

MINUTES
FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 12, 2026
5:00 pm, Regular Meeting
FGC Administration Building, Board Room

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the District Board of Trustees was called to order on February 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Ms. Renae Allen. Chairman Lindsey Lander and Trustee James Surrency were absent.

All votes were unanimous unless stated otherwise.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Renae Allen led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Audience of Any Citizen

Stew Lilker questioned the termination of the Introduction to Crafts course and requested a review of the LINE grant related to the Lakeshore Hospital Authority. Lastly, he recommended partnering with a medical-focused charter school.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Mr. John Medina made a motion to approve the January 8, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Ms. Suzanne Norris seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

V. Student Government Report

SGA President Brianna Sweet presented the Student Government report. Over the past few months, Student Government has hosted multiple student engagement events, beginning with a Welcome Back celebration that included lunch, personalized dog tags, and a photo booth. Additional January events included a S'mores Bar and Chocolate Dip Bar, Trivia Day, Mug Decorating, and a Hot Chocolate Bar. In February, activities included Coffee and Donuts, mask decorating for the Mardi Gras celebration, a softball fun day in partnership with Athletics, and a Build-a-Bouquet event with sweet treats. Upcoming events include the Mardi Gras parade, Waffle Wednesday and Bingo, additional trivia days, and a Talk and Snack with SGA for student feedback.

VI. Presentation of Consent Agenda

- A. *Personnel Matters
- B. *Routine Contracts and Agreements
- C. *Surplus Property
- D. *Approval of Course Changes
- E. *Approval of New Courses
- F. *Approval of Program Changes
- G. *Approval of Course Termination
- H. *Approval of Foundation Donation

- I. *Approval of Revised Policy 6Hx12:09-40, Evaluation and Award of Transfer Credit
- J. *Approval of 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

Mr. Chuck Brannon made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of items “A” through “J”. Mr. John Medina seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

VII. Academic Affairs

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kris Brady, started his report announcing that FGC has joined the Gator Tracks program through a partnership with the University of Florida. This agreement establishes a preferred transfer pathway into UF’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences for students who complete designated AA degree pathways. The college continues to explore additional opportunities to expand its agricultural offerings in response to regional workforce demand.

In Liberal Arts, the Brain Bowl team qualified for the state tournament as the fourth seed and will compete in Jacksonville in March. The debate team has also been selected to participate in Florida’s 250th celebration in Tallahassee.

The Teacher Preparation program will host a summer Educator Summit designed to provide local secondary educators with professional development and CEU credits required for certification renewal. Seventy-five teachers have already expressed interest. Additionally, faculty members were commended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children for their professional service as peer reviewers.

In Health Sciences, FGC ranked first nationally in first-time physical therapy assistant licensure pass rates, achieving a 100% pass rate according to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. The PTA fall graduate cohort also achieved a 100% pass rate. The massage therapy program received approval from the Florida Department of Health and will enroll its first cohort this fall.

In Workforce programs, the Department of Agriculture has committed to donating two box trailers and one flatbed trailer to support the CDL program, strengthening training capacity to meet regional workforce needs, particularly in forestry and logging industries.

VIII. Enrollment and Marketing

Ms. Kacey Mimbs, Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing, provided an update on divisional activities. She reported that spring headcount increased 1.5%, rising from 2,978 at this time last year to 3,024 currently. Credit hour enrollment also increased approximately 1.5%, from 27,606 hours last spring to 27,908 hours this term.

February is Financial Aid Awareness Month, with weekly events promoting FAFSA completion and the Board of Trustees Scholarship (application deadline March 2). An Open House will be held March 5th from 4:30–6:30 p.m. in the Wilson S. Rivers Library. A mass mailing was sent to high school seniors across the service region to promote both opportunities.

Enhancements to the residential student experience are underway, including the addition of a daily hot breakfast and expanded weekend engagement opportunities. Student feedback was gathered through a recent residence hall meeting and survey.

The college is finalizing its Bellwether presentation for the Community College Futures Assembly in San Antonio and looks forward to representing the institution at the upcoming conference.

IX. Business Services

Ms. Michelle Holloway, Vice-President of Business Services requested Board consideration of the following items:

A. General Information

B. * Budget Amendment Number six (6) Restricted Current Fund (Fund 2) Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Ms. Suzanne Norris made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Number six (6) Restricted Current Fund (2) Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Mr. John Medina seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. * Budget Amendment Number six (6) Capital Outlay Plan for Unexpended Plant Fund (7) Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Ms. Suzanne Norris made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Number Six (6) Capital Outlay Plan for Unexpended Plant Fund (7) Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Mr. Chuck Brannan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

X. President's Report

Dr. Barrett opened his report by announcing that FGC has been named one of 30 colleges nationally selected to compete for the Bellwether Award for its initiative, "Bridging the Gap: Turning Dual Enrollment into Full Enrollment." The program increased high school graduation rates for participating students from 14% to 33% and post-graduation continuation rates from 49% to 66%, achieved without additional funding.

The College received a \$2.5 million contribution from the Lakeshore Hospital Authority, to be matched by \$2.5 million in state funds, supporting Columbia County residents pursuing RN degrees. This represents the largest gift in the institution's history. Efforts are underway to replicate similar partnerships in other service-area counties.

Bids were received for the Tiny House project; however, final contract negotiations will be delayed pending completion of utility infrastructure. The United Way Nonprofit Leadership Conference will be hosted on campus next week. Lee Pinchouck and Dr. Barrett met with state officials regarding legislative funding requests, including \$850,000 for Randolph Building renovations and \$800,000 for ADA bathroom renovations in the Howard Center. Both projects are included in the initial House budget proposal.

Due to a mandated statewide meeting on June 11, a recommendation to reschedule the June Board meeting will be presented next month.

Finally, the President announced the hiring of Judy Tatum as Director of College Safety and Security to strengthen campus safety efforts and align with anticipated state security initiatives.

XI. Topics for Future Meetings

XII. Inspect Warrant Register

XIII. Set Time for the Next Meeting
March 12, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm / Regular Meeting
Location Regular meeting:
Florida Gateway College
149 SE College Place
Lake City, FL 32025

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm



Mr. Lindsey Lander, Chair



Dr. Lawrence Barrett, Secretary