship donors.
- Attendees enjoyed lunch, had the opportunity to meet scholarship recipients – one of whom shared an inspiring story – and heard remarks from Dr. Wade Barnes, who emphasized the importance of supporting the College.

Donald D. Zell Memorial Golf Class:

- The Foundation is preparing for the Donald D. Zell Memorial Golf Classic, presented by First Florida Credit Union, scheduled for Monday, April 27, at Queen's Harbour Yacht and Country Club.
- This event supports the Manta Rays Athletics program.
- Trustees were encouraged to attend and noted that invitations were distributed via email. Those unable to participate were informed of additional opportunities to support the event and encouraged to contact him directly or Vice President Scott Evans for more information.

President's Circle Event:

- He thanked those who attended the annual President's Circle event, which included new and prospective donors, as well as long-standing partners.
- The event highlighted the Foundation's future direction and showcased successes made possible through donor support.
- He presented the Visionary Award to the Michael Ward and Jennifer Glock Foundation in recognition of their \$1M gift to support workforce-focused scholarships. This contribution includes the establishment of an endowed fund prioritizing students in high-demand fields and those nearing graduation.

Data Dashboard:

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

- Spring Term College Credit Enrollment:
  - Positive variance of 3.2% credit hours for spring 2026 over spring 2025.
  - Positive variance of 2.2% compared to the same day in the enrollment cycle for Spring Term 2025 relating to clock hour enrollment.
- Summer Term College Credit Enrollment:
  - Positive variance of 5.7% credit hours for summer 2026 over summer 2025.
  - Positive variance of 24.5% compared to the same day in enrollment cycle for Summer Term 2025 relating to clock hour enrollment.

- Two Dashboard Spotlights:
  - Service Area – High School Market Share.
  - Strategic Plan KPI:
    - Graduation Rates.
    - Performance Based Incentive Funding.
    - Fall-to-Fall Persistence.
- Grants Report:
  - As of March 2, FSCJ has received approximately \$9.3M for the 2025-26 award year.
  - For comparison, the total for the 2024-25 fiscal year was \$16.4M.

STRATEGIC  
PROGRAMMATIC  
DISCUSSION:

Chair Odom inquired whether 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  
April 14, 2026; Items 1  
through 5, Pages 48 – 54)

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  
April 14, 2026; Items 1  
through 14, Pages 55 – 117)

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

Chair Odom inquired 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 1 – General Provisions, Definitions and Governance, on agenda pages 56 – 57.

MOTION: (Young – Carney) The motion was made to approve Board Rule 6Hx7-1.3, District Board of Trustees Self-Evaluation, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired 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, Administrative Procedure Act – Board Rules, Section 2 – Administration, on agenda pages 58 – 59.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to approve Board Rule 6Hx7-2.24, Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired 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, Administrative Procedure Act – Board Rules, Section 4 – Finance, on agenda pages 60 – 64.

MOTION: (Bell – Young) The motion was made to approve Board Rule 6Hx7-4.25, Endowment Funds and Funds Functioning as Endowment Funds, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board.

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

Acting as Committee Chair, Trustee McGehee provided the following remarks regarding Action Item A-4:

The Committee discussed the proposed revisions to the Endowment Funds and Funds Functioning as Endowment Funds Board Rule. The revisions include title changes and updates to reflect current practices. This Board Rule helps ensure compliance and consistency in the administration and investment of the College's quasi-endowment fund.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom again inquired 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, Administrative Procedure Act – Board Rules, Section 9 – Instruction, on agenda pages 65 – 66.

MOTION: (Carney – McGehee) The motion was made to approve Board Rule 6Hx7-9.2, Distance Education, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired 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 6, Administration: College Mission and Vision Statements, on agenda page 67.

MOTION: (Carney – Bell) The motion was made to approve the College's Mission and Vision Statements, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired 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, Human Resources: Award of Continuing Contracts, on agenda page 68.

MOTION: (Berg – McGehee) The motion was made to approve the award of continuing contracts, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano stated that he was pleased to recognize the full-time faculty members receiving continuing contract status at today's meeting. He invited Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. John Wall, to introduce the members.

Provost/Vice President Wall thanked President Avendano for the opportunity to recognize the faculty who successfully completed the application process for this year. He noted that each member demonstrated a high standard of excellence and a

strong commitment to the College's philosophy and mission, consistent with the established criteria for awarding continuing contract. He concluded by thanking the faculty members for their dedication to FSCJ.

Provost/Vice President Wall introduced the faculty members present at today's meeting, Dr. Susan Amburgery, Amber Arroyo, and Gerald Hilgenberg. He invited each faculty member to share with the Board the length of service with the College and the most rewarding aspect of their teaching role at FSCJ. The faculty members addressed the Board accordingly.

The names of the six full-time faculty members receiving continuing contract status, effective with the 2026-27 faculty contract year, are as follows:

- Dr. Susan Amburgery – Professor of Logistics.
- Amber Arroyo – Librarian.
- Gerald Hilgenberg – Professor of Computer Information Technology and Cyber Security.
- Killy Kim – Professor of Mathematics.
- Dr. Debidatta Mahapatra – Professor of Political Science.
- Bryce Wakefield – Professor of Mathematics.

President Avendano thanked the faculty members and acknowledged their continued commitment to the institution, its students, and the community.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 8, Human Resources: Faculty Sabbaticals, on agenda pages 69 - 70.

MOTION: (Berg – Young) The motion was made to approve the faculty sabbaticals, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired 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, Finance: Direct Support Organization Checklist and Annual Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2025, on agenda pages 71 – 110.

MOTION: (McGehee – Berg) The motion was made to approve the Direct Support Organization Checklist and annual audit for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the following remarks regarding Action Item A-9:

The FSCJ Foundation Finance, Audit, and Compliance and Executive Committees accepted the 2024-25 Auditor's Independent Report and Financial Statements at a joint meeting on March 10, 2026. The audit resulted in a clean, unmodified opinion, with only one historical deficiency related to the need for additional accounting staff to strengthen internal controls. The Foundation has received clean audits each year, as far back as institutional memory permits.

Several items were discussed during the meeting, and the auditors commended Associate Vice President of Foundation Finance and Operations Wendy Steve, and her team for completing the work in record time. Acceptance by the Executive Committee enables the College District Board of Trustees to accept the Foundation's audit at today's meeting – approximately two months earlier than the customary timeframe and well in advance of the statutory deadline of June 30.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom again inquired 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 10, Finance: Fees and Charges (Course Fees), on agenda pages 111 – 113.

MOTION: (Bell – Carney) The motion was made to approve the fees and changes (course fees), as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the following remarks regarding Action Item A-10:

This agenda item was reviewed during the F&A Committee meeting. The proposed course fee changes reflect the removal of courses that are no longer active, as well as cost adjustments made to better align with current expenses and enrollment figures.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom again inquired 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 11, Finance: FSCJ ACCESS Program, on agenda page 114.

MOTION: (Berg – McGehee) The motion was made to approve the FSCJ ACCESS Program, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the following remarks regarding Action Item A-11:

The Committee discussed the FSCJ ACCESS Program, which reduces the cost of textbooks and course materials for students. During the Fall Term 2025, students enrolled in FSCJ ACCESS classes realized total savings of more than \$474K.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom again inquired 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 12, Finance: Financial Statements Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025, on agenda page 115.

MOTION: (Young – Carney) The motion was made to approve the Financial Statements Audit Report for fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the following remarks regarding Action Item A-12:

The Committee received an overview of the Financial Statement Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The Florida Auditor General's Office reviewed the College's financial statements for Fiscal Year 2024-25, and the summary of findings indicated the following:

- The College's financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects.
- No deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, considered to be material weaknesses, were identified.
- Tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters required to be reported under "Government Auditing Standards."

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom again inquired 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 13, Finance: FSCJ's Quasi-Endowment Funds for Payment to U.S. Department of Education, on agenda page 116.

MOTION: (Young – Berg) The motion was made to approve FSCJ's quasi-endowment funds for payment to the U.S. Department of Education, as recommended.

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the following remarks regarding Action Item A-13:

Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Wanda Ford and Chief Information Officer Pete Snell reported instances of potential fraud involving certain financial aid applications, involving coordinated misuse of personal information. A police report was filed, and referrals were made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Inspector General.

The College recommends using quasi-endowment funds to reimburse the U.S. Department of Education for suspected fraudulent student payments in the amount not to exceed \$350K, representing 34 cases. As of February 2026, the quasi-endowment fund was valued at \$9.9M.

The F&A Committee supports approval of this item.

Chair Odom again inquired 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 14, Facilities: Purchase of San Jose Early College at Cecil, on agenda page 117.

MOTION: (Young – Bell) The motion was made to approve the purchase of San Jose Early College at Cecil, as recommended.

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

Chair Odom noted that the item had been discussed and reviewed during the F&A Committee meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:  
(Ref. Board Agenda for  
April 14, 2026; Items  
A – C, Pages 118 – 122)

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board regarding Information Items A – C, on agenda pages 118 – 122; none were received.

REPORT OF THE BOARD  
CHAIR:

Chair Odom commended Vice President Ford and the entire organization on the excellent results of the Financial Statements Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, acknowledging that the audit resulted in no findings.

Chair Odom reported on two recent events held on April 2: the FSCJ Foundation Legacy Luncheon and the inaugural FSCJ Athletics Hall of Fame. Both were remarkable and inspiring events that honored and celebrated current scholarship students, as well as former coaches and student-athletes. He expressed his pride in the high level of excellence demonstrated by FSCJ's students and staff.

Chair Odom recognized the institution, noting that he is a product of Florida's community college and university system. He shared that his experience within the community college

system was outstanding and emphasized that the work being done by faculty and staff truly makes a difference – it makes *the* difference in how the student succeed and carry forward in life. He added that FSCJ has a significant and meaningful impact and expressed his appreciation to everyone for their contributions.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES:

There were no reports provided by Trustees.

REPORT OF THE BOARD  
FINANCE & AUDIT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR:

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

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 included a summary of 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 provided the Board with a 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 was unable to address the Board due to an emergency; however, the written report outlining current Senate initiatives and activities was provided (*Appendix E*).

REPORT OF THE STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION (SGA):

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

NEXT MEETING:

Chair Odom announced that the Board will meet on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at the College's Administrative Offices for a Budget Workshop, which will convene at noon. He also noted that the next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at the College's Administrative Offices.

He thanked the two newly appointed Trustees, Trustees Berg and Carney, for their attendance and noted that the Board is honored to welcome them and looks forward to their contributions and service.

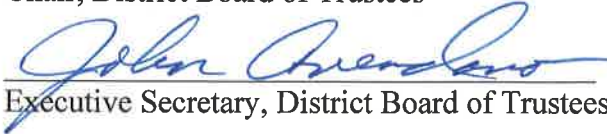
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Odom declared the meeting adjourned at 2:17 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.  
APRIL 14, 2026

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 various budget scenarios for FY 26/27. The 2026 Florida Legislature adjourned its 60-day regular session without passing a state budget. To finalize the state budget before the July 1 start of the new fiscal year, legislators will need to reconvene in Tallahassee for a special session. Until additional information is known regarding the College's state allocation, the budget cannot be finalized. However, VP Ford and AVP Stanford presented three budget scenarios based on the amount proposed by the senate, the house, and \$50m representing a middle ground. If the State does not provide financial support to offset the cost of State Group Insurance and enrollment remains stable, the College may be unable to maintain the required 7% fund balance in future years.

VP Ford and AVP Stanford also presented the Interim Financial Statement as of February 28, 2026. Total liabilities, deferred inflows, and net position total \$65m. Revenues and expenses are trending as anticipated. The projected fund balance is currently 9.42%.

Project Updates:

President John Avendano, Ph.D., Associate Vice President of Facilities Morris Bellick, Chief Officer for Organizational Culture and Engagement Lisa Moore, and Director of Government and Community Relations Taylor Mejia Roberts shared updates on some of the College's major facility projects. Some of the highlights included:

- **Cecil Training Hub:**

The College, in partnership with the city, is developing workforce training programs at Cecil. Joint funding will be used to buy the San Jose Prep facility, pending legislative approval. Additional legislative funds have also been requested for infrastructure and expansion.

- **OCEARCH Mayport Operations and Research Center:**

OCEARCH Mayport Operations and Research Center has asked the College to act as a funding pass-through for their FY 26/27 legislative appropriation request. Capital funds will be routed through the College's foundation, while operating funds will be handled in the state appropriation. The project is on hold pending legislative approval.

FSCJ District Board of Trustees

Report of the Finance & Audit Committee – Committee Chair, Trustee Thomas McGehee, Jr.

April 14, 2026

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- **River City Science Academy:**

River City Science Academy plans to begin construction by the Fall after completing due diligence.

- **Burn Building Project:**

The Burn Building's funding totals \$6.5m, with contributions from the City of Jacksonville (\$3.5m), the College (\$1m), and the State (\$2m). The College is collaborating with Jacksonville Fire and Rescue and Draeger on interior layout training scenarios.

- **Nursing:**

The College is reviewing Pond's Schematic Design Report dated April 3, 2026, for the North Campus Nursing/Allied Health Program Renovation/Remodel Project. Previous nursing project funds from an anonymous donor will now be used for Ultrasound Program equipment. Riverside Hospital Foundation has also awarded funding to support the Radiology Lab.

- **VyStar Veteran/Military Project:**

VyStar has allocated resources to expand the Veterans/Military Center presence across the Kent, North, Downtown, and South campuses. Additional details will be communicated in the near future.

- **Junior Achievement:**

The organization will move forward once fundraising goals are met.

- **Wounded Warrior Service Project at Camp Wildwood:**

Wounded Warriors proposed to complete their Annual Service Project at Camp Wildwood on May 21, 2026. The project will entail refreshing five cabins. The organization will provide 80-100 skilled labor/workers.

- **South Campus Hardscapes & Landscaping:**

New signage will be installed at the entrance to South Campus starting in June, with completion expected by December.

- **Richard & Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor's Park ("Bridges"):**

The existing park structure poses safety concerns because it requires significant repairs. Originally constructed with funding from the Bloch family, the College is now seeking to secure a new donor or evaluating the possibility of demolition. Repair costs for the structures are estimated to range between \$183k and \$460k.

This concludes my report.



REPORT OF THE BOARD LIAISON, TRUSTEE MIKE BELL  
APRIL 14, 2026

**1. FBOD 1st Quarter Board Meeting – February 26, 2026:**

- The Foundation Board held its 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting in 2026 on Thursday, February 26 at FSCJ's Advanced Technology Center, Room T-140.
- The agenda included the following respective reports:
  - Mission Moment: Chris Fischer, Founder of OCEARCH
  - Treasurer Report: Jeff Mall
  - Committee on Directors Report: Jeff Edwards
  - Executive Director Report: Scott Evans

**2. Mission Moment:**

The Board welcomed Chris Fischer, Founder of OCEARCH.

Mr. Fischer presented the Mission Moment and shared an overview of the organization's ocean research efforts, including global expeditions studying apex predators and great white sharks. He also discussed plans to establish the OCEARCH headquarters in Mayport, Florida and potential funding collaboration with FSCJ related to research, education and maritime workforce training.

**3. Treasurer Report:**

Treasurer Jeff Mall reported the Foundation remains in a strong financial position.

Operating revenues exceeded the approved budget for the quarter, and expenses were below budget, resulting in a surplus. Investment assets total approximately \$93 million, with total Foundation assets of approximately \$105 million including cash as of December 31, 2025. The Finance Committee approved opening new accounts to optimize cash management, including a savings account at EverBank and certificates of deposit with VyStar Credit Union.

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**4. Committee on Directors Report:**

Committee on Directors Chair Jeff Edwards provided an update on Board assessments and evaluation and recognized the achievement of 100 percent participation of all Board members who gave in 2025.

**5. Executive Director Report:**

Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the FSCJ Foundation Scott Evans provided updates on the follow up from the Retreat in January, campaign progress and upcoming events. He reported cash and pledges as of February 26, 2026, totaled \$8.4 million with another \$4 million in verbal pledges and more than \$10 million in the pipeline of potential pledges and gifts.

Vice President Evans also discussed ongoing efforts to expand philanthropic product development across the College, including engagement with academic leadership to identify future fundraising opportunities.

Upcoming Foundation events include donor activities, the Legacy Luncheon, 2026 FSCJ Donald D. Zell Memorial Golf Classic and the FSCJ Commencement Ceremony. Board members were encouraged to participate in these events and continue supporting outreach and fundraising efforts.

**6. Upcoming Board Meeting:**

The next quarterly meeting of the FSCJ Foundation Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

This concludes my report.



Date: April 14, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

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

Re: April 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 February and March meetings were held virtually.

In an effort to increase connection with APC employees and colleagues, the APC Campus representatives will be scheduling campus-based meetings in March and April 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 presented two of the three planned of Spring Brown Bag lunch and learning sessions. **Session 1: The Future of Higher Education – What’s Next for FSCJ?**, took place on Monday, March 2, 2026. This session featured Dr. John Avendano, Dr. Deborah Fontaine, and Mark Lacey. The panel provided inspiring conversation about how the landscape of higher education is transforming – and what that means for FSCJ professionals. They shared insights on the College’s strategic direction, digital transformation initiatives, and the evolving skills needed to thrive in the next era of work. **Session 2: Ask IT!**, took place on Tuesday, March 31 at 12 p.m. This session featured Brandi Bleak, Assistant Director of Educational Technology as the Moderator as well as Pete Snell, Chief Information Officer, Rusty Gardner, Executive Director of Academic Technology, and Mike Thomas, Director of Client Support.

**Ask IT!** was an interactive panel with the leadership of FSCJ’s Information Technology department. This session was an opportunity for APC members to learn about current technology initiatives and gain practical tips for working more effectively with the tools and systems we use every day. Topics included AI, cybersecurity, digital accessibility, IT support processes, and tips for using college technology more effectively.

The APC Committee’s next meeting will be on May 7, 2026.

Respectfully,

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

Ashli Archer  
Interim Dean of Education and Human Services  
Administrative and Professional Collaborative Chair, 2025-2026



Date: April 14, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employees' Council Chair

Re: April 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 that reads "RAMUSA".

Rebecca A. Nelson  
Career Employees' Council Chair  
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
904-632-3274 / [Rebecca.Nelson@fscj.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Nelson@fscj.edu)



April 14, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: John A. Woodward, PhD

Re: April 2026 Report

Chair Odom and Fellow Trustees:

We are one month away from one of our favorite times of the year: Commencement. This is the moment that shows us just how valuable we are to our students, to our community, and to society as a whole. My colleagues and I are often just as excited as our students to see them walk across the stage, heads held high, and celebrate their moments with the thousands of others who have joined us. As Senate finishes its work over these remaining weeks, we are focusing on improving the experience for our veterans, making further recommendations for proctoring in online courses, supporting our accessibility efforts, and developing some guidance for faculty who will be met with new syllabus mandates in the Fall.

I think we are all aware that the Department of Veterans' Affairs is an interesting entity. It holds a place of such vital importance in our society and offers essential services to our veterans and their families. However, its policies and practices can sometimes make it difficult to work with, especially where it comes to providing services to our veteran students. One place where these difficulties impact the classroom is in book orders. Our veteran students can sometimes run into serious hurdles getting their classroom materials on time—even within the first several weeks of classes. The Senate is interested in helping develop policies and practices to smooth over these difficulties for our students as best we can. We will hear more about the details of the issues in our April meeting. I hope we can make some recommendations to our colleagues and possibly suggest some policy changes to ameliorate the issues in the near future, especially as we move towards more and more eBooks and deepen our FSCJ Access program.

The Access program may also help us prepare our students for the new online testing environment. As I have written about over the past several months, the faculty reached a real crisis moment regarding testing our online students. This testing system involved online testing, some of which was proctored using a one-camera automated system. Faculty realized that such automated systems were very easy to cheat and the distinction between students who were cheating and students who were simply glancing off screen in order to think about a question—just to use one example situation—was impossible to determine. The new two-camera system eliminates this difficulty for faculty. There remain, however, some policy improvements to be made. One of them would be for students to pay for the testing with their Access purchase—in other words, they could pay for the testing services up front when they pay for the class. This might not be optimal for some students (those who might want to test in the testing center, for example) but it would help alleviate the increases in pressures on the testing centers caused by our increasing numbers of online courses that need proctored exams. The level of complexity of this issue, both from the perspective of planning and from the perspective of teaching, is such that there can be no 'one-size-fits-all' model, such as that of some of our Florida universities. They only have to worry about a highly local population when they require all students to test on campus. Our online students are spread over a much larger area. They also tend to have much more complicated lives. Any way we can help them achieve their goals we will gladly take. This crisis moment has also impacted our pedagogy, though, and how we approach framing the interests and goals of higher education. We are reminded that we must give intellectual and moral guidance to our students and encourage them to think of their experience in higher education as one that forms their future. Here they develop essential skills that they will use for the rest of their lives, skills of which they themselves are not really

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cognizant. In my Humanities and Film classes, I and others have begun mapping those skills explicitly into our assignments. In the description of the assignment, I remind them of “key resume skills” (as per the Indeed.com website) such as “communication,” “research,” “analysis” that they are developing with my feedback when they write about a film they have seen. This helps discourage the easy turn to using generative-AI and remind them that they are paying for our expertise. Our testing fits into the same framing—it is for their improvement and to help prepare them for their future careers.

The content of these assignments, assignments that I have created through my own acumen, are part of my intellectual property as a free citizen of the United States. That I must say that is disheartening. New mandates from the State are threatening to infringe on my rights unless we faculty develop some guidelines that will preserve the intellectual property of my colleagues while also satisfying the vague intent of state apparatchiks. The problem hinges on language in the rule that says we must provide descriptions of all assignments in our publicly published syllabi. Unless carefully tailored, this description could publish (and move into the public domain) our intellectual property against our wishes and without the ability to remove the copyrighted material from the public domain for the period of five years. Of course, federal law prohibits the forced publication of intellectual property by the state without recompense. The question for Senate is what guidance we can offer our colleagues to make sure they are not giving up their rights in this fraught legal landscape. We will work on that in April and May and hope to publish something before the summer.

Finally, I would like to end this letter remembering the show trial of Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli Daniel in February 1966. Even in the post-Stalin thaw in the Soviet Union, they were accused of anti-Soviet propaganda, arrested, and imprisoned in inhumane conditions, seven years for Sinyavsky and five for Daniel. Both writers had published satirical work outside of the Soviet Union that satirized the Soviet state and its politicians. That act was not illegal under Soviet law. However, after their publications, the Soviet parliament created a law against anti-Soviet propaganda and arrested both. This disdain for the rule of law was a hallmark of the Soviet regime. In these interesting times, remembering how law is weaponized or ignored by authoritarian regimes might help guide us in our own decisions. Thankfully, as of April 1, the Supreme Court of the United States reiterated the fundamental doctrines of free speech enshrined in our First Amendment, when Justice Gorsuch wrote: “The First Amendment stands as a bulwark against any effort to prescribe an orthodoxy of views, reflecting a belief that each American enjoys an inalienable right to speak his mind and a faith in the free marketplace of ideas as the best means for finding truth” (*Chiles v. Salazar* [2026]). Higher education is the highest example of that ‘free marketplace of ideas’ and we will continue to embrace and enact our duty to free speech.

That concludes my report.

Respectfully,



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: April 14, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

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

Re: April 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 March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, Nassau Center, North, South, and Downtown campuses hosted Women's History Month, where students celebrated the historical, social, and cultural contributions of women through an engaging and educational program.
- On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the North Campus and Cecil Center hosted Spring Fling, where students had an unforgettable experience filled with fun and entertainment.
- On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, FSCJ students participated in FCSSGA Region 1 Community Clean-Up Service.
- During April 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, SGA students attended FCSSGA April Conference at Indian River State College, where they learned more about leadership and other colleges' SGAs.
- On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Wilson Center hosted a Jazz Concert where the FSCJ Jazz Combo and FSCJ Jazz Ensemble, directed by Dr. Paul Weikle, presented their spring concert featuring toe-tapping musical selections.
- On April 15<sup>th</sup>, North Campus will host an Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) event where students will enjoy and participate in interactive activities, music, games, and refreshments.
- On April 27<sup>th</sup>, Queen's Harbor Yacht & Country Club will host the FSCJ Golf Classic, where athletics teams, businesses, and Alumni will get to play a fun, challenging game of golf.
- On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Deerwood Center will host Grad Bash, where students can enjoy a pre-graduation event where they prepare for the commencement.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup>, VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena will host FSCJ Commencement 2026.

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) Sadowski  
FSCJ Collegewide Student Government Association President