

**Florida State College at Jacksonville
District Board of Trustees
Minutes of the June 9, 2026, Regular Meeting
Administrative Offices, Board Room 405, 1 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Roderick D. Odom, Chair
Andrew B. Shaw, Vice Chair, Duval County
Virginia H. Berg
April A. Carney
Daniel F. Martell
Alan S. Wachs
O. Wayne Young

ABSENT:

Steven F. Hughes
Thomas R. McGehee, Jr.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Roderick Odom called the meeting to order at 1:12 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
June 9, 2026; Pages 5 – 36)

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 – 36 of the agenda, including: the April 14, 2026, Finance & Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting, on agenda pages 5 – 7; the April 14, 2026, Workshop, on agenda pages 8 – 10; and the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting, on agenda pages 11 – 36.

MOTION: (Shaw – Young) The motion was made to approve the FSCJ DBOT meeting minutes as presented on pages 5 – 36, from the April 14, 2026, Finance & Audit Committee Quarterly Meeting; the April 14, 2026, Workshop; and the April 14, 2026, Regular Meeting, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE
PRESIDENT:

Welcome New Members: College President John Avendano, Ph.D. formally welcomed the College's newest members of the District Board of Trustees:

- Virginia Berg.
- April Carney.
- Steven Hughes.
- Daniel Martell.
- Alan Wachs.

President Avendano shared that the College was honored to have several Trustees join FSCJ during the April Board meeting and at the College's Commencement ceremony. He expressed his appreciation for their partnership in advancing the College's mission and their commitment to supporting student success.

Commencement Recap: President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's recent Commencement:

- He expressed his appreciation to the Trustees for their support and participation in Commencement 2026, held on Thursday, May 7, at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.
- The College had more than 1,400 registered graduates. For the 2025-26 academic year, more than 5,700 degrees and certificates were awarded, with some students earning multiple credentials. Of these, 809 were bachelor's degrees, 1,581 were Associate in Arts degrees, and 489 were Associate in Science degrees. Additionally, 187 high school students completed the dual enrollment program.
- The College also celebrated 115 graduates from its Adult Education program.

Golf Tournament Recap: President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's recent Golf Tournament:

- The annual FSCJ Foundation Golf Classic was held April 27 at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club. Each year, the event highlights the College's athletics programs with business and community partners.
- This year, the event was renamed the Donald D. Zell Golf Classic.

- He noted it was a successful event and expressed appreciation to the student-athletes who volunteered throughout the day, as well as to the numerous sponsors, with special recognition of Presenting Sponsor First Florida Credit Union.
- Through the support of sponsors and matching funds from the Barnes/Zell endowment, approximately \$40,000 was raised to support FSCJ student-athletes.

New Head Basketball Coach:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's new head basketball coach:

- He announced the hiring of Zack VerHulst as the new Manta Rays Men's Basketball Head Coach. Coach VerHulst joins the College from Ranger College in Ranger, Texas.
- During his three seasons at Ranger College, he led his team to 47 wins while also emphasizing academic success. His teams maintained a cumulative GPA above 3.0 and had no academically ineligible players.
- Coach VerHulst officially joined the College on May 11 and is already working to build a competitive and successful program.

Open Position – Volleyball Coach:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's volleyball program:

- The College currently has an opening for the Head Volleyball Coach position. Efforts are underway, and the College anticipates filling the role within the next few weeks.

Aviation Mechanic Training Program at Cecil Airport:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's Aviation Mechanic Training Program at Cecil Airport:

- He noted that City Council member Nick Howland is working closely with the College to support the expansion of the aviation mechanic training program at Cecil Airport. He also referenced a recent *Florida Times-Union* article highlighting discussions between Council member Howland and the Jacksonville Aviation Authority.
- On May 11, President Avendano, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. John Wall, and Aviation Maintenance Program Manager Tommy Dutrieux met with representatives from the Jacksonville Aviation Authority, including Cecil Airport and Spaceport Director Matt Bocchino and board member Solomon Brotman, chair of the aerospace development committee.

- The meeting was initiated by the Aviation Authority, which offered to assist the College in applying for FAA grants to support program expansion. The College emphasized its continued need for additional hangar space to accommodate the aircraft and training equipment required for growth.
- President Avendano shared that meaningful progress has been made and affirmed the College's commitment to continuing collaboration with City Council and the Aviation Authority to advance this important expansion effort.

Nassau County School
District:

President Avendano informed the Board about developments regarding the Nassau County School District:

- The College remains at an impasse with the Nassau County School Superintendent. A letter has been drafted and is scheduled for delivery this week, with copies to the College's Board Chair, the School District's Board Chair, and Congressman Aaron Bean.
- Despite ongoing efforts and ample time to reach a resolution, the School District has continued to delay and avoid communication. This lack of responsiveness is concerning and may ultimately lead to legal action if not addressed.
- By way of background, the College's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the School District expired in 2008. Since that time, the District has occupied College space without paying rent or utilities. The College has proposed a reasonable transition plan, allowing the District to gradually assume responsibility for utilities and necessary upgrades, including required safety improvements.

President Avendano will continue to keep the Board informed of any developments.

Adult Education:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's federal grants:

- The College has been actively monitoring the status of its federal grants over the past year and has had to make difficult decisions regarding the Adult Education and ESOL grants based on current information.
- These grants are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. Historically, the College has had a reasonable expectation of continued funding, including during years in which the programs were subject to a competitive reapplication

process. However, the College has been advised that overall funding levels are expected to decrease, creating greater uncertainty regarding the continuation of funding at FSCJ's current award levels.

- While the College will continue to provide academic programming for Adult Education and ESOL students, the anticipated loss of grant funding will prevent continuation of grant-supported tutoring and advising services beyond June 30.

Response to Faculty Report:

President Avendano shared information with the Board regarding the College's response to the April 2026 Faculty Report:

- It was noted that the April 2026 faculty report raised concerns regarding the state's requirement to post syllabi, exams, quizzes, and assignments. Faculty indicated that this requirement may infringe upon academic freedom and potentially violate their intellectual property rights.
- Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. John Wall addressed the Faculty Senate when the concern was initially raised. Additional clarification was also provided, stating that faculty are employed to teach courses and assess students, and are compensated for these responsibilities as part of their roles. Accordingly, instructional materials developed in the course of these duties, including syllabi, exams, and quizzes, are considered the property of the institution.

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:

- The Legislature approved the state budget at the end of May 2026.
- The Council of Presidents (COP) had requested a \$90M funding increase for the Florida College System (FCS).
- The Senate proposal included an \$85M increase for FCS and no funding for deferred maintenance, while the House proposal included a \$25M increase for FCS and \$50M for deferred maintenance.
- Ultimately, the FCS received a \$30M increase in program funding compared to the previous fiscal year:

- The increase appears to have been allocated approximately evenly between the index funding formula and the target funding formula.
- For FSCJ, the College's share of the \$30M increase is just over \$1M, bringing total program funding for the upcoming year to approximately \$90.3M.
- The FCS did not receive any funding allocation for deferred maintenance, repairs, or renovation needs.
- When considering FSCJ's overall state appropriation, the net increase from the previous year is just over \$700K:
 - This is primarily due to changes in performance-based incentive funding. The three incentive categories – 2+2, Work Florida, and PIPELINE – each experienced slight decreases for FSCJ.
- FSCJ did not receive any funding for its capital project requests or Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) funds.
- Additionally, no funding was allocated to offset the cost associated with the FCS's inclusion in the state health insurance plan.
- The Legislature did not approve an increase to employer contribution rates for the state health insurance plan, despite earlier Senate proposals that included a 10% increase.
- With respect to partnerships, OCEARCH received funding in the state budget.
- FSCJ's FY 2026-27 appropriation includes an additional \$2M in operational funding for OCEARCH.
- OCEARCH also received a separate \$2M appropriation for capital-related costs at its Mayport facility. This funding will function as a pass-through via the FSCJ Foundation.
- Additional budget highlights included \$24M allocated for the FCS portion of the LINE matching grant program, consistent with the previous year:
 - FSCJ has not yet utilized this program; however, with the Governor signing SB 1246 into law, there is now increased flexibility allowing colleges to apply philanthropic funds toward the grant. This change may create future opportunities for participation.
- The budget includes \$40M for the Job Growth Grant Fund (JGG), a decrease of \$10M from the previous year:
 - Of this amount, \$20M cannot be expended until after January 5, 2027, under the next administration.

- FSCJ currently has a JGG application under review for the expansion of the Cecil Training Institute, with a focus on skilled trades programs. The College will continue working with both the current and incoming administrations regarding this request.
- The budget provides \$4.2M for the Postsecondary Guardian Program:
 - The Governor signed HB 757 into law, expanding the Guardian Program to postsecondary institutions.
 - This program allows trained and certified faculty and staff to carry weapons on campus.
 - Distribution details for the \$4.2M remain unclear; however, current expectations are that the funding will primarily support training rather than capital expenditures.
- All budget items remain subject to the Governor's review and line-item veto authority. The Governor has indicated an intent to keep the overall budget at or below the prior year's level, and vetoes are anticipated. Historically, PECO projects are most impacted during this process, which is not expected to affect FSCJ in this cycle.
- On a positive note, Representative Sam Garrison, a supporter of the College, is expected to serve as Speaker of the House:
 - Representative Garrison is a former trustee of St. Johns River State College and has been involved in early discussions regarding the expansion of skilled trades programming in the Cecil area, which serves his district.
 - His leadership is viewed as a positive development for both the FCS and FSCJ over the next two years.

Data Dashboard:

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

- Summer Term College Credit Enrollment:
 - Positive variance of 1.0% credit hours for summer 2026 over summer 2025.
 - Positive variance of 17.4% compared to the same day in the enrollment cycle for Summer Term 2026 relating to clock hour enrollment.
- Fall Term College Credit Enrollment:
 - Positive variance of 19.5% credit hours when compared to fall 2025.

- Positive variance of 35% compared to the same day in enrollment cycle for Fall Term 2025 relating to clock hour enrollment.
- Dashboard Spotlight:
 - Dual Enrollment.
- The Finance report reflects actual revenues and expenditures compared to budget for the periods ending April 30, 2026, and April 30, 2025.
- Grants Report:
 - In fiscal year 2025-26, the College has secured more than \$10.3M in grant awards to date.
 - During the current reporting period, the College continues to maintain a strong grant development pipeline, with nine proposals submitted to date in Q2. The projected value of this pipeline represents nearly \$15M in potential funding.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Undergraduate Transfer
Scholarship Recipient:

President Avendano shared information with the Board that FSCJ celebrated a historic milestone with its first-ever recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship:

- He announced that Stacie Cregg, a recent FSCJ Honors Program graduate, was selected as one of only 60 high-achieving community college students nationwide to receive the prestigious scholarship and is one of just five recipients in Florida.
- More than 1,300 community college students applied for the scholarship this year. The 60 Scholars were selected from a highly competitive semifinalist pool of 485 students based on academic achievement, leadership, perseverance, and demonstrated potential.
- The scholarship provides significant financial support, enabling recipients to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year institutions with substantially reduced financial burden.
- President Avendano congratulated Ms. Cregg on this outstanding accomplishment and wished her continued success as she pursues the next phase of her educational journey.

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.

Discussion followed regarding the expansion of skilled trades programming in the Cecil area, including potential funding considerations and support for the initiative.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:
(Ref. Board Agenda for
June 9, 2026; Items 1 through
5, Pages 37 – 119)

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
June 9, 2026; Items 1 through
20, Pages 120 – 182)

MOTION: (Carney – Martell) 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 4 – Finance, on agenda pages 121 – 125.

MOTION: (Shaw – 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; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 3, Administrative Procedure Act – Board Rules, Section 13 – College Relations and Development, on agenda pages 126 – 127.

MOTION: (Martell – Carney) The motion was made to approve Board Rule 6Hx7-13.4, Alumni Association, 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, Administration: Annual Salary Index, on agenda pages 128 – 129.

MOTION: (Young – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Annual Salary Index, 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 5, Administration: Naming Opportunity, on agenda page 130.

MOTION: (Shaw – Carney) The motion was made to approve the Naming Opportunity, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano congratulated Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the FSCJ Foundation Scott Evans and the Foundation Team for their efforts in securing the gift. He noted that the contribution represents the largest cash donation in the College's 60-year history.

President Avendano expressed the College's appreciation for the transformational impact of the gift, stating that it will enhance FSCJ's ability to meet the needs of its veteran students and their families. He also shared that a ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for November 2026, in conjunction with Veterans Day observances. The Board will be kept informed as event details are finalized.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 6, Finance: Fees and Charges (Academic Assessment Fees), on agenda pages 131 – 133.

MOTION: (Young – Wachs) The motion was made to approve the Fees and Charges (Academic Assessment Fees), 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, Finance: Fees and Charges (Application Fees), on agenda page 134.

MOTION: (Berg – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Fees and Charges (Application Fees), 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 8, Finance: Fees and Charges (Distance Learning Fee), on agenda page 135.

MOTION: (Shaw – Carney) The motion was made to approve the Fees and Charges (Distance Learning Fee), 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: Fees and Charges (Full Cost of Instruction), on agenda page 136.

MOTION: (Martell – Young) The motion was made to approve the Fees and Charges (Full Cost of Instruction), 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 10, Finance: Fees and Charges (Transcript Fee), on agenda page 137.

MOTION: (Berg – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Fees and Charges (Transcript Fee), 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 11, Finance: Fees and Charges (Tuition Rates), on agenda pages 138 – 139.

MOTION: (Carney – Berg) The motion was made to approve the Fees and Charges (Tuition Rates), 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 12, Finance: FSCJ ACCESS Program, on agenda page 140.

MOTION: (Shaw – Berg) 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; none were received.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 13, Finance: Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operating Budget Amendment No. 4, on agenda pages 141 – 142.

MOTION: (Young – Berg) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operating Budget Amendment No. 4, 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 14, Finance: Fiscal Year 2026-27 College Budget, on agenda page 143.

MOTION: (Carney – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-27 College Budget, 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 15, Finance: Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Outlay Budget, on agenda pages 144 – 146.

MOTION: (Martell – Carney) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Outlay Budget, 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 16, Facilities: Capital Improvement Plan, Fiscal Year 2027-28 through 2029-30, on agenda pages 147 – 177.

MOTION: (Young – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Capital Improvement Plan, Fiscal Year 2027-28 through 2029-30, 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 17, Academic Affairs: Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Renewal Application, on agenda page 178.

MOTION: (Shaw – Carney) The motion was made to approve the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Renewal Application, 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 18, Academic Affairs: Activation of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology Associate in Science Program, on agenda page 179.

MOTION: (Shaw – Berg) The motion was made to approve the Activation of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology Associate in Science Program, 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 19, Academic Affairs: Activation of Infant/Toddler Specialization Technical Certificate Program, on agenda page 180.

MOTION: (Carney – Martell) The motion was made to approve the Activation of Infant/Toddler Specialization Technical Certificate Program, 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 20, Academic Affairs: Inactivation of Courses Not Taught Within Five Years, on agenda pages 181 – 182.

MOTION: (Shaw – Berg) The motion was made to approve the Inactivation of Courses Not Taught Within Five Years, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:
(Ref. Board Agenda for
June 9, 2026; Items
A – C, Pages 183 – 306)

Chair Odom inquired whether there were any questions or comments from the Board regarding Information Items A – C, on agenda pages 183 – 306; none were received.

REPORT OF THE BOARD
CHAIR:

Chair Odom reported on the following matters:

- Referring to the report provided by Director Mejia Roberts, he noted that the upcoming fiscal year will be more challenging than initially anticipated due to state funding levels. He emphasized that FSCJ is not alone in facing these challenges, as institutions throughout the Florida College

System (FCS) are experiencing similar funding constraints. He thanked College leadership, faculty, and staff in advance for their efforts in successfully navigating the fiscal challenges ahead.

- He noted, following the replacement of Trustee Michael Bell, a vacancy exists for the FSCJ DBOT liaison position on the FSCJ Foundation Board of Directors (FBOD). The vacancy is expected to be filled between now and August 2026.
- He encouraged Trustees to attend one or more of the upcoming professional development events and to make every effort to participate in the legislative visit to Tallahassee in November, noting that strong Trustee attendance conveys an important message of support and engagement. He also encouraged Trustees to consider participating in the FCS Council of Trustees.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES:

There were no reports provided by Trustees.

Prior to proceeding with the Report of the Student Government Association, President Avendano asked Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the FSCJ Foundation Scott Evans to provide a Foundation report regarding the FSCJ FBOD quarter-to-quarter meetings, along with other committee meetings and activities.

Vice President Evans shared the following information with the Board:

- The FSCJ FBOD met on May 12, 2026, for a special session.
- The special session included three items of business:
 - Review and enhancement of the Naming Opportunity, which was recommended to the Trustees at this meeting.
 - Approval of a \$1.5M advancement to begin renovations at Kent Campus to establish the second VyStar Military and Veterans Service Center.
 - Awarding of Ameris status to long-serving FSCJ FBOD member Danny Berenger.
- For the second half of the year, the Foundation's focus will be:
 - Celebrating and stewarding current gifts received, while securing new gifts for the campaign.
 - Working on three coalitions:
 - Continuing the Northern Coalition, expanding operations with partners in Nassau County.

- Launching a promising Trades and Maritime Coalition.
- Launching a Culinary and Hospitality Coalition.
- Hosting the 60th Anniversary Gala on October 2, 2026, at the Florida Blue Conference Center. He recognized Florida Blue for sponsoring the use of the center for this event.

REPORT OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND
PROFESSIONAL
COLLABORATIVE:

Administrative and Professional Collaborative (APC) Chair Ashli Archer provided the Board with a written report outlining current APC initiatives and activities (*Appendix A*).

REPORT OF THE CAREER
EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL:

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

REPORT OF THE FACULTY
SENATE:

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

REPORT OF THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION:

Collegewide Student Government Association (SGA) President Amadou Seck addressed the Board and presented an overview of the written report outlining current SGA initiatives and activities (*Appendix D*).

Chair Odom thanked Collegewide SGA President Seck for his report, his service to the College and its students, and for the excellent job he is doing.

Chair Odom expressed his appreciation to Board Liaison Kimberli Sodek for her continued efforts in coordinating and organizing the meeting. He noted that the meeting proceeded smoothly and efficiently as a result of her preparation, attention to detail, and coordination.

NEXT MEETING:

Chair Odom announced that the Board will convene for a Deep Dive Workshop on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at noon. He also advised that the Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at the College's Administrative Offices.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Odom declared the meeting adjourned at 2:11 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



Date: June 9, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

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

Re: June 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 April and May meetings were held virtually.

In an effort to increase connection with APC employees and colleagues, the APC Campus representatives scheduled campus-based meetings in April 2026.

The Professional Development Committee presented the third Spring Brown Bag lunch and learning sessions. **Session 3** was led by retired Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences Billy Thomas and featured guidance on mindfulness. It was very well attended, and many participants asked thoughtful questions and shared insights.



The Bylaws & Outreach Committee drafted language regarding campus representation when a member moves from one campus to another. A draft was presented for a vote and approved at the May 14, 2026 meeting.

The Events and Service committee did not schedule any new events, though members were encouraged to attend the Jumbo Shrimp game on Saturday, April 18.

June 2026 Administrative and Professional Collaborative Report

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Elections for new officers and representatives for the 2026-2027 Academic Year are in progress now. The installation of new officers and representatives will take place in June.

The APC Committee's next meeting will be on June 23, 2026.

Respectfully,



Ashli Archer

Interim Dean of Education and Human Services

Administrative and Professional Collaborative Chair, 2025-2026



Date: June 9, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employees' Council Chair, 2025-2026

Re: June 2026 Career Employees' Council Report

Chair Odom and Trustees:

The Council is in the process of concluding the 2025–2026 academic year, with its final meeting scheduled for June 23, 2026. Following the general session, Executive Board members and Council representatives will convene separately to continue strategic planning efforts and further define roles and responsibilities moving forward including discussions regarding open board positions. Overall, Career employees remain actively engaged, consistently participating in meetings and supporting colleagues through volunteer initiatives across their respective campuses and centers. As the Council prepares for the 2026–2027 academic year, it plans to host a series of guest speakers who will present on topics relevant to career employees, with a focus on cross-departmental learning sessions, educational and career pathways, and professional development opportunities.

As part of its commitment to recognizing excellence among Career employees, the Career Employees' Council (CEC) conducts an annual selection process for the CEC Employee of the Year Award. In partnership with the College's Human Resources team, members of the Council's Recognition Subcommittee, along with the previous year's award recipient, carefully review each nomination. Submissions are evaluated against the established criteria outlined in the call for nominations, ensuring a thorough and equitable selection process. On March 24, 2026, following a thoughtful review, the Council was pleased to select Sierra Ejankowski, Department Coordinator, as the 2026 CEC Employee of the Year. The Council extends its sincere congratulations to Ms. Ejankowski on this well-deserved recognition and commends her for her outstanding contributions to the College community.

In March, the Council presented a call for application submissions for the Spring 2026 Book Scholarship award. These scholarships are awarded to Career employees who have completed at least six college credits (degree-seeking) and/or 360 clock hours (career certificate), are currently enrolled in a minimum of six college credits or 180 clock hours and have articulated their educational and career aspirations. On April 15, 2026, the Council awarded seven deserving Career employees \$150 each to help offset the cost of textbooks. The Council congratulates Jennifer Crews, Administration Support Manager; Alex Griffin, Administrative Services Support Specialist; Patricka Ryan, Academic and Career Advisor; Reagan Stoker, Student Engagement Advisor; Valeria Vinson-Anderson, Department Coordinator; Francis Walton, Academic and Career Advisor; and Donnetta Williams, Instructional Support Specialist. The Council commends these recipients and wishes them continued success in pursuit of their academic and professional goals. The next application cycle for book scholarships will open in the Fall.

Career Employees' Council Report
June 9, 2026
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Throughout the spring, the Council convened a series of meetings to formally initiate its annual fundraising efforts. Led by Kaelin Guerrero, Accountant IV and lead representative of the Fundraising Sub-Committee, these sessions outlined key priorities, action steps, and coordination plans. Incorporating feedback from Council representative volunteers, the Council approved the purchase of essential materials – many of which are reusable – to support upcoming fundraising activities and promote long-term cost efficiency and sustainability.

These efforts directly supported the Council's annual rose sale held in conjunction with the College's commencement ceremony on May 7, 2026, at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. In advance of the ceremony, the Council offered affordable, custom floral arrangements to attendees, purchasing a total of 550 single-stem roses in assorted colors (pink, red, yellow, and rainbow), along with 12 dozen stems of gypsophila (baby's breath). Customers also had the option to include a commemorative floral card featuring the College mascot, Razor Ray, with each bouquet wrapped in FSCJ-branded ribbon. The 2026 rose sale was a success, generating over \$3,000 in total sales and yielding a net profit of \$1,125. These proceeds will fund seven (7) book scholarships at \$150 each, further supporting Career employees in their educational and professional pursuits.

In support of community engagement and service, members of the Career Employees' Council will participate in a post-Memorial Day collaborative beach clean-up on May 30, 2026. This initiative will allow volunteers to serve alongside fellow College governance groups, including APC and Faculty Senate. Community service remains a core priority for Career employees, who regularly contribute their time and talents to a wide range of local organizations. These efforts include volunteer work with Animal Control and Protective Services, the Jacksonville Humane Society, Lutheran Social Services, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, and the Literacy Alliance of Northeast Florida, among others. The Council proudly recognizes and commends Career employees for their ongoing dedication to serving and strengthening the community through these meaningful initiatives.

Finally, the Council is encouraged to see strong participation from Career employees in the College's ongoing 60th anniversary celebrations across campuses. All Career employees are also encouraged to attend Convocation on August 27, 2026, as the College comes together to honor its past, celebrate its present, and look ahead to its future.

On behalf of the Career Employees' Council, I extend sincere appreciation to the District Board of Trustees for your leadership and ongoing commitment to the College. Your support fosters an inclusive environment and strengthens professional growth opportunities for employees. We are grateful for your continued support of the Council and its efforts to serve and engage Career employees across the institution.

Respectfully,



Rebecca A. Nelson
Career Employees' Council Chair, 2024-2025 & 2025-2026
Florida State College at Jacksonville
904-632-3274 / Rebecca.Nelson@fscj.edu



Date: June 9, 2026
To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees
From: John A. Woodward, PhD
Re: June 2026 Faculty Senate Report

Chair Odom and Fellow Trustees:

The Faculty Senate is on hiatus for the summer months. However, the work of the faculty continues. Most of my colleagues are teaching courses over the summer. Some of them pursue other research projects and publications and take time over the summer to engage in that research. Some few are taking sabbaticals and working on developing skills or researching new intellectual realms so that they may bring that work back into the classroom for our students. It is that dynamic interaction in the classroom, where we demonstrate the value of knowledge and its pursuit, to which most of us here have dedicated our lives.

One can see the value the College has to the community in the size of our Commencement. The free and unfettered pursuit of knowledge and skills lends value to the community. Indeed, this continuing pursuit of knowledge builds and rebuilds community as we provide Jacksonville with the intellectual life's blood of our economy, with new entrepreneurs that will provide a bulwark against the ideological and economic forces organizing against democracy and freedom. Our modest institution, which is but a small cog in the large gears of industry and intellectualism, is essential to developing an informed polity. James Madison, in an 1822 letter to W. T. Barry in which he wrote about the necessity of state funding of education systems, wrote that "a popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps, both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives." In the Constitution of Massachusetts from 1780, John Adams wrote that "Wisdom, and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people, being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties; and as these depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education in the various parts of the country, and among the different orders of the people, it shall be the duty of legislatures and magistrates, in all future periods of the commonwealth, to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them..." Wisdom and virtue are the key components of a higher education system which focuses its lens on literature and science; so it was then and so it is still today. The blood of democracy, as the Founding Fathers knew and wrote, courses through the veins of education. Our College provides unending value to our community and to the state of Florida. It does now and it always has.

It is therefore a great pleasure to see our students graduate. It is a pleasure rooted in the sense of fulfillment to our duties as professors. It is also our duty to protect the free and unfettered pursuit of knowledge unrestricted by the chains of ideology and orthodoxy, as is made clear in a recent Supreme Court case 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]). It is

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higher education that explores that tension between orthodoxy and freedom, a tension which will perhaps always sit at the heart of democracy and, perhaps, why so many today feel that the freedoms provided to a democratic people who govern themselves should be curbed and intellectualism should be quashed. We need only look to the 1970s and the regime of the Khmer Rouge to see exactly what is at stake when intellectualism is denigrated, and free-thinkers are targeted. When we send students into the community, the fact is that they have been made more virtuous by following their intellectual pursuits and no longer suffer “the shackles of a permanent immaturity” as Immanuel Kant wrote in his work about the power of enlightenment. Our students can begin to pursue the secure course Kant wrote about, a course that is only possible when they have been educated to “use [their] understanding without guidance from another.” That is our duty to humanity, not to speak too immodestly. It is also our duty to our country.

Finally, I would like to remember the life of Hang Thun Hak, an academic, politician and playwright, whose life was cut short by the violent anti-intellectuals of the Khmer Rouge regime. The Khmer Rouge’s authoritarian desire to return everyone to a farming peasant, and to end all means of higher education, literature, science, and all of the liberal arts, resulted in the murder of more than two million people. It is also the very real threat which our Founding Fathers envisioned in promoting the broad, unfettered and unorthodox education of the masses. That is our mission, our duty, and our calling.

That concludes my report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Woodward", with a stylized flourish 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: June 9, 2026

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

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

Re: June 2026 Student Government Association Executive Board Report

Greetings, Chair and Trustees:

The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the official voice of the student body at Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Since our last administrative brief, student leaders have focused on fostering campus community, celebrating diversity, expanding civic engagement, and honoring our graduates.

Leadership Development & Organizational Transition

As the academic year draws to a close, SGA has successfully navigated internal transitions to prepare the next generation of student advocates:

- **Annual Spring Elections:** SGA successfully concluded its annual elections at the end of the Spring semester, welcoming a brand-new executive board alongside a large cohort of enthusiastic new members.
- **Comprehensive Member Training:** To ensure seamless continuity and strong governance, SGA is scheduled to host an intensive, full-board training event on June 8. All new and returning members will receive comprehensive instruction on all core aspects of serving in the Student Government Association at FSCJ.
- **Statewide Engagement:** FSCJ student delegates attended the *FCSSGA April Conference* at Indian River State College, collaborating with peer institutions to share best practices in student governance and strategic leadership.

Civic Engagement & Community Service

SGA remains deeply committed to public service and environmental stewardship within the local Jacksonville community:

- **April 3rd Clean-Up:** Demonstrating our commitment to local stewardship, FSCJ students previously mobilized and participated in the *FCSSGA Region 1 Community Clean-Up Service* project, successfully executing a clean-up activity along the local Riverwalk.
- **Upcoming Service Initiative:** Building on the success of the April event, the new board is already actively planning a subsequent city-wide service activity, focusing on cleaning up either a local public park or a Jacksonville beach.

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Celebrating Student Success

As the spring semester concluded, the student government shifted focus toward honoring the dedication and academic achievements of the student body:

- **Grad Bash 2026:** The Deerwood Center hosted a premier pre-graduation celebration, giving graduating students a dedicated space to network and prepare for their transition out of the institution.
- **Commencement Support:** SGA student leaders stood proud alongside their peers at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena to celebrate the milestone of the formal FSCJ Commencement ceremony.
- **Student Engagement & Campus Connections:** Throughout the academic year, the SGA students continue to plan and host a variety of campus-wide programs, leadership initiatives, and student engagement events designed to strengthen student involvement, foster meaningful campus connections, and promote a welcoming and inclusive college environment across campuses.

On behalf of the entire student body, we express our sincere gratitude to the District Board of Trustees and College President Dr. John Avendano for their steadfast leadership and for providing the SGA with a platform to highlight our students' achievements. Thank you for your continued dedication to the students of FSCJ.

Sincerely,
Amadou Doudou Seck
FSCJ Collegewide Student Government Association President