

Florida State College at Jacksonville
District Board of Trustees
Minutes of the April 3, 2019, Special Meeting
DBOT Review and Deliberation of the College Presidential Finalists
Administrative Offices, Board Room 405, 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Karen E. Bowling, Chair
Candace T. Holloway, Vice Chair, Nassau County
Thomas R. McGehee, Jr., Vice Chair, Duval County
Michael M. Bell
J. Palmer Clarkson
Laura M. DiBella
D. Hunt Hawkins (via remote attendance)
Thomas J. Majdanics
O. Wayne Young

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bowling called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

PLEDGE: Chair Bowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME: Chair Bowling welcomed those in attendance at today's Special meeting, and acknowledged Trustee Hawkins' presence via remote attendance.

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR: Chair Bowling stated that the Special meeting had been called for the purpose of the review and deliberation of the College Presidential Finalists.

She noted that the meeting is open to the public, and members of the public are invited to make comments related to the selection of a new College President prior to the Board taking action on the items.

COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: Chair Bowling opened the public comments segment of the meeting wherein members of the public were invited to make comments on matters before the Board's consideration.

FSCJ Instructional Program Manager Ms. Lori Cimino addressed the Board and thanked Presidential Search Committee Co-Chairs Trustees Bell and McGehee as well as Trustees DiBella and Young for serving on the committee, their commitment and the selection of AGB Search firm.

Additionally, she shared her gratitude and utmost respect to all those who served collaboratively on the committee and trusted the process to the end. In closing, she recognized the time and efforts of the Board as they review and consider the Presidential Finalists during today's meeting. Ms. Cimino thanked the Trustees for all they do for the institution.

There were no additional comments made by members of the public present at the meeting.

COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL
SEARCH ACTION ITEMS:
(Ref. Board Agenda for
April 3, 2019; Items 1 through
2, Pages 201900308 – 310)

Chair Bowling presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item CP-A – 1, Administration: College Presidential Search Committee – Finalists, on agenda pages 308 – 309.

MOTION: (McGehee – Young) The motion was made to accept the report of the College Presidential Search Committee Co-Chairs recommending Presidential Finalists for further consideration and concluding the work of the Search Committee, as recommended.

Chair Bowling asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board, and there were none.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bowling recognized the members of the College Presidential Search Committee who had contributed their time in narrowing down the College President applicants from 74 to three finalists for the Board's consideration and thanked them for their hard work.

Presidential Search Committee Co-Chair Bell extended his appreciation to fellow Co-Chair Trustee McGehee for his leadership and deep institutional knowledge, noting he is the longest serving Board member in the history of the institution. He commended the search committee members for their service and extraordinary hours committed to concluding the work as it speaks volumes to how much the individuals care about FSCJ. In addition, he thanked the candidates for applying – it was an exceptional pool. In closing, Co-Chair Bell recognized and expressed his gratitude to AGB Search Consultants Dr. Rod McDavis, Mr. Fred Moore and Dr. Melissa Trotta for the development of an excellent leadership profile, conducting the search and adhering to the process.

Chair Bowling presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item CP-A – 2, Administration: College Presidential Search – Consideration of Finalists, on agenda page 310.

Chair Bowling stated that prior to considering the selection of the candidates the Board opened the public comment portion of the meeting, wherein members of the public could make comments on this matter. She noted that the Board convened that portion of the meeting a few moments ago.

Therefore, she invited AGB Search Consultant Mr. Fred Moore to come to the podium to share a Presidential Search Summary; followed by FSCJ's Assistant General Counsel (AGC) Mr. Rodnie Marquinez to help guide the Board through deliberations.

AGB Consultant Mr. Moore echoed the comments stated in reference to all those serving on the search committee. As well, he was grateful for the trust and confidence that the Board placed in AGB Search, as it had been a privilege assisting FSCJ.

Prior to delivering the Presidential Search Summary, Mr. Moore stated he wished to address a matter discussed during an earlier meeting concerning Dr. Natalie Harder. The report provided during the meeting necessitated a call to Dr. Harder to afford her an opportunity to respond, and she did so. The references were to her decision-making style and possible vote of no confidence during her chancellorship. Mr. Moore provided Trustees with an overview of the two matters, and the Board commended him on his due diligence. Mr. Moore then provided the Board with the Presidential Search Summary, which included the survey results. He shared that all three individuals were fine candidates. He thanked the Board for the confidence they placed in AGB Search.

Chair Bowling invited AGC Marquinez to the podium to assist with the Board deliberations and to answer any questions the Trustees may have regarding the process. Mr. Marquinez provided the Board with a brief summary of the voting process.

MOTION: (Hawkins – Majdanics) The motion was made to delay the voting process until the regularly scheduled meeting next week, Tuesday, April 9th, as recommended.

Chair Bowling asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board. There was discussion by the Board regarding the delay undermining the reputation of the College, potential loss of candidates, continuing with current schedule, request for additional time, and the adequate review of materials.

Motion failed.

MOTION: (Holloway – Majdanics) The motion was made to recess the meeting for one hour to review the materials received; then reconvene for ballot processing, as recommended.

Chair Bowling asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board. There was discussion by the Board requesting Mr. Moore to remain with the Board until the ballot processing has concluded. Mr. Moore agreed to remain with the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bowling called for a brief recess at 4:10 p.m. so that Trustees could review the meeting materials.

Chair Bowling reconvened the Board meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Chair Bowling asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board regarding any of the finalists, and there were none.

AGC Marquez distributed the ballots to Trustees for the first round of voting. He reminded Trustees of the voting process, noting members must vote for his/her top two candidates for President. The purpose of the first round is to narrow the three candidates to the final two candidates for the Board to consider.

Chair Bowling called for a brief pause while AGC Marquez collected and counted the ballots. Chair Bowling ended the pause.

AGC Marquez announced the results from the first round of voting, in the order the candidates were interviewed:

Dr. John Avendano: 9 votes
Dr. Natalie Harder: 7 votes
Dr. David Sam: 2 votes

AGC Marquez distributed the blank ballots to Trustees for the second round of voting. He reminded Trustees of the voting process, noting members must vote by writing in the name of the candidate of their choice from the top two finalists.

Chair Bowling called for a brief pause while AGC Marquez collected and counted the ballots. Chair Bowling ended the pause.

AGC Marquez announced the results from the second round of voting, again in the order the candidates were interviewed:

Dr. John Avendano: 5 votes
Dr. Natalie Harder: 4 votes

MOTION: (McGehee – Holloway) The motion was made to approve the appointment of Dr. John Avendano as President of Florida State College at Jacksonville, and to authorize the Board Chair, Assistant General Counsel and Chief Human Resource Officer to negotiate a contract of employment with Dr. Avendano with the goal of having a negotiated contract presented to the Board for approval at its April 9, 2019 Board meeting, as recommended.

Chair Bowling asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board. There was discussion by the Board concerning a clear vote of confidence for Dr. Avendano due to the ballot processing ending in a five/four result.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: (Majdanics – DiBella) The motion was made that a unanimous vote be given by the members of the Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees in order to provide a clear vote of confidence for Dr. John Avendano, as recommended.

Chair Bowling asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board, and there were none.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING:

Chair Bowling announced the Board is to meet on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at the College's Administrative Offices for a Budget Workshop. The workshop will convene at noon in Board Room 405.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Bowling declared the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:



 Chair, District Board of Trustees



 Executive Secretary, District Board of Trustees

Submitted by: Ms. Kimberli Sodek, Secretary to the Board