



SJECCD Foundation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 26, 2009, 12:00 p.m.
Evergreen Valley Community College Campus
Appi Mishra Room

MINUTES

Directors Present: Barbara Avery, Frank Greene, Autumn Gutierrez, Jeff Fischer, Neil Struthers, Monica Zent, Rosa Pérez

Directors Absent: Carl Cilker, Randy Okamura, Balbir Dhillon, Ron Root

Also Present: Carole Cassidy, Barbara Rodriguez, Denise Willis

I. Call to Order

Noting that there was no quorum present, President Jeff Fischer announced at 12:28 that the board could proceed with information items until more board members arrive. Mr. Fischer also announced that the closed session will be moved to the end of the agenda.

II. Chancellor's Comments

Chancellor Pérez reported on the final state budget and the economic impact on the campuses: the District is struggling. She does not support the proposal of doubling fees, which go to the state and not the colleges. She spoke of the engagement of students in advocacy efforts, including a trip to Sacramento and a fast in support of the DREAM Act. She pointed out the value of students learning how to participate in political issues like these as training for later community action.

Chancellor Pérez reported that Mayra Cruz was appointed to fill the vacancy on the District Board of Trustees left by Autumn Gutierrez. Eight very qualified people submitted credentials as candidates and it was gratifying to see the high degree of interest in San José for service to the colleges. Mayra is the Founder and Director of the Institute of Community and Civic Engagement (ICCE) at De Anza College. She is a very strong addition.

Chancellor Pérez announced that an instructor and a counselor have been hired for the new Umoja program at San José City College to work intensively with African-American students. Umoja is similar to the AFFIRM program at Evergreen Valley College.

She discussed the recognition generated by the formation of the new California Construction College. The Mayor's office contacted Rosa regarding the development of clean and solar technology programs; the District hopes to become the city's Sole Education Partner for green and solar technology and to partner with the City on other workforce initiatives as well. She also discussed the new Federal funding for job training and workforce development.

Mr. Greene endorsed her comments and felt that the Foundation should develop messaging in support of training for new jobs. His vision was that demonstrating the District's focus on workforce training would appeal to many potential donors. Mr. Struthers stated that he and Kathy Werle, SJCC Dean of Applied Science, Technology and Physical Education, have been in contact with Congressman Honda regarding the second round of stimulus appropriations for the Construction College.

Chancellor Pérez spoke of the leading, but often unrecognized role of the colleges in workforce training and the need for recognition that a four-year bachelor's degree was not open to or appropriate for all youth in our region. She mentioned the historic reluctance in education to "track" people of color into workforce training programs and away from bachelor's degree programs and discussed how challenging it is to reshape attitudes on that issue, even though many workforce programs can lead to business ownership and a rewarding career. She closed her remarks by noting that City and Evergreen lower-division general education class sections are filled to overflowing with students who have been denied admission to CSU or UC universities due to admission caps, and also with people who have been laid off and see education as the route to a new career.

III. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Cassidy and Chancellor Pérez attended the Silicon Valley Community Foundation Women's Donor Circle along with two students on March 25. Members of the Donor Circle were deeply interested in the Chancellor's remarks and the stories of the two students and asked a number of questions related to the plight of our immigrant students, particularly Latinas. Several members are considering personal donations and it is hoped that the group itself will establish scholarships.

Ms. Cassidy and Lynette Apen, EVC Dean of Nursing, met with the CEO, COO and Director of Programs of The Health Trust regarding their request for a full proposal on funding \$50,000 in nursing scholarships. The Nursing program received a \$150,000 state grant for a pilot project with San José State University to eliminate duplicative coursework and allow nurses to take a full year off the time currently needed to get a bachelor's degree.

Ms. Cassidy is working on the May 15 grand opening for the newly renovated Cosmetology Building at San José City College and on the week-long celebration of the Evergreen Center for the Arts in late September, including writing grant proposals. Foundation board members will receive invitations to all of this programming.

Ms. Cassidy and Mr. Fischer continue to meet with potential board members and have two more excellent prospects. Foundation bylaws allow up to 25 members: today's vote will bring the total number of voting members to 13, so there is still room to grow. She hopes to propose the establishment of board committees in the fall to engage members in specialized activities such as overseeing investments and future board development. Another action for consider is the establishment of officers such as a vice president: currently, the bylaws allow for only a president and a secretary/treasurer, who is specified to be the District Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services.

Other activities include working on getting the new website up with an online donation function and work on a proposal to establish an Honorary or Advisory Board of prominent community leaders, former trustees and former foundation board members to meet once or twice a year, learn about Foundation and college activities, offer advice, and serve as advocates.

Mr. Greene asked that we set Foundation guidelines for unrestricted funds. He talked about guidelines used by venture capitalists to narrow the pool of proposals to consider. Examples were discussed such as how local a project is, how it meshes with District priorities, and how many it serves. Additional ideas will be presented in May for further discussion. Ms. Avery added that she would like prior notice and reasonable lead time to consider grant requests, rather than having projects presented on the spot and a vote taken immediately thereafter. Mr. Struthers and Ms. Zent both cautioned against making the guidelines too narrow; Ms. Gutierrez concurred, noting the advantages of flexibility.

IV. Call to Order

At 1:00 p.m., President Fischer noted that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. There were no public comments.

V. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Avery moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Struthers seconded and the January 22, 2009 minutes were approved.

VI. Introduction of Guests

No guests present.

VII. New Members

Ms. Cassidy recapped information on four prospective board members not already known to all. In addition to former Trustee Autumn Gutierrez, the prospects were: Lucy Chacon, a local realtor and hostess for the Rigoberta Menchu reception; Alex Torres, Vice President of Community Relations for Wells Fargo, who has a long history of community service; Pritpal Singh, a local entrepreneur and Milpitas resident recommended by Mr. Dhillon; and Ashley Howell, a young Business Analyst at Lockheed Martin recommended by Ms. Zent. Mr. Green moved to confirm Autumn Gutierrez and the other four new board members. Mr. Struthers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Gutierrez suggested looking at the group that applied for the Board of Trustees as potential board members for the Foundation. Ms. Cassidy stated that after considering the two additional prospective board members, we should hold an orientation session to acquaint the newer members with history, activities and plans

VIII. Treasurer Report

Ms. Cassidy presented the Statement of Financial Position and the Year-To-Date Income and Expense report in Mr. Root's absence. It was noted the restricted expense items have increased over the same period last year, perhaps as faculty account holders spend down their Foundation accounts in response to tightening budgets on campus. It was also noted that interest has dropped from 4% year-to-date last year to 2.6% for the same period this year.

Mr. Greene asked staff to check on a number on the reports to be sure it was correct, but moved to approve the treasurer's report. Ms. Avery seconded the motion and it was passed.

IX. Mission and Vision Statement

The Board again reviewed the Vision Statement drafted last October by Mr. Greene, Ms. Steele, Ms. Cassidy and Rosalie Ledesma of the Chancellor's office. After some discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Cassidy would obtain a copy of the Chancellor's vision statement as approved by the Trustees and would enlarge and/or redraft the vision and mission for the Foundation to reflect that of the District overall. Strategic goals were also discussed: Ms. Cassidy is worried about the lack of donor relationships to reach the \$5 million target in the draft. Ms. Avery was encouraged by the example of Second Harvest's recent success.

X. Closed Session

The board recessed for a closed session to discuss Foundation staffing for the coming year. There were no comments from members of the public on the closed session agenda and no reportable actions resulted.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Ronald Root
Secretary/Treasurer