

**Florida State College at Jacksonville**  
**District Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of the September 10, 2024, Regular Meeting**  
**Administrative Offices, Board Room 405, 1 p.m.**

- PRESENT: O. Wayne Young, Chair  
Roderick D. Odom, Vice Chair, Nassau County  
Andrew B. Shaw, Vice Chair, Duval County  
Thomas R. McGehee, Jr.
- ABSENT: Michael M. Bell
- CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wayne Young called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.
- PLEDGE: Chair Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC: Chair Young 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, noting that consideration of today's Action Items would also constitute a public hearing under the Administrative Procedures Act. Therefore, any comments regarding the revised Board Rule should also be made at this time.
- Chair Young advised the Board that no member of the public had requested to speak. He asked if there were any comments by the Trustees, and there were none.
- MINUTES:  
(Ref. Board Agenda for September 10, 2024; Pages 202500080 – 110)
- Chair Young noted in efficiency of time, he would like to entertain a motion to approve the Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) District Board of Trustees (DBOT) minutes as presented on pages 80 – 110: The July 9, 2024, Deep Dive Workshop, on agenda pages 80 – 85; August 13, 2024, Workshop, on agenda pages 86 – 90; and August 13, 2024, Regular Meeting, on agenda pages 91 – 110.
- MOTION: (Shaw – McGehee) The motion was made to approve the FSCJ DBOT minutes as presented on pages 80 – 110, from the July 9, 2024, Deep Dive Workshop; August 13, 2024, Workshop; and August 13, 2024, Regular Meeting, as recommended.
- Chair Young asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board, and there were none.
- Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE  
PRESIDENT:

Convocation Recap:

College President John Avendano, Ph.D. shared with the Board information relating to FSCJ's Convocation Recap:

- He thanked all those who joined FSCJ for its annual Convocation to kick off the academic year. This year's theme was "Celebrate the FSCJ Experience," and that's just what the College did.
- Everyone was very excited about the gym transformation into "The Reef."
- Colleagues provided updates on FSCJ's strategic planning process, the Ritz-Carlton experience and the new student orientation.
- He was thrilled to have the opportunity to spotlight some of the successes FSCJ achieved together over the past year as well as share his excitement for the year ahead.

Commercial Vehicle Driving  
Press Conference:

President Avendano shared with the Board information relating to FSCJ's Commercial Vehicle Driving Press Conference:

- As a reminder, on Thursday of this week, the College will hold a grand opening event for the FSCJ Commercial Vehicle Driving facility at Nassau Center.
- This project was made possible by a \$3 million Florida Job Growth Grant FSCJ received from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida to support the Nassau County Transportation Education Institute.
- Senator Clay Yarborough will be in attendance.
- You are welcome to join us, so please let us know if you need additional information.

Great College to Work For:

President Avendano shared with the Board information relating to Great College to Work For:

- He was excited to share with everyone, that as of September 20, FSCJ will be part of the Great Colleges to Work For program.
- The College's selection was based on a survey of 216 colleges and universities. In all, 75 achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies.
- FSCJ was also chosen for the Great Colleges Honor Roll, a status granted to only 42 colleges each year who are highlighted most across the recognition categories.

Duval County School Board Superintendent: President Avendano shared with the Board that he would be visiting the new Superintendent, Dr. Chris Bernier tomorrow, September 11 at the Duval County School Board Building.

Scholarships: President Avendano shared with the Board information relating to scholarships:

- FSCJ received great feedback on the AJ Laguerre, Jr. Endowed Scholarship established by the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS Championship.

Heart Walk: President Avendano shared with the Board information relating to the 2024 Heart Walk:

- FSCJ will once again participate as a team in the 2024 Heart Walk, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 5.
- He invited everyone to join the College in its fundraising efforts and to walk with FSCJ on the day of the event. The link will be shared with those who wish to register or donate.

Tours and Visits: President Avendano shared with the Board information relating to recent tours and visits:

- Councilman Joe Carlucci toured Downtown Campus.
- He and Director of Government and Community Relations Taylor Mejia visited with Representatives Sam Garrison and Jessica Baker.

Data Dashboard: President Avendano shared with the Board information relating to the September 2024 Data Dashboard/high-level view of the institutional data sets:

- Fall Term College Credit Enrollment:
  - Positive variance of 9.4% credit hours for fall 2024 over fall 2023.
  - Positive variance of 47.8% compared to the same day in the enrollment cycle for Fall Term 2023 relating to career certificate enrollment.
- Spotlights on:
  - FSCJ student enrollment by zip code and median household income.
  - Largest occupations in Duval and Nassau Counties in terms of job openings.
- Finance Report shows actual revenues and expenditures compared to budget for the period ending July 31, 2024 and July 31, 2023.

- Unrestricted fund revenues were up approximately \$2.3 million compared to prior year, primarily due to an increase in student fee revenue.
- Expenditures were up approximately \$1.3 million, mainly due to an increase in personnel and current expenses.
- The restricted fund revenues and expenditures reflect both student and grant activities. Revenues and expenditures are tracking about the same as the prior year.
- Grants Report:
  - For the 2024-25 award year, FSCJ received more than \$2.2 million in grants.
  - The total received for the 2023-24 fiscal year was more than \$11.6 million.

STRATEGIC  
PROGRAMMATIC  
DISCUSSION:

Chair Young asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board related to President Avendano's Report, Data Dashboards and/or any other College Strategic matters, and there were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:  
(Ref. Board Agenda for  
September 10, 2024; No  
Consent Items)

Chair Young shared with Trustees that there were no Consent Items on today's agenda. Therefore, the Board would move directly to the Action Items section of the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:  
(Ref. Board Agenda for  
September 10, 2024; Items 1  
through 9, Pages 202500111 –  
156)

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 1, Administrative Procedure Act – Board Rules, Section 10 – Educational Support Services, on agenda pages 111 – 112.

MOTION: (McGehee – Odom) The motion was made to approve revised Board Rule 6Hx7-10.16 – Acceptance of Credit for Prior Learning under Section 10, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 2, Administration: Request to Pursue Regional Accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), on agenda pages 113 – 116.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Request to Pursue Regional Accreditation with HLC, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 3, Human Resources: Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) (Full-Time Faculty), on agenda pages 117 – 125. The CBA was ratified by the Faculty last week.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the CBA (Full-Time Faculty), as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 4, Human Resources: Employer Group Plans for Life and Long-Term Disability Insurance, on agenda page 126.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Employer Group Plans for Life and Long-Term Disability Insurance, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 5, Purchasing: Annual Contract Extensions, on agenda pages 127 – 130.

MOTION: (Shaw – McGehee) The motion was made to approve the Annual Contract Extensions, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration’s recommendation on Action Item 6, Finance: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget Amendment No. 1, on agenda pages 131 – 132.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget Amendment No. 1, as recommended.

Chair Young asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board.

Trustee Thomas McGehee, Jr. stated that today was the first meeting of the Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee for Fiscal Year 2024-25. The Committee reviewed and discussed various Action Items from today’s agenda, noting inquiries were responded to by the administration. Additionally, there was a consensus among committee members to support approval of this item.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration’s recommendation on Action Item 7, Finance: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Outlay Budget Amendment No. 1, on agenda pages 133 – 135.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Outlay Budget Amendment No. 1, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration’s recommendation on Action Item 8, Finance: Fiscal Year 2024-25 Carry Forward Spending Plan, on agenda pages 136 – 137.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Carry Forward Spending Plan, as recommended.

Chair Young asked if there were any questions or comments by the Board.

F&A Committee Chair McGehee shared the following information relating to Action Item A-8:

Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Wanda Ford and Associate Vice President for Administrative Services Steve Stanford provided an overview of the 2024-25 Carry Forward Spending Plan, noting there was in-depth discussion on the topic as it related to funds needed to cover transitioning into the State Group Insurance Plan.

The bill was approved by the Florida Senate and House of Representatives for all state colleges to move into this Plan. However, as we have all heard, the Governor vetoed the \$80m funding statewide to cover the cost of transitioning to the Plan. This places FSCJ in a bind not to mention other sister institutions as they may not have had enough funds available to cover this outlay, which now becomes an unfunded mandate.

Therefore, Trustee McGehee wished to go on record stating that we all need to do everything we can to make sure in the next legislative year we go through the same process and approval process for funding for both the House and Senate and do everything we can to make sure the funding does not get vetoed again. This could be very detrimental to FSCJ's Spending Plan going forward.

Chair Young thanked Trustee McGehee for his comments concerning the transition cost to the State Group Insurance Plan and how it is affecting the College. He added that FSCJ is one of 28 colleges within the Florida College System (FCS) to whom this happened and by all practical measures one could have been very optimistic that the College would not be in this situation. As previously stated, both the Florida Senate and House of Representatives approved the bill; then the funding cost of the Plan was a line item veto by the Governor.

Chair Young shared that FSCJ as well as the other 27 corresponding colleges do not wish to see this occur again going into the next year. Therefore, the College and Trustees will go full-fledged on doing what is needed on The Hill in order to try to get approval throughout the entire process. In the meantime, he gave credit to the faculty and staff for considering other options if the funding doesn't happen, noting the hope is that it does.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

President Avendano presented the administration's recommendation on Action Item 9, Academic Affairs: FSC Affordability Report, on agenda pages 138 – 156.

MOTION: (McGehee – Shaw) The motion was made to approve the FSC Affordability Report, as recommended.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS:  
(Ref. Board Agenda for  
September 10, 2024; Items  
A – E, Pages 202500157  
– 178)

Chair Young asked the Board if there were any questions or comments related to Information Items A – E, on agenda pages 157 – 178, and there were none.

REPORT OF THE BOARD  
CHAIR:

Chair Young provided a brief report, noting as mentioned earlier in the meeting, the College has begun a new academic year and Convocation 2024 was fantastic. He always enjoys attending Convocation as the event is met with much enthusiasm.

Chair Young thanked Trustee McGehee for his continued service as the chair of the F&A Committee. The Committee met for the first time today in Fiscal Year 2024-25. He hopes everyone gains an appreciation for the information/comments provided by Committee Chair McGehee relating to the discussion that takes place at the meetings. The information is vital with regard to the Board's overall operation, being transparent, sharing information discussed and noting how the decisions are made with respect to recommendations being brought before the Board.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES:

There were no reports provided by Trustees.

REPORT OF THE BOARD  
FINANCE & AUDIT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR:

FSCJ F&A Committee Chair McGehee provided the Board with an overview of the written report relating to the September 2024 quarterly meeting. (Appendix A)

The next meeting of the FSCJ F&A Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at the College's Cecil Center – North. The Committee will meet at 10:45 a.m.



REPORT OF THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
COLLABORATIVE (APC):

Administrative and Professional Collaborative Chair Terence Wright addressed the Board and presented an overview of the written report relating to current APC initiatives and activities. (Appendix B)

REPORT OF THE CAREER  
EMPLOYEES' COUNCIL  
(CEC):

Career Employees' Council Chair Rebecca Nelson provided the Board with a written report relating to current CEC initiatives and activities. (Appendix C)

REPORT OF THE FACULTY  
SENATE (Senate):

Faculty Senate President Dr. John Woodward provided the Board with a written report relating to current Senate initiatives and activities. (Appendix D)

REPORT OF THE STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION (SGA):

Collegewide Student Government Association President Vlad Sadouski provided the Board with a written report relating to current SGA initiatives and activities. (Appendix E)

NEXT MEETING:

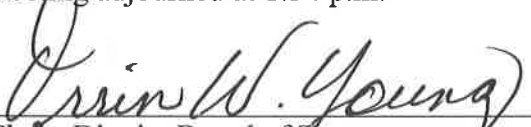
Chair Young announced the Board will meet on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at the College's South Campus – Wilson Center for a Deep Dive Workshop. The workshop will convene at noon in the Lakeside Room.

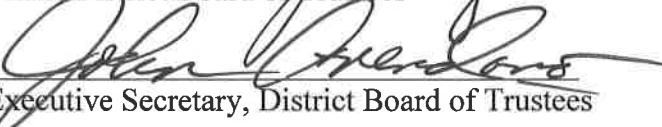
The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair Young declared the meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, District Board of Trustees

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Secretary, District Board of Trustees

Submitted by: Kimberli Sodek, Administration Support Manager – Office of the College President

REPORT OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE CHAIR, TRUSTEE THOMAS MCGEHEE, JR.  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Vice President of Finance and Administration Dr. Wanda Ford reviewed the Finance and Audit (F&A) Committee charge and process. The committee's charge is to review and discuss issues with a financial impact on the College. In addition, initiatives that have a significant impact on the College's finances may be referred to the Committee for review and discussion prior to consideration by the full Board.

President John Avendano, Ph.D. led the discussion regarding the selection of the Committee Chair position for 2024-25. Trustee Thomas McGehee, Jr. was unanimously selected to continue as the F&A Committee Chair.

Vice President Ford and Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Steve Stanford provided an overview of the Annual Financial Report Summary. The College's assets and deferred outflows totaled \$339m and reflects a .33% decrease from last fiscal year primarily resulting from pension activity. The College's net position year-end balance is \$211m. The operating revenues totaled \$38m representing an .56% increase from last year mainly due to an increase in net student tuition and fees. Operating expenses totaled \$224m and increased due primarily to an increase in personnel services and scholarships and waivers.

Vice President Ford and Associate Vice President Stanford provided an overview of the College's Proposed Budget Amendments and Spending Plan, which were included on today's Board Agenda for approval.

Chief Human Resource Officer Mark Lacey led the discussion related to the College transitioning to the State Group Insurance Plan. The Florida Colleges are scheduled to transition to the plan effective January 1, 2025. Coverage will include health, dental, vision, life and other supplemental plans.

Although the bill passed to add the State Colleges to the State Group Insurance Plan, the \$80m that was budgeted to fund the cost of transitioning to the plan was vetoed. Recently, the colleges were asked to provide a plan for funding the transition cost beginning December 2025 through FY 2026-27. The College's estimated cost ranges from \$5m to \$8m annually.

Vice President Ford and Associate Vice President Stanford presented two budget scenarios outlining the probable budget impact. The scenarios for FY 2025-26 included consideration of a flat and a 5% decrease in enrollment. Both reflect a less than 7% ending fund balance, which is concerning. Assumptions include 60% of employees electing family coverage and an increase of 10% in the employer insurance premium cost.

The F&A Committee discussed future plans regarding the 20 West residential and restaurant space. The team is currently entertaining proposal for the restaurant space and will continue to keep the board abreast of any updates.

This concludes my report.



Date: September 6, 2024

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Terence L. Wright, Chair of the Administrative and Professional Collaborative, 2024-2025

Re: September 2024 Administrative and Professional Collaborative Report

Chair Young and Trustees:

The Administrative and Professional Collaborative (APC) is proud to share updates since our last report.

On August 20, the new and returning APC Officers and Campus/Center Representatives met for the first time during the 2024-2025 academic year. All officers and representatives were formally installed to serve on APC as part of the meeting agenda. The meeting was spent developing a plan of action for the upcoming year. A priority for the group this year is a focus on campus engagement by the representatives with their constituents. We will accomplish this by partnering with the campus deans to host introductory social events at each campus. So, campus constituents will have an opportunity to meet their representatives and discuss any issues or concerns. Additionally, we added a fall campus meeting (in the past we only had a spring meeting), which gives APC representatives the opportunity to share any pertinent communication and updates in a timely manner. A discussion was held about possible APC employees to spotlight over the coming months and how many Brown Bag Professional Development events to host during the upcoming year. We also decided to review our bylaws during the next year to make sure they are still relevant to our current mission and goals.

All new members volunteered to serve on the various APC committees and task forces listed below;

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>New Members</b>
Bylaws and Outreach	Shannon Groff	Nick Bodnar, Susan Mythen
Events and Service	Monica Franklin	Steve Beard, Tara Haley
Communications & Spotlight	Robin Herriff, Ashli Archer	Taylor Mejia
Prof Dev and Guest Speakers	Kerri Burns	Lauren Finch, Jerry Thor
Employee Benefits Adv Council	Tara Haley, Mandi Miller	Terence Wright
Sick Leave Pool	Mandi Miller	Ed Stringer

Members also shared leadership/organizational updates from various areas and departments throughout the College (Academic Affairs; Baccalaureate, Career, and Technical; Business Services; Institutional Effectiveness & Advancement; Online and Workforce Education; and Student Services).

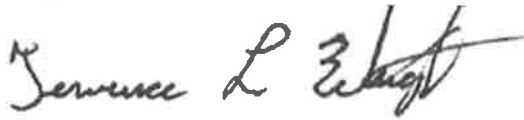
Administrative and Professional Collaborative Report

September 6, 2024

Page 2

This year the APC looks forward to discussing issues such as the implications of the move to the state health insurance. We will continue to host Brown Bag Professional Development events and invite various FSCJ leaders to speak at our monthly meetings. In addition, we will continue to invite College President Dr. John Avendano to our monthly meetings to provide us with updates and take time to address higher-level issues.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence L. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Terence L. Wright

Director of Campus Enrollment and Student Services

Kent Campus Dean

Administrative and Professional Collaborative Chair, 2024-2025



Date: September 6, 2024

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employees' Council Chair, 2024-2025

Re: September 2024 Career Employees' Council Report

Chair Young and Trustees:

On September 9, 2024, the CEC board will meet to discuss ongoing communication strategies and role assignments in regard to the same. As Chair, I will address my approach to timely decision making that is required of the CEC and best practices for doing so in order to avoid creating a negative impact on others. As a board, we will also continue to map a plan for continued engagement by fellow CEC representatives and address any lingering concerns about how to increase membership. It is my goal to ensure the CEC creates a culture of positivity, service and inclusion of all Career Employees who are interested to join and support their fellow colleagues. At this same meeting, we will identify a date/time to hold our first meeting of the 2024-25 academic year with September 24, 2024, surfacing as the leading option for most board members to be in attendance.

### Operational Effectiveness

The Council's Board understands the value of supporting successful Talent and Acquisition as we know that successful new hires result in future College operational effectiveness and student success. With great respect to that value, Council members were asked to serve on the following committee:

On August 30, 2024, the office of Employee Relations & Engagement confirmed the appointment of Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employee Council Chair to the Succession Planning Committee for the roles of Academic Dean and the Director of Campus Enrollment & Student Services.

### College and Community Engagement

The Council continues to contribute to the growth of College resources available to Career Employees as they pertain to belonging and health/wellness.

On August 19, 2024, the office of Human Resources held an EBAC meeting with Jamaiah Bowman, Career Employee Representative for South Campus and Administrative Assistant I, serving as the Career representative and Ronny Elmore, Career Employee Council Vice-Chair 2024-25 and Laboratory Manager serving as the alternate for Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employee Council Chair 2024-25 and Curriculum Coordinator. The committee reviewed the upcoming changes to the benefit offerings at the College including the transition to the state health insurance plan and attendees were provided with a summary of the changes along with

estimated cost sharing prior to the Collegewide communication of the same. It is with great appreciation to Jamaiah Bowman, who kindly shared her notes Rebecca A. Nelson, who was not in attendance. Additionally, communication was exchanged with Human Resources regarding the process for naming alternates to the EBAC for CEC representation in anticipation of forthcoming modifications.

On September 4, 2024, the office of Human Services contacted Rebecca A. Nelson, Career Employee Council Chair 2024-25 and Curriculum Coordinator, to inquire about the replacement of one (1) CEC representative on the College's Sick Leave Pool Committee. Currently, Brandy Williams, Career Employee Council Treasurer serves as one (1) of two (2) members on this important committee. At the Chairs request, Ronny Elmore, Career Employee Council Vice-Chair and Laboratory Manager, was offered the opportunity to serve as the second CEC representative to this committee and he accepted.

The Council is dedicated to support our current and future employees to ensure representation in wide-capacity and to encourage the achievement of their professional goals.

On behalf of all Career Employees, we express our gratitude to the District Board of Trustees for your time, determination, and care that you bring to the FSCJ community.

Respectfully,



Rebecca A. Nelson  
Career Employees' Council Chair, 2024-2025  
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
904-632-3274 / Rebecca.Nelson@fscj.edu





Date: September 6, 2024

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees.

From: John A. Woodward, PhD

Re: September Report

Chair Young and Fellow Trustees:

Senate is back to monthly meetings after the summer break. We have a number of things on our agenda for the year that I will sketch out in this letter.

We continue to work on improving our processes around reporting academic dishonesty. We have come to think about pursuing other avenues, including a new grade scale with an “F for cheating” option. However, we also recognize that there is a significant amount of work we need to engage in to change pedagogy to promote honesty and curb dishonesty. This connects with our concerns about the use of generative AI by our students – sometimes its usage leads to a suspicion of dishonest behavior. No one has a solution to this and there is little in the way of professional development in the US for faculty to maneuver in this new space, so we will work on developing more specific guidance this year.

Senate has been asked yet again to recognize for appreciation Brandi Bleak and her team’s work in the transition to Simple Syllabus, our new product for creating, disseminating, and archiving syllabi. We have already recognized Brandi’s work in 2020 for helping faculty quickly transition to Canvas and live-online instruction. Without her acumen and brilliant ability to help faculty understand new technologies, we might not have been as successful as we were during the pandemic. Moreover, before 2020 she was key to supporting the faculty transition to Canvas, one of the most difficult and complicated technological transitions we have made since the move to PeopleSoft – and the move to Canvas was accomplished with virtually no complications for faculty and students. She has also been essential to our RSI (Regular and Substantive Interaction) improvements by providing faculty with the means and training to record regular videos for their students in online courses. Brandi is the go-to support for all faculty working with technology. We will be formally recognizing her in our September meeting for her outstanding work in supporting our mission and look forward to her and her team continuing to support faculty teaching.

Senate will also continue to promote discourse around academic freedom. We will seek ways of communicating the value and protections of academic freedom to our students and our colleagues. One method is to discuss the legal history of academic freedom in public forums. In *Sweezy v. New Hampshire* (1957) the Supreme Court wrote in the majority opinion: “The essentiality of freedom in the community of American universities is almost self-evident. No one should underestimate the vital role in a democracy that is played by those who guide and train our youth. To impose any strait jacket upon the intellectual leaders in our colleges and universities would imperil the future of our Nation. No field of education is so thoroughly comprehended by man that new discoveries cannot



September 2024 Faculty Senate Report  
September 6, 2024  
Page 2

yet be made. Particularly is that true in the social sciences, where few, if any, principles are accepted as absolutes. Scholarship cannot flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust. Teachers and students must always remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, to gain new maturity and understanding; otherwise, our civilization will stagnate and die.” And then later in *Keyishian v. Board of Regents* (1967), the court found: “Our Nation is deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom, which is of transcendent value to all of us, and not merely to the teachers concerned. That freedom is therefore a special concern of the First Amendment, which does not tolerate laws that cast a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom.” I think it is a vital component of our mission to teach our students about the responsibility and burdens of free speech, not necessarily only about how these ideas inform higher education but also how they inform their lives as American citizens and members of our community.

These and other issues are on our agenda for the year. We are very positive about the current direction of the institution under Dr. Avendano’s and Dr. Wall’s leadership and our enrollment growth – seeing so many new faces on campus is always invigorating – and we are excited about the years to come.

I also want to take this time to congratulate Dr. Ujjwal Chakraborty for being selected as the new Associate Provost of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I have known Ujjwal since he was a faculty member, as have many of the senators, and we are very happy for him in his new position. I know all of Senate respects his work as a faculty member and as the dean of Open Campus, and we look forward to working with him in his new role.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank Chairman Young for his address to the College community at our Convocation. I and others were moved by it and deeply appreciated the emphasis placed on teaching and learning, and the faculty, as so vitally core to our mission.

As always, we deeply appreciate all of your support for FSCJ and thank you for your service on the Board.

That concludes my report to the Board.

Respectfully,



John Arrington Woodward, PhD  
Professor of Humanities and Film Studies  
Faculty Senate President  
C2326B, DWC  
Florida State College at Jacksonville  
john.a.woodward@fscj.edu  
904-997-2703



Date: September 6, 2024

To: Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees

From: Florida State College at Jacksonville Student Government Association Executive Board

Re: September 2024 Student Government Association Executive Board Report

Greetings Chair Young and Trustees:

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the voice of the student body at Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Please see the following updates and accomplishments for the period between August 2024 and September 2024. All of the Student Life and Leadership programming is led by students and for all students.

Since the last report, the SGA would like to share the following:

- On August 22nd, Downtown Campus hosted International Student Orientation where new students learned about resources and ways to get involved in extracurricular activities such as the International Club.
- On August 26th, the FSCJ Volleyball Team traveled to Rockford, IL to participate in the 2024 Opening Weekend Tournament.
- From August 26th - 29th, FSCJ celebrated Welcome Week where students enjoyed games, refreshments, music, caricature portraits, and Manta Ray swag. Students were able to learn about ways to get involved in extracurricular activities and receive help understanding their class schedules.
- The Duval and Nassau County Supervisor of Elections Offices visited multiple campuses and centers during the first three weeks of the 2024 Fall Term to provide voter registration opportunities.
- Between September 4th - 9th, Deerwood, Kent, North, and South hosted Club Rush where students had the opportunity to learn about the FSCJ clubs and volunteer with nonprofit agencies.
- On September 13th, SGA Officers will participate in the virtual Florida College System Student Government Association Presidents' Assembly where they will vote to help determine the organization's legislative planks and learn how to track bills.
- On September 17th, the SGA will host Constitution Day Trivia events at each campus and center. Following that, Dr. Daniel Cronrath, FSCJ Professor of Political Science, will compare and contrast how state constitutions work and then provide an overview of the amendments and initiatives appearing on the November 7 ballot at the South Campus Wilson Center. The event will be live-streamed on [live.fscj.edu](https://live.fscj.edu).
- On October 5th and 6th, members of the FSCJ Chapter of the National Cybersecurity Student Association will travel to the University of Central Florida to participate in the Horse Plinko Cyber Challenge (HPCC).
- On October 8th, students on the Choose Kindness Campaign Planning Committee will host a panel discussion to discuss the values of civility, kindness, and respect before the November 5th National Election Day.
- On October 12th, after an eight-year hiatus, FSCJ Brain Bowl Team members will travel to Santa Fe College to participate in the Fall Invitational.

On behalf of the student body, we would like to thank the District Board of Trustees and College President Dr. John Avendano for continuing to provide the SGA the opportunity to share updates and accomplishments of our students. Thank you for your time and all that you do for the students of FSCJ.

Sincerely,  
Uladzislau (Vlad) Sadouski  
FSCJ Collegewide Student Government Association President