

**New College of Florida Board of Trustees  
Approved Minutes  
May 27, 2004 Teleconference Meeting**

**Members Participating:** Brian Cody; John Cranor; Rev. Jerome Dupree; Bob Johnson; Col. Mickey Presha; Jane Smiley.  
**Ex Officio:** Gordon E. Michalson, Jr., President. **Participating by Teleconference:** Robert N. Allen; Warren Hudson; Major Gen. Raymond E. Mason; Kenneth Misemer. **Not Participating:** Dr. Vicki Raeburn; Alexis Simendinger.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and requested the Assistant Secretary to call the roll. He welcomed the newest Board member, Associate Professor of Political Science Keith Fitzgerald, who replaced Professor Stephen Miles as Chair of the New College of Florida faculty on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Acknowledgement of Notice of Meeting**

Chairman Johnson requested and received acknowledgement that the meeting had been duly noticed on May 17, 2004.

**Approval of Minutes and Meeting Schedule for 2004**

Vice Chair Presha moved and Mr. Cranor seconded a motion that the minutes of the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting of April 24, 2004 be approved; the motion was approved unanimously.

**BOT Consideration of Out of State Tuition and Fees for 2004-2005**

Controller Bill Lawhon explained that the state legislature approved an increase of 7.5 percent for in-state tuition and an increase of 12.5 percent for out-of-state tuition. The individual university BOTs hold discretionary authority to approve an additional 2.5 percent increase for out-of-state tuition. The NCF administration is concerned that this additional 2.5 percent increase in out-of-state tuition (a total 15 percent increase) would have an adverse affect on the enrollment of out-of-state students. A number of other state universities are not exercising the authority to increase out-of-state tuition beyond the 12.5 percent increase authorized by the legislature. Therefore, the recommendation of the administration is not to take any action to increase out-of-state tuition. Mr. Cranor so moved, seconded by Col. Presha. Gen. Mason remarked that 12.5 percent was a hefty increase for the legislature to levy on out-of-state students. Chairman Johnson noted that the heat was on the Foundation to raise scholarship funds for out-of-state students. Mr. Hudson asked how much money NCF was leaving on the table by foregoing the 2.5 increase; Mr. Lawhon responded that it was about \$41,000. When divided by per student costs, it equals the cost of funding fewer than three students, but NCF risks losing more than that amount if higher tuition deters more out-of-state students from enrolling. In the end, it was determined that it was not worth the risk. Mr. Hudson asked for some validation of the assumption that the College would lose total out-of-state enrollment by an increase in out-of-state tuition. Mr. Lawhon stated that the enrollment data over the last couple of years bears this out: out-of-state enrollment as a percentage of total enrollment has decreased. President Michalson added that for the past three years in a row, there have been double digit increases in out-of-state tuition mandated by the legislature. Devolution of authority to the individual SUS BOTs seems to mean only piling on higher out-of-state tuition increases. Chairman Johnson noted that additional scholarship money was needed to counteract increases. The motion not to take any action to increase out-of-state tuition carried, although Gen. Mason voted against it. Mr. Cranor asked if there was anything the BOT could do to gain the authority to set out-of-state tuition; Mr. Johnson responded that the Board of Governors was working on it.

**BOT Consideration of Proposed Rule 6C11-8.017 - Faculty Evaluation (tabled on April 24, 2004)**

Ms. Smiley moved to table Proposed Rule 6C11-8.017 until the August 28, 2004 meeting; her motion was seconded by Col. Presha and approved unanimously.

**BOT Action on Proposed Establishment of a Material and Supply Fee for Optics/Laser Laboratory for FY 04-05**

Provost Charlene Callahan presented the request for approval of a new laboratory fee of \$35 per student for use of the optics/laser laboratory. The motion to approve the fee was made by Gen. Mason, seconded by Rev. Dupree and approved unanimously.

**BOT Action on Proposed Increase in Activity and Service Fee, Health Fee, and Athletic Fee for FY 04-05**

Dean of Students Mark Blaweiss turned the presentation over to Student Government President Cody, since the fees are essentially student self-taxes. Mr. Cody noted the proposed 4 percent increase in the activity and service fee will be used to maintain Hamilton Center operations and other services. The proposed 9.6 percent increase in health fees will be used to maintain service delivery and to support improvements to Parkview House, as well as to begin to compensate for the

impending loss of USF-Sarasota/Manatee's contribution to health fees on campus. (The Student Government is already thinking about how to secure legislative approval to raise the health fee above the mandated percentage per year once the USF contribution is terminated.) Mr. Cody explained that the proposal to authorize conversion of the "block" portion of the Athletic Fee from \$5.00 per student per semester to a "per credit hour" amount of \$0.27 (based on 36 credit hours over two semesters) will constitute a 4 percent increase, which will be used to help supplement the cost of resurfacing the Fitness Center Pool (estimated at \$53,000) and other costs associated with routine operations. Mr. Cody moved to approve the proposed increases which total an overall 5 percent increase, seconded by Gen. Mason, and the motion was approved unanimously.

#### **BOT Action on Proposed Increase in Housing Fees for FY 04-05**

Dean Blaweiss asked Director of Housing Mike Campbell and Assistant to the VP for Finance and Administration Al Gilligan, to make the presentation of the five percent across the board increase in housing fees, generating \$75,000. Dr. Campbell stated that the committee charged with reviewing the housing fees had considered the local rental market and the housing fees charged by peer institutions within the SUS, and assured the BOT that even with the proposed increases, the NCF fees would be at the lower end of both markets. Utilities have increased considerably, and maintaining a healthy auxiliary fund is necessary in order to have funds available for a new residence hall and/or the renovation of the Pei complex. Gen. Mason moved to approve the five percent increase in housing fees, seconded by Ms. Smiley. Chairman Johnson asked what it cost to live off campus and both Dr. Campbell and Dean Blaweiss assured him that the campus housing rates were far below local rental rates and those charged by state institutions in Gainesville and Tallahassee. Mr. Hudson asked what percentage of students lived off campus now; 28 percent according to Dean Blaweiss. He added that more students would be living on campus if more space was available; there was 114 percent occupancy in Fall 2003, with residence hall rooms being converted into triples. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **BOT Action on Proposed Increase in Food Service Fees for FY 04-05**

Dean Blaweiss again asked Dr. Campbell and Mr. Gilligan to again discuss this item, as it is part of their on-going food service contract negotiation with Sodexo, NCF's present food service provider. He noted that a portion of the proposed increase in the food service auxiliary fee will go to support the operation of the Four Winds Café, a very important student gathering place. While this might not make the most business sense, Four Winds Café is a critical component of student life to support and enhance. Dr. Campbell explained that the proposed fee schedule totaled five percent across the board. The various meal plan levels have been determined by ongoing negotiations with Sodexo conducted by Mr. Gilligan, a superb negotiator, who had the economy-of-scale issue working against him. Despite this handicap, the new contract, effective August 1, 2004, features several significant improvements: increased service hours, expansion of C-Store products, the addition of a full-time chef, and ongoing capital investment by Sodexo in the kitchen and serving area. Students participated in the negotiation process and the determination of fees. Apartment and Commuter fees will increase the most in terms of percentage, but the C-Store expansion will provide many more options for these students to use their additional buying power. The increased auxiliary fee will provide approximately \$12,000 annually to the Four Winds Café. Col. Presha moved to adopt the proposed five percent increase in the food service fee, seconded by Rev. Dupree. Mr. Allen wanted to discuss how the actual food service fee would affect the ambiance of the Hamilton Center, taking the student dining issues beyond the actual food served to a concern with the surrounding environment. Dean Blaweiss responded that part of the negotiations concerned upgrading the facilities to make them more attractive. Gen. Mason asked how much the increase would be per student and was reassured to hear that while the overall percentage is high, the increases would be approximately \$17 to \$20 per student. Mr. Misemer requested clarification of the C-Store (Convenience Store) location, and Dean Blaweiss responded that it is inside the north end of Hamilton Center, adjacent to the student dining area. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Other Business**

##### **Update on \$2 Million in Land Acquisition Funds**

Chairman Johnson reported that the \$2 million in land acquisition funding appears to be safely in the Governor's Supplemental Budget. He thanked the Board members who contacted the Governor when the item appeared to be in jeopardy and commented that it was always good to let the Governor know the Board is at work.

##### **BOT Action on Resolution Honoring State Representative Lindsay Harrington**

Chairman Johnson presented a Resolution acknowledging and recognizing the stalwart support and leadership of State Representative Lindsay Harrington of Punta Gorda, Speaker Pro Tempore, who has been in the Florida House of Representatives for eight years. He went to great lengths this year in the House to make sure our budgetary items were included in the final conference. His daughter Lisa is a student at New College. Mr. Misemer moved acceptance of the Resolution honoring Rep. Harrington by acclamation; it was accepted and approved unanimously. President Michalson

hastened to add that New College is not limiting its thanks and recognition to Rep. Harrington, and this sentiment was echoed by Chairman Johnson, who noted that other key legislators will be thanked appropriately in due time.

#### **Update Negotiations with USF-Sarasota/Manatee**

President Michalson reported negotiations with USF-Sarasota/Manatee over campus ownership has reached a delicate stage. The steps in the process have been the relocation agreement, followed by the footprint agreement, with the understanding that when the funding was secured for the Crosley project (or whatever relocation site is agreed upon), the next step is the devolution of the leasehold, so that NCF's BOT would assume the lease for that part of the campus identified in the footprint agreement as belonging to New College. Next week a meeting of the General Counsels, President Michalson, Dr. Stryker, and others is scheduled to take place on this issue. The USF General Counsel's office originally proposed September as the trigger date for devolution of the leasehold. They have become silent on this since Dr. Stryker got involved in the conversation. If the devolution continues on schedule, there will be no problem. However, if there are problems, President Michalson stated that he may come back to the Board regarding the overall posture of the BOT and the administration, and ask if our neutrality regarding the Crosley location remains a viable position. General Counsel Smolker added a characterization of what NCF proposed to USF-S/M, reporting that six weeks ago, NCF sent a letter to USF proposing a lease structure whereby NC would have exclusive proprietary interest on its campus footprint and USF would have the same on its footprint. Following agreement on this lease structure, there would be a bridge agreement to deal with transition issues and the ultimate sharing of facilities. He and President Michalson are still waiting to receive a response to that letter, and hoping for a positive response.

#### **Trustee Terms Expiring**

Chairman Johnson reminded the Trustees whose terms will expire in January that they need to complete and send in the Governor's Application Form for Gubernatorial Appointment, regardless of whether they were appointed by the Governor or the Board of Governors. He asked them to contact him about their interest. Mr. Misemer recommended that an official letter of thanks should be sent to former BOT Member Stephen Miles, who stepped down as Chair of the Faculty on May 17, 2004. Chairman Johnson agreed, adding that Dr. Miles was an engaged Board member who served well and made a significant contribution to the Board.

#### **Student Government Interest in Securing Legislative Approval to Raise Cap on NCF Student Fees above 5 percent**

Mr. Cody reported that the Student Government was very concerned about starting the process to obtain legislative approval to raise student fees above the statutory cap of 5 percent overall. A recent NCSA Town Meeting approved initiating the process started. Mr. Cody is eager to begin the preliminary research to secure legislative approval to exceed the statutory cap on student fees for New College next year. Chairman Johnson said they would work within the system. President Michalson thanked Bill Lawhon and Al Gilligan for their work on the tuition and fee items in the absence of the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and said they would review the fee structure with Mr. Cody.

#### **Position on Out-of-State Students**

Mr. Cody reported that the Student Affairs Committee wanted to know if a plan is being developed by the administration or by New College Foundation to compensate for the rise in out-of-state tuition and to attract more out-of-state students, stemming the downward trend of out-of-state students' enrollment over the past few years. The Student Affairs Committee is concerned about the quality of student life dropping as the percentage of out-of-state students drops. Chairman Johnson commented that it was in part an administrative issue and in part a Foundation issue; NCF competes for out-of-state students with schools that can offer far more scholarship support. Mr. Cranor stated that while it is relatively easy to raise funds for scholarships, with the state legislature mandating a hefty increase in out-of-state tuition each year, the private donor may see a request for funding to cover such increases as a tax rather than as a scholarship. President Michalson commented that in response to a statement he made in writing to BOT regarding how valuable it would be to have the 50/50 mix of in-state and out-of-state students restored, at least one Board member felt that this called for further conversation. Mr. Allen stated that he believes the premise needs to be discussed, because in his opinion, it is not part of our mandate. Chairman Johnson assured Mr. Cody that the issue of out-of-state students and their support is being discussed. He concluded the meeting by noting that New College under Mike Michalson's leadership had a great year. He thanked the administration and the Foundation, and everyone who contributed to the success of students and faculty. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Janney  
Assistant Secretary