

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**BOARD RETREAT**  
**DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE**

**October 27, 2023**

**10 a.m.**

**Charles Hilton Center, Room 302**

**Members Present:** Bill Cramer, Jr., Boyd K. Bulger, Dr. Abel De La Rosa, Frank A. Hall, C. David Powell, Floyd Skinner, Joe K. Tannehill, Jr., Caroline Windham, and Glen McDonald

**Members Absent:** Tricia Berry

**Others Present:** Dr. Cheryl Flax-Hyman, Mike Kandler, Dr. Holly Kuehner, Kayley Thomas, and Dr. Kelli Walsingham

- I. Welcome** President McDonald welcomed board members to the retreat and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then introduced Dr. Flax-Hyman to facilitate the meeting.
- II. Artificial Intelligence Implications for Higher Ed** Dr. Flax-Hyman stated the importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an instructional tool but also the challenges institutions of higher education face as a result of the technology. She then introduced Dr. Holly Kuehner and Assistant Professor Kayley Thomas to present on the College's efforts to utilize AI.
- III. Athletics** Dr. Flax-Hyman introduced Dr. Walsingham, Dean of Student Life, and Athletic Director, Mike Kandler, to discuss the recommendation to add a women's cross-country team. Discussion ensued concerning costs and benefits. The recommendation will be taken to the DBOT at the November 16th meeting. Trustee Bulger asked that the College prioritize athletic needs for future budget considerations.
- IV. Strategic Plan – Key Performance Indicators** Dr. Flax-Hyman gave an update on the Strategic Plan and reported on the key performance indicators. She noted that the College had met or exceeded most goals at the one-year mark; however, the College was struggling to increase enrollment among non—traditional students (age 25 and older). Discussion ensued concerning initiatives to attract older students and efforts to increase enrollment among dual-enrolled students.
- V. Accreditation Update** Dr. Flax-Hyman presented the College's accreditation status and discussed the SACSCOC Fifth-Year Interim Report as well as navigating the accreditation process through the Higher Learning

Commission.

- VI. Florida College System State Budget Priorities** President McDonald discussed the Florida College System State Budget Priorities and GCSC's capital improvement plan/legislative budget request. He stated that our first priority as a system was inclusion into the State of Florida's Group Health Insurance Plan and the top three College projects were the High-Fidelity Nursing Simulation Complex, Multi-Use Teaching Lab Facility, and Classroom Space/Shelter Emergency Space at the Gulf/Franklin Center.
- VII. Good of the Order** The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chair, District Board of Trustees