

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE
OCTOBER 23, 2025**

10:00 a.m.

Chair Bulger called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Panama City main campus. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Members Present Boyd Bulger, Bill Cramer, Jr., Tricia Berry, Frank Hall, Dr. Abel De La Rosa, Floyd Skinner, and Joe Tannehill, Jr. Caroline Windham, David Powell

Other Glen McDonald, President of Gulf Coast State College, Holly Melzer, Board Attorney

Absent

- 1. Call to Order** **1.1** Chair Bulger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Invocation** **1.2** Ms. Melzer gave the invocation.
- Pledge of Allegiance** **1.3** Mr. Hall led the pledge of allegiance to the American flag.
- Welcome Guests** **1.4** Chair Bulger welcomed guests: Mr. John Meyer, president, Gulf Coast State Foundation; Dr. Cheryl Flax-Hyman, executive vice-president; Dr. Holly Kuehner, vice president of Academic Affairs; Mr. Liam O’Leary, Professional Employee Council; Brian Ballif, chair, Faculty Senate; Alexa Sherwood, president of Student Government Association; Mr. John Mercer, vice-president, Administration and Finance.
- Hearing of Citizens** **1.5** No citizens answered the call to appear before the board.
- Special Presentation** **1.6** Ashlin Glatthar, Executive Director, Gulf Coast State College Foundation highlighted three check presentations to honor some community partnerships:

 Harrison’s Kitchen and Bar / The St. Joe Company (Harrison’s) – Harrison’s proposed hosting a series of social events for the GCSC Foundation, which led to the creation of the *Sundress Social Series*. Proceeds from the inaugural event series, totaling \$3,301.04, will benefit the Hilton Hospitality Program Fund.

 Manu Samtani, Maharaja’s Fine Jewelry and Gifts – donated two premium watches for the Annual Dinner live auction. And additionally, made a \$10,000 donation to the Gulf Coast Guarantee.

 Speaker Allan Bense and Mrs. Tonie Bense – Ms. Glatthar recognized Speaker Bense as a transformational leader whose vision and advocacy have been instrumental in securing more than \$65 million in support of Gulf Coast

State College's programs, facilities, and scholarships. During the Foundation's Annual Dinner, she highlighted the profound impact of his leadership. In recognition of Speaker Bense's exceptional contributions to the College, he was presented with the Honorary Alumni Emeritus Award.

Speaker Bense announced a generous donation of \$103,000 to support the Gulf Coast Guarantee initiative. Subsequently, Ms. Glatthar received the news that the donation had been increased to \$150,000, further strengthening the program's impact and sustainability.

**2. Trustee
Comments**

2.1 Mr. Cramer honored Mr. Ivie Burch, a dedicated leader with 25 years of service at Gulf Coast State College. Renowned for his quiet demeanor, thoughtful nature, and unwavering moral compass, Mr. Burch earned the respect and admiration of many. Reflecting on Mr. Burch's lasting legacy, Mr. Cramer highlighted one particularly pivotal moment in the college's history.

On May 18, 1966, Rosenwald Junior College, originally founded to serve African American students, was merged with Gulf Coast Junior College, which was then an all-white institution. Mr. Cramer emphasized that this merger represented a watershed moment in the region's civil rights history. He highlighted that Mr. Burch's steadfast commitment to access played a key role in breaking down racial barriers, helping to open the doors of higher education to all students. Additionally, Mr. Cramer noted that Mr. Burch was instrumental in expanding and growing the college's endowment, ensuring a stronger future for generations of students.

Mr. Cramer stated that it was incumbent upon the board to recognize the incomparable contributions of Mr. Ivie Burch—to the college, to the civil rights movement, and to the end of segregation in both local and higher education. In commemoration of his legacy, Mr. Cramer presented a check for \$20,000 to the College Foundation to establish the Ivie Burch Scholarship.

Attorney's Report

2.2 Ms. Melzer reported that the college received a Letter of Intent from a developer interested in purchasing the Hathaway Inn property, initiating the invitation to bid process. She also provided a brief update on the CMar contract.

**GCSC Foundation,
Inc. President's
Update**

2.3 Mr. Meyer gave GCSC Foundation Update:

Total Assets as of 9/31/2025	\$ 40,723,039.19
Total Contributions to the Foundation since 7/1/2025	\$ 744,911.24
Total Investment Income to the Foundation since 7/1/2025	\$ 1,754,411.16

Total Gulf Coast Guarantee Funds pledged since 7/1/21 \$ 4,862,748.84

Total Gulf Coast Guarantee Investment Activity since 7/1/21 \$ 963,399.47

Other updates

Annual Dinner was September 26, 2025 at Hotel Indigo:

365 Guests – Sold Out Event

38 VIP & Table Sponsors

2024 Gross Revenue - \$145,680

2025 Gross Revenue - \$396,500

2024 Net Revenue - \$76,556

2025 Net Revenue - \$ 279,520

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|
| Honorary Trustee Updates | 2.4 | Not applicable, furlough due to government shutdown. |
| Next DBOT Meeting | 2.5 | The regular meeting of the District Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the Panama City main campus, 10:00 a.m. (CST). Discussion about rescheduling the November DBOT meeting to December. |
| 3. SGA Report | 3.1 | Ms. Sherwood, President, Student Government Association (SGA) provided the SGA update. |
| Program Focus | 3.2 | Dr. Jason Wenzel, Professor of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology at Gulf Coast State College, gave a presentation on the Anthropology / Archaeology Program. He discussed the program's objectives, structure, and the knowledge and skills students gain through the coursework. Dr. Wenzel also highlighted various archaeological projects, digs, and notable discoveries from the area. |
| 4. Consent Agenda | | <p>The items on the consent agenda are routine business, state directives, and/or compliance items.</p> <p>Chair Bulger asked if there were any items trustees would like pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. No items were pulled.</p> <p>Chair Bulger asked the board to entertain a motion.</p> <p>Mr. Hall made a motion to approve consent items, Cramer seconded and the vote passed unanimously. Motion carried.</p> |
| Minutes | 4.1 | Approval of Regular DBOT minutes, October 23, 2025. |

**Personnel
Recommendations**

4.2 Professional

Employment

Raymond Stanquist, Athletic Trainer, Wellness and Athletics, effective September 22, 2025, annualized salary of \$61,580. Mr. Stanquist fills a newly created position.

Internal Employment Changes

Julia Wells, From IT Tech I, Media Services to Senior Administrative and Library Assistant, effective October 17, 2025, annualized salary of \$37,811. Ms. Wells fills a position vacated by Liam O'Leary.

Terri Thomas, From Coordinator of TRiO to Pathway Navigator, Student Engagement, effective October 10, 2025, annualized salary of \$49,299. Ms. Thomas fills the position vacated by Alicia Payne.

Career Service

Employment

Latrika Pittman, EOC Advisor, TRiO, effective September 26, 2025, annualized salary of \$39,973. Ms. Pittman fills the position vacated by Sierra Watson.

Resignation

Dawn Owen, Custodian, Facilities, effective September 25, 2025.

Alberto Herrera, Financial Aid Advisor, Financial Aid, effective October 3, 2025.

**Contract
Ratifications**

4.3 Contract Ratifications for September 2025 for a total of \$12,882.86.

**Overloads/
Adjunct Pay**

4.4 Monthly and Biweekly Overloads/Adjunct Pay \$186,902.45.

**Review and
Approval |
Expenditure
Report**

4.5 Review and Approval of September 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 Expenditures Report (Listing of all purchase orders in excess of \$10,000 for the prior month).

5. Action Items 5.0

**Approval of
Gulf/Franklin
Campus
Classroom and
Emergency Shelter
Construction
Manager at Risk
(CMaR) Contract**

5.1 Gulf/Franklin Campus Classroom and Emergency Shelter Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) Contract was pulled from the agenda and will be brought back to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Chair Bulger asked the board to entertain a motion to pull agenda item 5.1 Gulf/Franklin Campus Classroom and Emergency Shelter Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) Contract.

Mr. Powell motioned to pull 5.1, Gulf/Franklin Campus Classroom and Emergency Shelter Construction Manager at Risk Contract as presented, De La Rosa seconded, the vote passed unanimously. Motion carries.

**Approval to award
RFP #3 2025/2026
Lawn
Maintenance**

5.2 Mr. McDonald presented and requested Approval to award RFP #3 2025/2026 Lawn Maintenance. On October 7, 2025 a committee met to review and rank four proposals received in response to the RFP. Following the evaluation and discussion, the committee members recommended GroPro to the District Board of Trustees in the amount of \$297,300 yearly.

Chair Bulger asked the board to entertain a motion.

Mr. Skinner motioned to award RFP # 3 2025/26 Lawn Maintenance to Gro Pro as presented, Berry seconded, the vote passed unanimously. Motion carries.

**6. Informational 6.0
Items**

**Actual YTD
Revenues
Expenses
Compared to
Budget/Prior Year**

6.1 Mr. Mercer presented Actual YTD Revenues Expenses compared to Budget/Prior Year.

**Lodging of the
Gulf Coast State
College
2024-25 Annual
Financial Report**

6.2 Mr. Mercer went over Lodging of the Gulf Coast State College 2024-25 Annual Financial Report.

**Construction
Updates**

6.3 Jason Parker presented Building Updates.

**Update on
Nursing**

6.3.1 Mr. Parker provided an update on the Nursing Simulation Building Project.

Simulation Project

**Update on
Gulf/Franklin
Multi-Purpose
Project**

6.3.2 Mr. Parker provided an update on Gulf/Franklin Multi-Purpose Project.

Presidents Report

6.4 Mr. McDonald presented his report:


- FTE enrollment for Fall 2025 is currently up 5.7% compared to Fall 2024. While Fall Term C enrollment is still pending, it is not expected that FTE enrollment will reach the budgeted growth target of 7%.
- The College and Ascension Sacred Heart Bay formed a new partnership this month, which allows GCSC nursing students to use their patient simulator center while the college builds GCSC Nursing Simulation Center.
- President McDonald gave an update on GCSC Athletics.
- First Annual Gulf Coast Commodore Challenge was held on 10/17-18; a fundraiser for the Cross-Country Program.
- Active Assailant Training was conducted by FSU Police from Tallahassee and Panama City, as well as the college's new Campus Safety Officer Herb Dorsey.

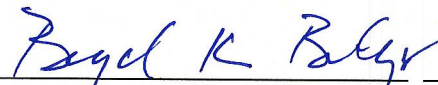
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- The Liar – Blackbox Theatre Show, Visual Performing Arts, Amelia Center. Friday & Saturday October 24-25, 2025, 7:30 – 9:30 PM and Sunday matinee show October 26, 2025, 2:30-4:30 PM.
- Public Eye Soar, November 7-8, 2025, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM (CST)
- College closed in observance of Veterans Day Holiday, Tuesday, November 11, 2025.
- Health Sciences Dual Enrollment Academy Open House, November 18, 2025; Health Sciences Building, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

8.0 Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.


Secretary
12-4-25
Date


Chair, District Board of Trustees
12/4/2025
Date