



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

A Report of the FJC District Board of Trustees Meeting

Three-term contract to be reviewed by FJC Board, staff and Faculty Senate

A proposed standard three-term contract for full-time faculty at Florida Junior College at Jacksonville (FJC) will be reviewed by the College administration and the Faculty Senate before final action is taken by the FJC District Board of Trustees. The proposal was brought before the trustees at their MARCH 16, 1983 MEETING but was withdrawn by FJC President Dr. Benjamin R. Wygal for further study, including discussions with the Faculty Senate, a workshop for the trustees, and a further public hearing before the trustees. A number of faculty members appeared at the March 16 session to protest the proposal. Current policy provides a standard two-term contract and allows faculty to choose to teach all four terms each academic year regardless of the needs of the College. The proposed policy would make three terms the standard contract but would leave the trustees free to "elect to vary the number of terms to meet the needs and best interests of the College." Written justification for the proposal stated it would "base instructional personnel needs on student demand." Executive Vice-President Charles O. Ferguson told the Board that a change in FJC's funding has brought a 7.1 percent loss in full-time equivalent student enrollment since 1980-81 and that this and other funding reductions forced the administration to make the three-term proposal. He said FJC is the only community college in Florida allowing faculty members to elect terms of employment. He added that other options — closing the College for a month during the summer or a "reduction in force" — had been considered but that FJC's administration does not favor a reduction in the number of faculty employed by the College. Dr. Wygal

said the proposed policy is based on "student needs rather than faculty availability."

FJC Trustees favor local control

After attending a legislative workshop earlier in the day, the FJC trustees unanimously adopted position statements on issues regarding governance of the state's community colleges which will be considered by the Florida Legislature at the 1983 regular session. On the subject of the authority invested in local boards of trustees, the FJC Board favored legislation that would ensure that: the principle of local control is protected at the state level, the full authority to approve programs remains with the District Boards of Trustees, full responsibility for selection and appointment of a President remains with the District Boards of Trustees, and that the full authority to suspend a community college President remains with the District Boards of Trustees. On the subject of the comprehensive mission of the community college, the FJC Board favored legislation to: give to adult education, when assigned to a community college, the status of a primary component of the mission; protect adequate funding for adult education where assigned to community colleges, and establish by statute that Community Instructional Services and recreation and leisure services hold the status of primary components of the mission. On remedial education, the FJC Board favored legislation to ensure that: remedial (developmental) education for adult students is a primary component of the mission, and students' needs are met when the assignment of responsibilities is transferred to district school boards in 1990. Regarding the State Community College Coordinating Board, the FJC trustees favored legislation to: strengthen the Coordinating Board and ensure that it

remains a coordinating board and does not become a governing board.

Four-day workweek set for May 2 - August 19

A modified 36-hour, four-day workweek for the Spring and Summer terms, to begin Monday, May 2 and end Friday, August 19, was approved by the FJC trustees, contingent upon approval of the Florida Commissioner of Education. Dr. Wygal said the recommendation for the four-day workweek is based on cost savings realized during four-day workweeks observed in 1981 and 1982. Normal working hours for FJC during the modified week will be 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. Monday through Thursday.

Dr. Wygal reappointed as FJC's President

Personnel actions by the Board were highlighted by reappointment of Dr. Wygal as FJC's President, a position he has held since 1970. The Board also directed that a resolution be drawn in memory of Dr. Chandra Sharma, FJC Professor of Science who died February 26 following a lengthy illness. During the invocation at the meeting's outset, a special moment of silent prayer was observed for Dr. Sharma. Six resignations of faculty members for the purpose of retirement were accepted by the trustees. They are John G. Joca, Professor-Counselor, Downtown Campus; Richard C. Gesell, Professor of Business, South Campus; Betty Anne Carter, Professor of Remedial Education at the South Campus; Allen G. Park, Professor of Mathematics, Kent Campus; Stewart W. Price, Professor of Construction Electricity, Downtown Campus, and Frank Gusky, Professor of Social Studies/High School Credit, Downtown Campus. Also accepted was the resignation of Professor Melissa F. Worthington, who is moving from Jacksonville.