

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College met on Tuesday, March 20, 2026, at the St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus, Conference Center, 9200 113th Street, Seminole, FL. The following Board members were present: Chair Jason Butts, Vice Chair Katie Cole, Thomas Kidwell and Danielle Marolf. Absent (excused): Trustee Franz. Also present was Tonjua Williams, President of St. Petersburg College and Secretary to the Board of Trustees. Proof of public notice of this meeting is included as part of these minutes. Notices were duly posted.

NOTICE OF MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

The Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College will hold a public meeting to which all persons are invited, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2026, at the St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus, Conference Center, 9200 113th Street, Seminole, FL. The meeting will be held for the purpose of considering routine business of the College; however, there are no rules being presented for adoption or amendment at this meeting.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained within seven (7) days of the meeting on the [SPC Board of Trustees website](#) at www.spcollege.edu, or by calling the Board Clerk at (727) 341-3241.

Members of the public are given the opportunity to provide public comment at meetings of the Board of Trustees concerning matters and propositions on the agenda for discussion and Board action. At the Board meeting, in advance of the time for public comment on the agenda, individuals desiring to speak shall submit a registration card to the Board Clerk, Ms. Rebecca Brown, at the staff table. Policy and procedures regarding public comment can be found on the [SPC Board of Trustees website](#) at www.spcollege.edu

If any person wishes to appeal a decision made with respect to any matter considered by the Board, he or she will need a record of the proceedings. It is the obligation of such person to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made. Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting is asked to advise the agency five business days before the meeting by contacting the Board Clerk at 727-341-3241. If you are planning to attend the meeting and are hearing impaired, please contact the agency five business days before the meeting by calling 727-791-2422 (V/TTY) or 727-474-1907 (VP).

In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the following Agenda was prepared:



ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 24, 2026
SPC Seminole Campus (Conference Center)
9200 113th Street N
Seminole, FL

SPECIAL MEETING: 9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Invocation
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. RECOGNITIONS/COMMENTS

- A. SPC Spotlights
 - Trustee Emeritus – Mr. Deveron Gibbons
 - New Dean of Dual Enrollment Programs – Dr. Raquel Hairston
- B. Retirements
 - Ms. Kara Schrader-Smith (*Attending*)
- C. Board of Trustees
 - Chair
 - Trustees
- D. General Counsel

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board of Trustees' Meeting February 17, 2026 (*Action*)

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT Pursuant to §286.0105 FS*

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Student Life and Leadership Leadership Tallahassee Trip: 2026 – Dr. Mark Strickland Vice President of Student Success, Mr. Charleston Fritts, Student Life and Leadership

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Coordinator, St. Pete/Gibbs Campus and Mr. Giancarlo Gonzalez, Clearwater Campus Student

(Presentation)

Workforce at SPC – Ms. Belinthia Berry, Dean, Workforce Development and Corporate Partnership *(Presentation)*

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. OLD BUSINESS **(items previously considered but not finalized)** - NONE

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Human Resources

i. Personnel Report *(Action)*

ii. Faculty Annual Recommendations *(Action)*

b. Naming Opportunities

i. Educational Studies and Community Leadership Program *(Action)*

ii. Public Safety Facility *(Action)*

2. GRANTS/RESTRICTED FUNDS CONTRACTS

a. Lumina Foundation - Great Admissions Redesign *(Action)*

VII. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Direct Support Organization

1. Institute for Strategic Policy and Solutions *(Informational)*

2. St. Petersburg College Foundation *(Informational)*

B. Palladium at St. Petersburg College *(Informational)*

C. Leepa Rattner Museum of Art *(Informational)*

D. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 College General Operating Budget Report with Tuition Revenue *(Informational)*

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE AND SITE

April 21, 2026, SPC Clearwater Campus, ES 104

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees welcomes public comments during its regular monthly meetings. Any person or group wishing to make public comments must complete a “Public Comment Card.” Procedures for making public comments are as follows:

1. Complete Public Comment card including your name, address, telephone number and agenda item number referring to the purpose of your public comment.
2. Prior to the start of the Board of Trustees Meeting, submit the completed card to the Board of Trustees Clerk. Comment Cards will not be accepted at any other time during the meeting.
3. When your name is called, approach the podium with the microphone, and state your name and address for the record.
4. Comments are limited to three minutes. This is the opportunity for people to make public comments regarding an agenda item prior to the approval of the agenda item.

Student appeals for grades or discipline issues are not heard by the St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees. Students wishing to file an appeal are referred to the SPC Board of Trustee Procedure P6Hx23-4.36.

Any person(s) not adhering to the Board’s guidelines or who make comments which could be perceived as slanderous or disruptive may be barred from making future comments before the Board.

Items summarized on the agenda may not contain full information regarding the matter being considered. Further information regarding these items may be obtained by calling the Board Clerk at (727) 341-3241.

***No packet enclosure**

Under Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was convened by Chair Butts at 9:03 a.m. The invocation was given by Chair Butts and was immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Under Item II – Recognitions/Comments

- A. SPC Spotlights
 - Trustee Emeritus – Mr. Deveron Gibbons
 - New Dean of Dual Enrollment Programs – Dr. Raquel Hairston
- B. Retirements
 - Ms. Kara Schrader-Smith (*Attending*)
- C. Board of Trustees

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

▪ Chair

Chair Butts applauded Jesse and his team for a successful Donors & Scholars luncheon, noting that a lot of students have heartwarming stories to share and that the event is a testament to what SPC really means. He provided an update on LRMA:

- Received the final distribution of the Helen Gilbert endowment, \$76,000K.
- LRMA organized two events: VIP reception with visiting Japanese artists in February; And planning the 25th anniversary gala fundraiser on February 6, 2027, part of the Foundation's Pathway to Better campaign leading up to SPC's 100th anniversary.
- Trustee Franz will be assigned the Palladium as board representative. He asked Trustee Marolf to take on Leepa Rattner Museum of Art so he can join the President's Council. Trustee Marolf agreed.

▪ Trustees

Trustee Kidwell shared the success of the Donors and Scholars luncheon and thanked the team, and that after this meeting is a Jabil gift for workforce training and smart lab.

Trustee Marolf reported that she attended Donors and Scholars luncheon for the first time, and was inspired most by the student's remarks, which were a powerful testimony to SPC, her coaches, and donors who helped her in difficult circumstances.

Trustee Cole reiterated the positive comments about the luncheon and provided an update about ISPS:

- Earth week is at the end of April.
- Isps is hosting an annual cleanup on the Sunshine Skyway bridge on April 22nd.
- April 23rd is the Mayor's luncheon, where sustainability and environmental concerns will be discussed.

D. General Counsel

Ms. Mia Conza reported about the meeting on February 26th for annual conversation reopeners and that additional sessions will be scheduled as the legislature finalizes its budget.

Under Item III, Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting of the Board of Trustees of St. Petersburg College were presented by the Chair for approval. Trustee Cole moved approval of the minutes. Trustee Marolf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Item IV, Public Comments

None

Under Item V – President’s Report

Dr. Williams provided the following report:

- Vet tech students went to Ireland and made a huge impact. That program is growing by leaps and bounds.
- We’re on the Way team hosted a NextGen leaders program with 80 middle school students for a one-day experience about technology and leadership.
- Donors and Scholars lunch was well-attended by trustees and Foundation board leaders. SPC students carry a lot of cargo and challenges; the story told was just one. People have called since to say they want to give to help the students.

Student Life and Leadership Leadership Tallahassee Trip: 2026 – Dr. Mark Strickland Vice President of Student Success, Mr. Charleston Fritts, Student Life and Leadership Coordinator, St. Pete/Gibbs Campus and Mr. Giancarlo Gonzalez, Clearwater Campus Student (*Presentation*)

Dr. Strickland shared that students are able to manage millions of dollars in student activity fees and mentor students.

Mr. Charleston Fritts shared about himself: Earned a Bachelor’s in Business Administration in 2018; initially a 3 C student: car, class, car; then was invited to a conference, which opened his eyes to a different side of college beyond just the classroom. He then shared his experience in Tallahassee:

- Took 24 students to Tallahassee, including women’s basketball team members
- Met state-elected officials and aides
- Celebrated the U.S. 250th birthday
- Fostered fellowship and built lifelong connections

Mr. Giancarlo Gonzalez shared about himself: A U.S. Army Veteran; earned his Bachelor’s in Business in 2012, graduated from the police academy; he is a student veteran advocate. He then shared his experience in Tallahassee:

- Highlight: Hearing from Michele Rayner, who made leadership seem more attainable.
- Key takeaway: The importance of storytelling. To help decision makers better understand policy impact on students’ lives.
- The trip strengthened his confidence as a student leader.
- He is grateful for the support SPC provides to veterans.

Dr. Williams thanked Jesse, Melissa, Belinthia and the team for their work to expand and improve workforce partnerships, many of which led to funding and today’s Jabil event.

Workforce at SPC – Ms. Belinthia Berry, Dean, Workforce Development and Corporate Partnership (*Presentation*)

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Dean Berry presented the impacts and outcomes of Workforce Development 2024-2025:

- Thanked Dr. Williams and her own team.
- Mission: Deliver innovative training that advances the talent pipeline for in demand, high-wage jobs; to become the #1 institution for workforce education in Florida.
- Workforce Development is a strategy for regional growth, not just a program.
- Program enrollment 24-25: 875 students served in short-term training enrollment; 1,375 students served in continuing education; 727 total internships; 34% decrease in short-term training enrollment, leading to the restructuring happening now.
- Articulations & certifications: 1,054 student articulations; 3,695 articulations credits awarded, 1,010 industry credential types (SPC is leading the State); 729 CAPE specific credentials; developed articulation dashboard.
- Thanked IR team for their partnership developing dashboards to monitor KPIs in real-time.
- Launching new and enhanced programs this summer and Fall 2026, then Spring 2027; responsive and aligned to high demand, high wage careers.
- Gave a student testimonial about a 50-ish year old student in soldering program, who praised the lab.
- Financial standing: Strong performance and ROI. \$958,000 total program revenue, \$16 million grants FY24-26, \$3.65 million corporate/private donations FY24-26
- State's Open Door Program has allowed opportunities for students.
- She shared the robust network of partners across the region; 955 total new company connections FY24-25.
- Workforce Pell: 33 eligible programs, 7 master credential list.
- Many programs meeting/exceeding 70% completion benchmark.
- What's next: scale, alignment, and impact.

Chair Butts indicated this is the future of SPC and what folks will be looking to higher education for. He congratulated the team. He asked about turning the 955 total new connections in 24-25 into partnerships and if there is a dashboard to look at that.

Dean Berry indicated there is an internal system that automates the process from prospect, advocate, to premier (more than three engagements with SPC). The team is working out kinks, it's live, and it provides support real-time the collective efforts.

Dr. Williams noted the dashboard will help understand who's talking to whom, to prevent multiple contacts to the same individual and to foster additional conversations.

Chair Butts noted that finding new partnerships is key, but maximizing those already created is better because they'll spread the word to other leaders. He asked what is being done to push, educate awareness for students to get into these programs, noting that some numbers looked low.

Dean Berry replied that it's marketing, partnering with Pinellas Economic Development to get the word out, and working to strengthen workforce advisory committee. The team is creating a reward system so companies have "I hired a Titan" on the wall to market the message of hiring a graduate.

Dr. Williams shared that she is knee deep in this, noting that SPC should have its own employment office and will get it, to build relationships. There are no colleges with their own employment agency/office where students can go and get the job. By partnering with them and creating the curriculum, the employer knows they have the correct skills. The goal post has been moved again on higher education. SPC's own employment agency will assure students get those high wage paying jobs.

Trustee Cole noted that this started with the board eight years ago looking at the numbers. Workforce Development was in the red. Andrea and her team had built the Collaborative Labs. This took such buy-in and selfless leadership; an example to the College family. Student numbers are lower because it's so intentional. She congratulated everyone involved.

Dr. Williams discussed the legislative update:

- She went to D.C. with Melissa Gonzalez.
- Met with Henry Mack, Department of Labor, gave great insight and invited to the SPC employment office.
- Met with Department of Education to find out about Workforce Pell metrics.
- Did not see any legislators.
- Florida was a big topic with the D.C. team.
- Upcoming meetings will be via Zoom.
- Florida session ended with no budget approved. SPC is still on both sides of the House for all legislative asks.
- Seeking SPC license plate for 100th year.
- Legislators are reconvening this week or next for special session.
- In the upcoming year, SPC will spend time with teams to look at legislative requests to ensure the College is asking for right things with a new group, getting an earlier start with summer visits.
- If a budget is approved before SPC does its budget, it will remain and be updated.
- Next week: Student affairs will have spring training Friday, focus on embracing AI and flexibility and innovation; April 10th is a presentation at Point Brittany Condos about Pathway to Better; April 13th she is flying to Chicago with others to participate in a hearing for SPC to join HLC accreditation group; April 15th: BOT and Foundation board reception at Palladium, followed by Palladium Chamber Series; April 16th: Chancellor Hebda to visit SPC.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Under Item VI – A, Old Business

NONE

Under VI-B, New Business

The Board considered Items VI – B.1a – VI – B.2a Trustee Kidwell moved approval. Trustee Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Human Resources

- i. Personnel Report (*Action*)
- ii. Faculty Annual Recommendations (*Action*)

b. Naming Opportunities

- i. Educational Studies and Community Leadership Program (*Action*)
- ii. Public Safety Facility (*Action*)

2. GRANTS/RESTRICTED FUNDS CONTRACTS

- a. Lumina Foundation - Great Admissions Redesign (*Action*)

Under VII, Informational Reports

The following informational reports were acknowledged:

A. Direct Support Organization

1. Institute for Strategic Policy and Solutions (*Informational*)
2. St. Petersburg College Foundation (*Informational*)

B. Palladium at St. Petersburg College (*Informational*)

C. Leepa Rattner Museum of Art (*Informational*)

D. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 College General Operating Budget Report with Tuition Revenue (*Informational*)

Under Item VIII, Next Meeting Date and Location

The Board confirmed its next meeting date and location as Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:00 a.m., at the SPC Clearwater Campus

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the Board, Chair Butts adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Tonjua Williams, Ph.D.
Secretary, Board of Trustees
St. Petersburg College
FLORIDA

Jason Butts
Chairman, Board of Trustees
St. Petersburg College
FLORIDA