

**HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE
DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.
BRANDON CAMPUS CONFERENCE CENTER
10451 NANCY WATKINS DRIVE
TAMPA, FL 33619**

MINUTES

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

This meeting was also held by Zoom video conferencing. The public was reminded that questions or comments can be submitted to the Trustees' email address at any time.

1.02 Invocation

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

1.04 Roll Call

The following Trustees were in attendance:

- Gregory Celestan
- Dr. Michael Garcia
- Clay Hollis
- Brian Lametto (virtual)
- Nancy Watkins
- Nicolas Castellanos

1.05 Welcome to Guests, Staff and Faculty.

Dr. Deborah Stephan welcome the Board to Brandon Campus. She introduced the Brandon Campus Leadership Team, recognized the Public Safety and Facilities team and introduced the Student Government Association Leadership Team. She gave an overview of the Campus including the Zero Textbook Cost Project, AI Faculty Professional Development, Pre Health Society, and the Hawk Run Event, which is in its 10th year. She also highlighted three new programs: TECO Line Workers Program, Massage Therapy & Fin Tech Program, which was named 2025 Tampa Bay Inno Award Honoree. Dr. Stephan invited Faculty members to the podium to present the initiative "GRIT" to the Board. The program focuses on getting students involved, hopeful and assured of their success.

1.06 Foundation Report

Garrett Weddle, Executive Director for the Foundation, provided the Board with a brief update of the Hillsborough College Foundation activities and support.

1.06.01 The Foundation Report was sent to the Board under separate cover and included:

- New gifts and commitments \$1.3M (July and August). 174% increase over last year's YTD total (\$473K).

1.06.02 Highlights:

- Fall 2025 scholarships awarded to 724 students for total amount of over \$1M
- Current net assets \$26.8M

1.06.03 Events:

- Scholarship Partner's Luncheon, September 25, 2025 @JCC
- Hillsborough College Fishing Tournament, October 13, 2025 @ Hula Bay
- Hillsborough College Golf Tournament, November 24, 2025 @Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club
- BBCB, March 4-7, 2025 @ Tampa Bay Convention Center

1.07 Faculty, Staff and Student Recognitions

Angela Eveillard, Executive Director of Marketing, provided the following faculty, staff and student recognitions:

- 1.07.01 **Shirley Dobbins**, Brandon Campus Engineering Technology Faculty and Department Chair, coordinated and participated in the workshop "Implications of Artificial Intelligence for Educators" – from the National Cybersecurity Training & Education Center.
- 1.07.02 **Garrett Weddle** was selected for the 2026 Class of Leadership Tampa Bay.
- 1.07.03 HC was awarded a \$393,366 **TRIO Student Support Services** grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide academic and personal support services that promote persistence, graduation, and transfer for first-generation, low-income, and disabled students.
- 1.07.04 HC also received \$1,598,823 through the **Perkins V Postsecondary Career and Technical Education** program to enhance career and technical education programs, upgrade equipment and technology, and support faculty development to meet workforce needs.
- 1.07.05 The Florida College System Activities Association named **sixty-two Hillsborough College students to the 2024-2025 All-Academic team.**
- 1.07.06 Instructional Designer, **Meegan Derrick's** paper entitled *Cosmic Horror & Digital Learning: What Lovecraft Can Teach Us About Online Education* was selected as a presidential selection for the Association for Educational Communications & Technology conference.

- 1.08 The Chair recommended adoption of the agenda, all revisions to the agenda and approval of all agenda items marked "**Consent.**"

Trustee Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

- 1.09 The President recommended approval of the **August 27, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.**

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Watkins. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

2.0 HEARING OF STUDENTS

3.0 HEARING OF CITIZENS

4.0 HEARING OF FACULTY AND STAFF

5.0 HUMAN RESOURCES

- 5.01 The President recommended Board approval of individuals for **full-time employment**. These individuals will be compensated in accordance with the Board-approved Salary Schedule.
- 5.02 The President recommended Board approval of **part-time faculty and staff employment** recommendations for Term **25/FA**. Each part-time employee will be compensated in accordance with the Board-approved Salary Schedule.
- 5.03 The President recommended Board acknowledgment of **employment separations**.

6.0 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & STUDENT SERVICES

- 6.01 The President recommended Board approval of **the course fee effective Spring 2026**, unless otherwise noted.

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Watkins. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

- 7.01 The President recommended Board **acceptance of the annual audit of the Hillsborough College Foundation, Inc. for the fiscal year 2024-2025**.

Trustee Hollis made a motion to accept, seconded by Trustee Garcia. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.

8.0 FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 8.01 The President recommended Board approval of **the carryforward spending plan**.
Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Watkins. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.
- 8.02 The President recommended Board approval of **Budget Amendment number 2 to decrease Fund 1** (current unrestricted fund) and to **increase Fund 7** (unexpended Plant Fund).

Trustee Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Hollis. After due discussion and consideration, approval was given by aye vote of all members present.
- 8.03 Information Only – **July 2025 & August 2025 Financial Reports**

9.0 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- 9.01 The President gave an update on the survey results regarding the rebranding process and new name of the college.

Discussion ensued about the Colleges new name of "Hillsborough College" vs. "Hillsborough State College." The Chair recommended that the President compile a list of the processes and cost that would be involved to re-visit another name change through state approval.

{memo outlining process was sent to Board members on 10/6/25}

10.0 LEGAL REPORT

- 10.01 In the absence of Board counsel, Trustee Celestan shared the results of the President's Annual Evaluation as well as some of the comments that were submitted by the Trustees. The President thanked the Board for their confidence and trust in him. He also thanked the leadership of the Hillsborough College team. He is proud to be part of the team and share in the successes for Hillsborough College. The Chair thanked the President for his leadership.

11.0 HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS

- 11.01 Student Trustee Castellanos shared some feedback that he has received from the student body regarding the name change. He also shared how happy he is to be serving as Student Trustee and be representing all Hillsborough College students.
- 11.02 Trustee Celestan thanked Dr. Stephan and the Brandon campus team for their hospitality hosting the Board.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.