

RULE

Subject	Public Comment at Board Meetings	Number: 6HX14-1.043
Authority	F.S. 286.0114	Date: 10/23/13
History	New	
Source	President	

Pursuant to Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on any proposition coming before the District Board of Trustees. In order to maintain orderly conduct and proper decorum during Board meetings, the Board adopts the following guidelines to accommodate speakers.

SIGN-IN SHEETS. Any member of the public who desires to be heard on a proposition coming before the Board shall complete a form to be provided by the College and made available prior to the beginning of the meeting at a table designated for that purpose. The speaker will provide his or her name, the name of any person, group or entity on whose behalf the speaker is speaking, the specific proposition the speaker intends to address, and whether the speaker supports, opposes or is neutral regarding the proposition.

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME; ORDER OF SPEAKERS. A time for public comment will be placed on the Board's agenda at the beginning of every meeting. The forms submitted by speakers will be collected prior to the beginning of each meeting and be given to the Board Chair. Speakers will generally be heard in the order the forms are collected or received, but the Board Chair shall have the authority to arrange the order of speakers in any manner deemed appropriate for the orderly conduct of the meeting. Speakers will be limited to the public comment time specified on the Board's agenda, and extemporaneous comments by the public shall not be permitted during other portions of the meeting.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS. In the event that multiple representatives of a group or faction desire to address the board on the same topic at a meeting where a large number of individuals wish to be heard, the Board Chair may ask the primary representative of the group or faction to designate a maximum of three individuals to speak on behalf of all members. In the event there is no primary representative and the members of the group or faction cannot agree among themselves who shall be the designated speakers, the Board Chair shall select three members at random and limit comment by the members of the group or faction to the three individuals selected.

MANNER OF ADDRESSING THE BOARD – TIME LIMIT: Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address in an audible tone of voice for the record and, unless further time is granted by the Board, shall limit his/her address to three (3) minutes with the

Board Chair having the right to extend an additional minute of time. The Board Chair may serve as timekeeper, or designate another person to do so. All remarks shall be addressed to the Board as a body, and not to any member thereof. No person, other than members of the Board and the person having the floor, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through the members of the Board. When requested by any member of the Board the President, as well as staff, may enter into any discussion. No questions shall be asked of the Board, except through the presiding officer. The President may ask the Chair for permission to speak at any time.

EXCEPTIONS. The Board may take action without allowing public comment for any matter related to:

(a) An emergency situation affecting the public health, welfare, or safety, if allowing public comment would cause an unreasonable delay in the ability of the Board to act;

(b) An official act involving no more than a ministerial act, including, but not limited to, approval of minutes and ceremonial proclamations;

(c) A meeting that is exempt from Section 286.011, Florida Statutes; or

(d) A meeting during which the Board is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity.