

**New College of Florida Board of Trustees**  
**Approved Minutes of BOT Teleconference, January 3, 2014**  
**Cook Hall Conference Room**

**Trustees Participating:** Brad Baker; Audrey Coleman; Cassandra Corrado; Bob Johnson; Chairman William Johnston; Elaine Keating; Vice Chair Keith Monda; Mary Ruiz; John Saputo; Suzanne Sherman; George Skestos. **Not Participating:** Felice Schulaner; Steven Snyder.

**Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Notice of Meeting**

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Ms. Janney stated that the notice of meeting was published on the New College website and circulated via email to all campus constituents. Chairman Johnston ascertained that eleven trustees were connected to the teleconference, definitely a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Johnston requested approval of the Draft Minutes of the BOT Meeting of Dec. 16, 2013. Trustee Skestos so moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman, and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**BOT Action on NCF Mission Statement Change**

President O'Shea explained that the proposed change to the New College Mission Statement was approved by the faculty on December 11, 2013. The change would remove the indefinite article "an" and the word "undergraduate" from the first line of the mission statement, adding the indefinite article "a" and leaving the rest of the statement intact, as shown below. Upon securing BOT approval, the change in the Mission Statement, shown below, is subject to securing the approval of the Florida Board of Governors and our regional accrediting body, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS COC). Though slight, the change in the mission statement will allow the College to initiate a discussion of possibly offering Master's degree programs in the future.

New College offers ~~an undergraduate~~ a liberal arts education of the highest quality in the context of a small, residential public honors college with a distinctive academic program which develops the student's intellectual and personal potential as fully as possible; encourages the discovery of new knowledge and values while providing opportunities to acquire established knowledge and values; and fosters the individuals effective relationship with society.

Trustee Skestos asked if the College had done a financial study on the ramifications of adding Master's degree programs, in terms of adding more students and faculty. President O'Shea responded that no programs would be added without assured funding and without careful analysis. Trustee Baker suggested that no one should object to the College offering a small, select Master's program or two. Trustee Ruiz noted that the College could use this as an opportunity to revisit the College's strategic mission in a way that emphasizes our global, national, and statewide impact. Chairman Johnston added that Trustee Ruiz was spot-on, and President O'Shea has given this aspect a great deal of thought. He called for a motion to approve the change of mission as stated, subject to BOG and SACS COC approval. Trustee Coleman so moved, seconded by Trustee Ruiz, and the motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Since there was no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne L. Janney  
Assistant Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
New College of Florida

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