

ST. JOHNS RIVER STATE COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 27, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rich Komando, Chairperson
Mr. Wendell Davis
Mr. Jud Sapp

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Jan Conrad, Vice-Chairperson (excused)
Mr. Jim Reid (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe H. Pickens, J.D., Executive Secretary
Jeremiah Blocker, Board Attorney

Chairperson Komando called the meeting to order at
2:00 pm.

Meeting Call to Order

Dr. Melanie Brown introduced Farris Robinson,
Publisher of the Clay Today newspaper, who presented
the 2024 Best of Clay Today Newspaper Nursing
College award to SJR State College. Dean of Nursing
Dr. Diane Pagano received the award.

Public Comment

There was no Old Business.

Old Business

Chairperson Komando requested approval of the
Consent Agenda Items IV.A-E:

Consent Agenda
Items

A.1 - Minutes of February 21, 2024, Board Meeting

B.1 - Chief Operating Officer – Dr. Melanie Brown:
Personnel Matters

C.1-3 - Vice President for Finance – VP Randy
Peterson: Facilities Usage Report for February 2024;
Monthly Financial Report – February 2024; and Write-
Offs of Tangible Personal Property.

D.1-3 - Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs –
Dr. Ed Jordan: Curriculum Revisions effective Fall 2024
for Workforce Education – Accounting Technology A.S.
Degree (0093); New Continuing Workforce Education
course: CWL 0330 Behavior Threat Assessment and
Management for Practitioners; and 2024-2025
Academic Calendar.

E.1-2 - VP/Chief Institutional Research Officer – Dr.
Ros Humerick: Revisions to the Library Collection

Development Policy and Revisions to the Library Access Policy.

Mr. Davis moved approval of Consent Agenda Items IV.A-E. Mr. Sapp seconded the motion. Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Consent Agenda Items IV.A-E

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 6.03 (R8) Standards of Conduct. There being no comments, Chairperson Davis adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Gilbert Evans reviewed and requested approval of Amendment to SJR Board Rule 6.03 (R8) Standards of Conduct.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Legal Affairs & Public Safety/General Counsel Item V.A.2, as submitted with the revision (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Legal Affairs/General Counsel). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved V.P. Legal Affairs & Public Safety/ General Counsel Item V.A.2

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 6.33 (R2) Student Ombudsman. There being no comments, Chairperson Davis adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Gilbert Evans reviewed and requested approval of Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 6.33 (R2) Student Ombudsman.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Legal Affairs & Public Safety/General Counsel Item V.A.4, as submitted with the revision (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Legal Affairs/General Counsel). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved V.P. Legal Affairs & Public Safety/ General Counsel Item V.A.4

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 7.22 (R14) Limited Access Programs. There being no comments, Chairperson Davis adjourned the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Dr. Gilbert Evans reviewed and requested approval of Amendment to SJR State Board Rule 7.22 (R14) Limited Access Programs.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Legal Affairs & Public Safety/General Counsel Item V.A.6, as submitted with the revision (a detailed listing

Approved V.P. Legal Affairs & Public

is contained in the material submitted by the Office of Legal Affairs/General Counsel). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Safety/ General
Counsel Item V.A.6

Dr. Melanie Brown reviewed for information only the Annual Presidential Evaluation. She noted that Chuck Romer will email the information to the Trustees tomorrow.

Chief Operating
Officer Item V.B.1

Dr. Brown presented information on Student Enrollment and Success Trends and Targeted Strategies for Improvement. She began by overviewing the Aspen Institute's success metrics and why the metrics matter, as SJR State was recognized as one of the Top 150. Dr. Humerick highlighted data on graduation and retention rates by degree type, fall-to-fall persistence trends, workforce graduate success rates, AA transfer success, and minority population and completions. Dr. Brown then overviewed the Student Success goals and strategies, emphasizing SJR State's most important Student Success strategy. She noted the work to improve teaching, to create clear pathways, and to promote equity. She overviewed the new strategies implemented for 2023-2024. Discussion followed.

Chief Operating
Officer Item V.B.2

Dr. Humerick introduced Anastacia Hohrath, who is now the new Director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Mr. Randy Peterson reviewed and requested approval of Transfers from Board Designated Operating Reservices to the Unexpended Plant Fund.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President/CFO Item V.C.1.a., as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President/CFO). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice
President/CFO Item
V.C.1.a.

Mr. Randy Peterson recognized Terry Thomas, Director of Capital Assets and Risk Management, who reviewed and requested approval to Award of Bid for Library Restroom/ Window Wall System, ADA/Life Safety Project Palatka Campus.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President/CFO Item V.C.2.a., as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President/CFO). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice
President/CFO Item
V.C.2.a.

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Change to Admission Criteria for Nursing A.S. Degree.

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of Change to Admission Criteria for Nursing A.S. Degree.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.2, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.2

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Change to Admission Criteria for Nursing – LPN Bridge A.S. Degree.

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of Change to Admission Criteria for Nursing – LPN Bridge A.S. Degree.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.4, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.4

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Change to Admission Criteria for Health Information Technology A.S. Degree.

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of Change to Admission Criteria for Health Information Technology A.S. Degree.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.6, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.6

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Change to Admission Criteria for Radiologic Technology A.S. Degree.

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of Change to Admission Criteria for Radiologic Technology A.S. Degree.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.8, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.8

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Change to Admission Criteria for Respiratory Care A.S. Degree.

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of Change to Admission Criteria for Respiratory Care A.S. Degree.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.10, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.10

Chairperson Komando called a public hearing for Change to Admission Criteria for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology A.S. Degree.

Dr. Ed Jordan reviewed and requested approval of Change to Admission Criteria for Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology A.S. Degree.

Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Sapp, to approve Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.12, as submitted (a detailed listing is contained in the material submitted by the Office of the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs). Motion carried (Davis, Komando, Sapp - Yes).

Approved Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Item V.D.12

President Pickens gave an update on the Student Housing Project. The cost of labor and materials as well as the cost of financing has made the project more challenging financially. He and Mr. Sloan met with a consortium of bankers a few weeks ago. Mr. Sloan has given approval for his general contractor to proceed. The foundation will be laid very soon. The project has been reduced to three (3) floors and reengineering has been done to save construction costs. Mr. Sloan is committed to self-finance until the conventional financing is in place. He is pursuing other financing that would be less expensive than the current options.

President's Report Item VI.A.

President Pickens noted that this is not an action item; however, one of the topics discussed by the bankers was that conventionally they would allow an amortization period that was 50% of the term of the lease, so for us that would be fifteen (15) years. They did indicate a willingness to deviate from that. The lenders were willing to consider an amortization period of thirty (30) years if the Board were willing to extend the lease to forty (40) years. President Pickens reiterated that he was not asking for action at this time, that he wanted to make the Board aware this was discussed.

Next, President Pickens discussed the potential occupancy rates. There will be a groundbreaking once the foundation is poured. Chairman Komando requested that the lease amendment be placed on the agenda for the next Board of Trustees meeting. President Pickens stated that he would communicate this to the lead banker.

President Pickens gave a Legislative Report on PECO and operational support funding. SJR State received \$10M for the new and improved STEM building proposal for the renovation and expansion of the T Building (on the Palatka Campus), which would hold the majority of the new workforce programs, helping meet the statutory requirement for post-secondary needs in Clay and Putnam Counties.

President's Report
Item VI.B

President Pickens noted that the number one priority for the Council of Presidents was for the Florida College System (FCS) to be included in the state health insurance plan and this was approved. He overviewed the benefits. SJR State College pays employee premiums and subsidizes the cost of family plans. The State plan is the platinum plan, and employees will now be required to pay \$50 a month; the family plan goes down to \$180 a month. The State has historically absorbed annual cost increases. The FCS as a whole will be paying in what it did to the Consortium. The Legislature allocated \$85M on top of the amount the FCS will pay. January 2025 is the target date for the transition.

President's Report
Item VI.C

Because of the funding allocated to the health insurance, there is no new money in the program fund. SJR State did secure \$3M in recurring funds and \$3M in non-recurring funds.

President Pickens noted that there will be Budget Workshops on April 17 and May 15 at 1:00 pm.

Chairman Komando noted that Executive Sessions for Collective Bargaining will be held immediately following the Board Meetings in April and May.

Trustee comments were made.

Trustee Comments

Rich Komando remarked on an email he received this morning from Clay Moore regarding opening up the Collective Bargaining Agreement Article 20. The email was sent to each of the Trustees, and Mr. Komando said, "I think the comment that stood out to me was, in the email, it says that based on the most recent data from the Fall 2022-2023 provided by the Florida College System Fact Book, SJR State's faculty members remain one of the lowest paid faculty members in the Florida College System. SJR State's faculty members with a Doctorate rank 27th, and those with a Master's degree rank 26th, out of twenty-eight (28) Florida state colleges." Mr. Komando continued that he took the comment somewhat personally, because over the past couple of years as the Board has discussed through the bargaining process, the administration's support for the faculty and non-faculty. The Board has gone above and beyond trying to do everything possible, even exceeding what was asked for related to salaries and benefits. Statistics can be skewed and don't account for the work done with the health insurance program, even though that benefit can't be spent directly. Private insurance family premiums right now are \$2700 and the equivalent for a College employee is \$180. Those are real dollars in addition to the administration's effort to make the work environment positive. "So, to start off the negotiation with that kind of comment may not be the best negotiating tactic, at least not for me, but I do appreciate how the administration is really going to work to make sure that faculty and non-faculty members are well taken care of."

Chairperson Komando adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Adjournment