



MINUTES
San José/ Evergreen Community College District Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
May 28, 2009, 12:00 p.m.
Room T-112, Technology Center
San Jose City College

Directors Present: Barbara Avery, Lucy Chacon, Carl Cilker, Balbir Dhillon, Jeff Fischer, Frank Greene, Ashley Howell, Pritpal Singh, Neil Struthers, Monica Zent, Alex Torres and Rosa Perez

Directors Absent: Autumn Gutierrez, Randy Okamura, Ron Root

Also Present: Michael Burke, David Wain Coon, Carole Cassidy, Barbara Rodriguez, Denise Willis, Marjorie Clark, Francisco Alvarado, plus students: Fernando Cardona (EVC), Jessica Gonzalez (EVC/SJCC), Kenny Gutierrez (SJCC/EVC), Hibah Mohammed (EVC), Tien Nguyen (EVC)

I. Call to Order

President Fischer called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. There were no public comments. Mr. Fischer thanked Chancellor Pérez for providing typical Salvadorian food for today's lunch and asked that the student presentation be made in advance of the Executive Director's report.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Torres moved to approve the minutes; Ms. Zent seconded and the March 26, 2009 minutes were approved.

III. Introduction of Guests and New Members

Ms. Cassidy introduced the four new board members present: Lucy Chacon, a local realtor and hostess for the Rigoberta Menchu reception; Ashley Howell, a Business Development Analyst at Lockheed Martin; Pritpal Singh a local entrepreneur; and Alex Torres, Vice President of Community Relations for Wells Fargo. Mr. Fischer welcomed them to the board.

IV. New Member Prospect

Ms. Cassidy recapped information on prospective board member Jose Palma, a 1979 Evergreen Valley College graduate, who is now supporting a scholarship honoring an EVC counselor who passed away several years ago. Mr. Palma is a

CPA in San José who is active in the community and works with a number of non-profit organizations. Ms. Avery moved to approve José Palma; Mr. Dhillon seconded the motion and Mr. Palma was approved unanimously.

The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate students from both campuses.

**V. Chancellor's Comments/
VI. EVC Presentation**

Chancellor Perez introduced Marjorie Clark and several students who completed the international service learning trip to El Salvador. Dr. Coon and Ms. Clark thanked the Foundation for supporting this trip and the previous trips to Mexico. She explained the philosophy that a global economy requires understanding other cultures, especially those with whom we have close ties through immigration and trade. She noted that international service learning is a transformative experience for the students who participate.

Forty-two students applied for partial scholarships and 11 were chosen as recipients on the basis of previous extensive community service and above average grade point averages. Together, Ms. Clark and the students narrated a series of slides on the trip. They visited a densely inhabited city as well as the countryside, met with staff members from the center for Exchange and Solidarity (CIS) and a non-governmental organization working on gang prevention. They visited many historic landmarks such as Centro Atre Para La Paz, the Center for Peace, and Memorial Park which is dedicated to people lost in the war. Students traveled to Caluco for a student service project where they painted classrooms, completed restoration and clean-up projects, and worked on art projects with students. One student met her grandmother for the first time; the group also visited Chancellor Pérez' elderly aunts.

The students were struck by the levels of poverty they encountered and by the poor opportunities for education as compared to the United States. They hope to return next year to help an impoverished school and to build two additional classrooms. All agreed that "We went to change a community and the community ended up changing us." Central Washington University is interested in partnering once again with Evergreen to return in January 2010.

President Fischer thanked the students and Ms. Clark for their presentation.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Cassidy discussed the development of new pages for the Foundation on the District website, including an online donation function and a page to collect alumni data. The website will be demonstrated at the July 23, 2009 meeting.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Cassidy presented the Statement of Financial Position and the Year-To-Date Income and Expense report in Mr. Root's absence. The Foundation expects to collect approximately 2.5% interest on the funds held in the county Office of Education this year, down significantly from previous years.

Mr. Cilker questioned the increase in assets over the same period last year. Ms. Cassidy replied that the transfer of excess bookstore reserves accounted for most of the difference, up from \$50,000 to \$200,000 this year.

Mr. Greene requested that the financial report be reformatted so as not to show a negative figure when the figures actually reflected a change for the better. Mr. Greene motioned to approve the financials. Mr. Cilker seconded and the motion passed.

IX. Adjustments of Foundation Fees

Ms. Cassidy offered proposals for changing the interest allocation and administrative fees in order to add to the unrestricted funds balance. Current charges will bring in about \$35,000. Three other schedules of fees would alter that amount. Mr. Greene asked if the Foundation tells donors there will be administration fees. Ms. Cassidy responded that she was concerned because that had not been a routine practice. She is currently developing a form for acceptance of new scholarship gifts that will outline the charges for donors and also help them work through setting up criteria according to their intent and the needs of the Financial Aid administrators as well. No action was taken.

X. Foundation Vision and Mission Statement

Ms. Cassidy discussed the new draft modified per previous board member comments. The District's vision statement is expected to be approved shortly by the Trustees: it reads "Creating opportunity, equity and social justice."

Mr. Greene asked how the success of this vision statement would be defined and measured. Chancellor Pérez stated the success for us is that we are developing policies and procedures to measure student achievement and to benchmark progress toward achieving the vision. Mr. Greene asked that Ms. Cassidy work with the Chancellor to get some details so that the Foundation could tailor its own vision in parallel with the District.

Mr. Cilker pointed out the wording in the Foundation mission statement was overstepping by saying "college education is a prerequisite for establishing a stable career." Mr. Struthers agreed that this statement seemed narrow and that we may want to add some qualifying language, since not all students are on a strictly academic track.

Ms. Howell felt that we should not lose our emphasis on education and suggested that the word education itself is important, but that the word college is too narrow since getting an education was not necessarily in a classroom. Mr. Struthers agreed.

Mr. Greene commented that our students ultimately will be working in a global and “knowledge intensive” society, so we need to change our focus to prepare them to work in that milieu. No action was taken, but the item will be returned with further modifications presented at the next meeting.

XI. Proposed Grant Schedule

Reviewed as information. Based on previous board member comments, Ms. Cassidy prepared suggestions on how to fairly review requests from college groups for foundation funding. Clearly, board members prefer to see requests in advance and not be asked to vote without prior review. Ms. Cassidy suggests a process similar to that used by corporations and private foundations, in which deadlines, guidelines and information needed to apply, such as goals and a budget, would be publicized to the entire District two or three times each year. She also suggests that the board consider establishing a set amount of grant funding as part of the 2009-2010 budget process.

Additional Chancellor’s Comments (continued from Item V.)

Chancellor Pérez reported that the state budget crisis is only getting worse. The District’s budget is \$80 million for the current year ending June 30 and we must cut \$9.2 million. The state proposes tripling our fees from \$20 per unit to \$60, which would be a tremendous burden for students. Categorical cuts proposed by the state in excess of 50% of current funding would impact our most at risk and low-income students. Chancellor Pérez reported the economic stimulus money is directed mostly at the K-12 level with some going to universities. Not much money is coming to the community colleges.

Chancellor Pérez reiterated her commitment to accepting students that are turned away from San José State University and other public universities and also to job training and re-training for those who have been laid off.

She went on to mention a plan to generate resources utilizing land owned by the District; this is being developed by Mr. Dhillon on behalf of the Trustees, but will take perhaps as long as five years to bear fruit.

XII. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Government Code Section 54957 (b))

Mr. Fisher requested a motion to adjourn to closed session. Mr. Cilker so moved; Ms. Avery seconded the motion.

XIII. Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda

There were no public comments.

XIV. Recess for Closed Session to Consider and/or Take Action

XV. Reconvene to Open Session

XVI. Announcement of Reportable Action taken in Closed Session

The board voted to delegate authority to terminate staff and renegotiate the executive director's contract to Mr. Fischer.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Jeanine Hawk (for Ron Root)
Secretary/Treasurer