



**THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE
REGULAR MEETING**

Minutes

May 9, 2024

Valencia College – East Campus
Building 8, Room 101
and
Zoom Meeting

Members Present

Ms. Beth Smith, Chair
Mr. Michael Sasso, Vice Chair
Mr. Angel de la Portilla
Mr. John Davis (via Zoom)
Ms. Daisy Lopez-Cid
Mr. John Martinez
Ms. Tracey Stockwell

Dr. Kathleen Plinske, Secretary of the Board and President of the College

Call to Order

Chair Smith called the Regular Meeting of the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College to order at 9:31 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes
March 14, 2024
Regular Meeting**

Vice Chair Sasso moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 14, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

Dr. Plinske thanked the Board members who participated in the Spring Commencement ceremonies, held Sunday, May 5, 2024, 12 p.m., and 4 p.m., at the UCF Additional Financial Arena. Dr. Plinske stated that a total of 3,200 graduates earned degrees this Spring, and 1,900 attended the

ceremonies. Dr. Plinske stated that among those who completed a degree from Valencia this Spring, 2,350 students earned Associate in Arts degrees, and 311 of these degrees were earned by dual enrollment students. Additionally, 525 students earned associate in science degrees, and 300 students earned baccalaureate degrees.

Dr. Plinske reported that the Osceola County college-going rate has increased dramatically, and now ranks fourth in the state for college attendance by graduating high school seniors.

Dr. Plinske announced that Valencia was selected by the US Department of Labor to receive a \$1.5 million grant, to offer the College's YouthBuild Program in Orange County. The College has offered this program in Osceola County since 2017, to educate and empower students by building a sustainable pathway to a better career through GED programs.

Dr. Plinske shared that Valencia recently redesigned its workforce programs to align each of the College's associate in science degrees, baccalaureate degrees, and Accelerated Skills Training programs within a discipline-specific "School" structure, which offers articulated program groupings and pathways in Schools of:

- Arts, Entertainment, and Design
- Business, Accounting, and Management
- Computer Science, Engineering, Logistics, and Applied Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Hospitality, Tourism, and Culinary Arts
- Public Service and Legal Studies

Dr. Plinske thanked Mr. Joe Battista, Vice President, Workforce, Career and Professional Education, Dr. Yolanda Brown, Provost, Workforce Education, and Ms. Traci Bjella, Chief Marketing Officer, for their work in this regard.

Dr. Plinske provided a summary of the 2024 Annual College's Affordability Report, which was distributed to the Board.

Faculty Association Report

Dr. Jennifer Lawhon, President, Faculty Association, shared the pride, joy, and sense of accomplishment exhibited by the Spring 2024 graduating students.

Dr. Lawhon thanked Valencia's faculty and staff for their great work.

Student Government Association Report

Mr. Andres Perez, Outgoing SGA President, Mr. Fritzon Louis, Outgoing SGA Vice President, and Ms. Lourdes Lopez, Outgoing SGA Executive Secretary, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. The report included the 2023-24 SGA initiative highlights. Mr. Perez announced

that Ms. Aliza Jessani will step in as Incoming SGA President for 2024-2025.

The outgoing SGA leaders thanked the Board for their support.

The Board thanked the outgoing SGA leaders for their thoughtful contributions and leadership.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

New Business

1. Institutional General Education Course Offerings: Dr. Isis Artze-Vega, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Artze-Vega stated that, as discussed with the Board at the December 7, 2023 Regular meeting, given the recent adoption by the State Board of Education of Rule 6A-14.0303, which implements new statutory requirements (ss.1007.24, 1007.25 and 1007.55, F.S.) enacted during the 2023 legislative session, each Florida College System institution board of trustees and president must annually review and approve, at a public meeting, the courses offered by the institution that meet general education course requirements.

The Board has recommended that the College observe certain principles in its review of institutional general education courses, in developing recommendations for the Board's review and approval, as follows:

- Reduce the number of institutional general education courses offered, with particular attention on current Valencia institutional general education courses that are offered by fewer than 10 other Florida College System institutions/State Universities.
- Ensure that Valencia's institutional general education course offerings reflect the broad, survey nature of general education, avoiding niche or boutique courses, with a focus on preparing students for success in the workforce and in baccalaureate programs.
- Ensure that Valencia's institutional general education course offerings meet the course standards outlined in 1007.25 F.S. and other requirements outlined in applicable law.
- Consider courses that most other FCS/SUS institutions offer in the review and updating of Valencia's institutional general education course offerings.

Twenty-eight (28) institutional general education courses are being recommended for approval by the Board, representing a 44% reduction in the number of institutional general education course options as currently

offered by the College; and 96% of the recommended institutional general education courses (27 of 28) are also offered at 10 or more Florida College System institutions/State Universities.

Following discussion, Mr. de la Portilla moved to approve the institutional general education courses as recommended and presented, for submission to the State Articulation Coordinating Committee, leading to final consideration and approval of the State Board of Education. Ms. Lopez-Cid seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Artze-Vega thanked the Ad Hoc General Education Committee Co-Chairs, Dr. Cheryl Robinson, Director, Curriculum and Articulation, Dr. Wendy Givoglu, Provost, Downtown and Winter Park Campuses, and their teams.

2. **2024-2025 Operating Budget Framework:** Mr. Cristancho Mercado, Chief Financial Officer, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. He noted that once again, the recommended framework did not provide for any increase in student tuition or fees. Following discussion, Mr. de la Portilla moved to approve the 2024-2025 Operating Budget Framework, as presented. The budget will be presented for formal approval at the District Board of Trustees Regular meeting on June 20, 2024. Ms. Stockwell seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The Board thanked Mr. Cristancho Mercado, and his team, for their work.

3. **Continuing Contracts:** Dr. Artze-Vega presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Dr. Artze-Vega referred to the list of continuing contract candidates being presented to the Board for consideration and how their performance as continuing contract candidates correlated with the performance criteria established in Board policy. She provided a detailed review of Valencia's rigorous five-year process for awarding continuing contracts to eligible full-time faculty members. Dr. Artze-Vega reported that to become eligible to be considered for the award of a continuing contract, a full-time faculty member first must prepare and submit a portfolio determined to be acceptable by the College in accordance with standards, requirements, and procedures established for the College's Teaching and Learning Academy (TLA) and:

- Complete at least five (5) years of satisfactory service at Valencia College, based on the criteria established by the College, during a period not more than seven (7) years.
- Receive the recommendation of the President and approval by the District Board of Trustees based on successful performance of

duties, demonstration of professional competence pursuant to Valencia policies and procedures, and the needs of the College.

Following a full discussion, Mr. Sasso moved to approve the award of continuing contracts, as recommended, and presented. M. Martinez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Sasso and seconded by Mr. Martinez to consider, accept, and approve items 4, thru 14 under New Business in the manner of a consent agenda. The Board unanimously approved the following items under New Business in the consent agenda, as recommended:

- 4. 2024-2025 Board Meeting Schedule**
- 5. 2024-2025 College Catalog**
- 6. Lab Exhaust System Removal and Installation, West Campus, AHS Building**
- 7. Expansion of Robotics and Semiconductor Technician Program**
- 8. Robotics and Semiconductor Clean Room Expansion**
- 9. Diamond Turning Lathe for Precision Optics**
- 10. Nursing Simulation Management Platform**
- 11. Fire Alarm Control Panel Upgrades**
- 12. Instructure Canvas Learning Management System**
- 13. Additions, Deletions or Modifications of Courses and Programs**
- 14. Property Deletion**

Reports

Chair Smith stated that the following report items are detailed in the written materials, which have been distributed to the Board:

A. Financial Report

C. Legislative Implementation Report

B. Valencia College Foundation Report: Ms. Tracey Stockwell, Board Representative to the Valencia College Foundation Board of Directors, presented the report, which was distributed to the Board. Ms. Stockwell stated that the Valencia College Foundation Strategic Plan was approved at the Foundation's Board of Directors meeting held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Ms. Stockwell provided several highlights discussed by members of the Board of Directors during the meeting, as follows:

- Support a more robust fundraising,
- Activate a major gifts program, and an alumni program, to better support teaching and learning at the College, and
- Develop a "case for support" statement, to help the Valencia College Foundation Board understand the needs of the College, and provide key talking points for potential discussions with

donors.

Dr. Plinske announced that the Valencia College Foundation confirmed the selection of Ms. Carlee Thomas, an experienced and skilled advancement professional, to serve as Executive Director of the Valencia College Foundation.

Dr. Plinske thanked Ms. Angela Mendolaro, Chief Philanthropy Officer, Mr. Michael Herrera, Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, and their team, for their work with PepsiCo. Dr. Plinske stated that Valencia has been selected to participate in the Uplift Scholarship program for a third year and is one of only twenty community colleges in the program.

Board Comments

The Board congratulated the Valencia’s Spring 2024 graduates, and thanked Valencia’s leadership team, faculty, and staff for their excellent work.

Adjourn

Chair Smith adjourned the Regular Meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Secretary

Chair