

IX. Chair's Time

Chair Sprague reported on the recent formation of the Council of Trustees, a newly established body comprising trustees representing the Florida College System. Mr. Sprague stated that the mission of the Council is to foster collaborative communication among trustees statewide, thereby advancing student success, institutional excellence, and system-wide improvement. He emphasized that the Council is not a lobbying organization but rather a supportive group that works closely with Florida's college presidents and their initiatives. Mr. Bill Kramer, Chair of the Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees, will serve as Chair, and Mr. Sprague will serve as Vice Chair of the Council.

- Mr. Sprague initiated a conversation about reducing the size of the Board meeting packets. He noted that the supporting documents for certain agenda items, such as contracts for major projects like the diesel mechanics and aviation facilities, contain many pages of technical information that might be unnecessary. He proposed that future Board packets include an executive summary or cover sheet that outlines key points. He suggested that the full supporting documents would be available electronically for any Trustee who wished to review them in detail. The Trustees agreed and decided that executive summaries would be provided in the printed packets, and the full supporting documents would be made available electronically.

Chair Sprague asked if there were any further comments for the good of the order. Mr. Smith commented on a few matters.

- Mr. Smith ~~addressed the Board,~~ acknowledged acknowledging Dr. Meadows' contributions to the College and the community but expressed concern ~~while noting that~~ there are certain areas of the college where Dr. Meadows has not been providing adequate oversight. For instance, there have been certain actions required by the Board according to Statute or college procedure that had not been completed until someone else brought these oversights to Dr. Meadows' attention. ~~brought to the administration's attention, and expressed concern about administrative follow through on required items.~~ Mr. Smith noted that this had happened multiple times since he joined the Board. He expressed particular concern that in terms of making sure that the college is complying with the state's requirements to ensure the college is not expending funds on any prohibited DEI expenditures, though his concerns are not limited to this area. Dr. Meadows is not taking adequate measures to make sure PSC is complying with applicable laws that all faculty, staff, and students must be treated equally regardless of race.
- Mr. Smith also referred to Achieve Escambia, an organization with which the College has collaborated in the past. ~~and~~ Mr. Smith noted Achieve Escambia had office space on PSC's campus and that Dr. Meadows, as a board member of Achieve Escambia, utilized college time and resources to promote its mission. Mr. Smith made clear that there is widespread support, including from himself, of providing opportunities for all children to achieve their full educational potential. But he noted concern and provided specific examples of where

~~Achieve Escambia pledged to promote DEI principles—promoting policies that treat children differently based on their race. Mr. Smith raised concerns about these policies goals and the fact that college resources may have been used to support them. that its materials previously included language referencing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Mr. Smith expressed appreciation that these were removed after Dr. Meadows contacted Ms. Gilliam at United Way, to Dr. Meadows, which resulted in the removal of the DEI language from the Achieve Escambia website.~~

- Mr. Smith also referenced PSC’s new Executive Director of Corporate Training and Continuing Education, noting her previous role as Executive Director of Achieve Escambia, and her appearance on WSRE. Mr. Smith made clear that he supports and respects PSC employees advocating for, and expressing their own views on their own time. But while acting or speaking on behalf of PSC, college employees must adhere to college policies and procedures and other applicable laws. He Mr. Smith expressed concerns that this particular hire had in the past expressed a commitment to using her positions, wherever they may be, to push her organizations to adopt and implement DEI-type policies. ~~certain comments during the appearance, along with previous associated materials related to Achieve Escambia, are inconsistent with the College’s policies and values.~~ Mr. Smith emphasized the importance of providing training and guidance to ~~new~~ all employees to ensure they understand the College's policies and expectations. Dr. Meadows responded that the College would ensure appropriate training and oversight for staff.

X. Adjournment

Chair Sprague asked if there were any additional comments or discussion. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Approved: _____ (Date) _____

Recorded by: Pat Crews

Chair, Board of Trustees

President