

**The Campanile Foundation**  
**Board Meeting**  
**March 4, 2021**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**



## **Minutes**

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A meeting of the Board of Directors of The Campanile Foundation was held virtually on March 4, 2021, pursuant to the notice duly posted for public information.

### **Board Members Present:**

Terry Atkinson, Ed Brown, Jason Campbell, DeAnn Cary, Nikki Clay, Mary Curran, Julie Dillon, Steve Doyle, Alan Dulgeroff, Daisy Galeana, Jeff Glazer, Dan Gross, Todd Hollander, Christian Holt, Jeff Jeffery, Kim Kilkenny, Maxine Kreitzer, Evelyn Lamden, Seth Mallios, Lidia Martinez, Thom McElroy, Alex Mora, Mike Neal, Charlotte Ochiqui, Mike Pack, Fred Pierce, Patti Roscoe, Jerry Sanders, Peter Shaw, Kit Sickels, Jim Sinegal, Adela de la Torre, Adrienne Vargas, and John Wills

### **Board Members Absent:**

Bob Scarano and Michael Schweitzer

### **University Staff Present:**

Mary Darling, David Fuhriman, Joyce Gattas, Jim Herrick, Chris Lindmark, Anita Nottingham, Salvador Hector Ochoa, Tim Rice, Cathy Terrones, and Amy Walling

### **Guests Present:**

Rowen Descallar – Fundmap

#### **I. Welcome (Presenters: Nikki Clay)**

Board Chair Nikki Clay welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for all they are doing for SDSU, especially during the pandemic. The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

#### **II. Approval of Consent Agenda (Presenters: Nikki Clay)**

**Motion:** A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda for The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors meeting of March 4, 2021 thereby approving the minutes of the:

- The Campanile Foundation Board Meeting - December 3, 2020
- Nominating and Governance Committee Meeting - January 13, 2021
- Government and Community Relations Committee Meeting - February 18, 2021
- Stewardship Committee Meeting - March 2, 2021
- Athletics Committee Meeting - March 3, 2021
- Finance and Investment Committee Meeting - March 3, 2021

### **III. Public Comment** (Presenters: Nikki Clay)

Nikki announced that a representative from Fundmap will be attending the meeting as a public guest but did not request to speak.

### **IV. Guest Student Speaker** (Guests: Asia Smith)

Nikki welcomed and introduced guest student speaker Asia Smith as one of the best all around track and field student-athletes in the nation.

Asia Smith is in her senior year at SDSU majoring in journalism and media studies. She spoke about her successes as a student athlete both on the field and in the classroom, as well as the challenges she has faced during the pandemic. A [video](#) of Asia competing in the Pentathlon at the All-Mountain West Indoor Track and Field competition was shown.

### **V. Chair's Report** (Presenters: Nikki Clay)

Nikki announced that there will be a virtual board member orientation in the spring. The orientation will be offered to the entire board. Anita Nottingham is finalizing the details and will send information to the board once available. Everyone was encouraged to utilize the OnBoard board management system to stay up-to-date with upcoming events, announcements and to access all future meeting materials.

### **History Center Exhibit | Nathan Harrison Virtual Exhibition** (Presenters: Seth Mallios)

Seth Mallios invited fellow board members to attend the Nathan Harrison virtual exhibition opening at the San Diego History Center. The event will take place on Thursday, March 18th at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Nikki thanked Seth and asked him to provide an overview of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of SDSU's founding at an upcoming meeting.

Nikki introduced DeAnn Cary to provide an update on the Big Ideas Showcase. She noted that fellow board members DeAnn Cary, Patti Roscoe and Terry Atkinson served on the Selection Committee in the Spring of 2020.

### **Big Ideas Showcase** (Presenters: DeAnn Cary)

DeAnn reminded the board about the upcoming Big Ideas Video Showcase series entitled "Short Films for Big Ideas" and encouraged everyone to attend. This showcase will be a four-part series, each addressing an important societal issue.

The Big Ideas is an interdisciplinary faculty-led research initiative identifying bold and innovative solutions to society's greatest challenges. The showcase will publicly shine a light on the expertise of our SDSU faculty who are collaborating to address these challenges. The research projects reflect the distinct strengths of SDSU and will exemplify our 5-year strategic plan. A goal of this showcase is to obtain feedback and critical financial support for these research initiatives. Board members were encouraged to attend the first video showcase immediately following the meeting.

#### Showcase Schedule:

- Thurs, March 4 5-6 p.m. Health and Well-being
- Thurs, March 11 4-5 p.m. Climate Change
- Thurs, March 18 4-5 p.m. Social Justice
- Thurs, March 25 4-5 p.m. Transborder Solutions

Anita Nottingham added an RSVP link for the Big Ideas Showcases to the OnBoard portal.

Nikki introduced Adrienne Vargas and thanked her for pivoting her team and the TCF Board to a virtual world and for keeping everyone connected and moving forward.

#### **VI. Development Update** (Presenters: Adrienne Vargas)

Adrienne announced that we raised \$84 million in total pledges and gifts against a goal of \$100 million as of the end of February 2021. This includes \$38.5 million in cash against a goal of \$35 million. These successes were accomplished during a work-from-home environment for our development staff and without face-to-face donor visits.

Ron and Alexis Fowler recently made their final pledge payment on their \$25 million commitment in support of the Fowler College of Business. The development team continues to raise matching dollars for this gift.

Adrienne shared a story about a recent gift from General Merrill and Elynor McPeak. The couple made their first major gift to SDSU to support the Elynor F. McPeak Endowed Scholarship for Economics Excellence in the College of Arts and Letters and the Elynor F. McPeak Endowed Scholarship for Aztecs Forensics Excellence in the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts. Merrill and Elynor McPeak met at San Diego State College where they both earned a B.A. in Economics from the College of Arts and Letters. They both participated in the Forensics program and the debate team. Board member Kit Sickels recently had a phone call with General McPeak to personally thank him for his gift and he shared sentiments from his conversation with the board.

Adrienne introduced Dan Yates, President and Board member of the Conrad Prebys Foundation, and welcomed him to the meeting to share a special announcement. Dan announced that The Conrad Prebys Foundation made a grant of \$6 million to support the new Performing Arts District. This is a transformational gift that will make the district state-of-the-art and will expand opportunities for students. An in-depth presentation with exciting updates on the Performing Arts District will take place at a future board meeting.

Adrienne invited members of the board to raise their glasses in a celebratory toast acknowledging the generous gift. Peggy Shannon, Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, was in attendance for the announcement and celebratory toast.

Adrienne introduced Jeanne Stronach, AVP Analytic Studies and Institutional Research, and welcomed her to provide an overview of the U.S. News ranking process titled "Unpacking the Ranking Methodology".

## **VII. US News Rankings | Unpacking the Ranking Methodology (Guests: Jeanne Stronach)**

Jeanne reported that the US News ranking is comprised of three major areas: student-related, resources, and expert opinion. The report entailed guidelines for the ranking process including information related to admissions, enrollment, financial aid, academic programs, student engagement, support services, facilities, and resources.

Overall, SDSU's commitment to student success in the past decade has had a positive impact on U.S. News rankings. Moving forward philanthropy can improve SDSU's rank by funding faculty positions, increasing student scholarships to reduce graduate indebtedness, and support successful student success programs and service. Following the report, the board asked questions that were fielded by President de la Torre and Provost Ochoa. Additional information on U.S. News rankings may be found [here](#).

Nikki introduced President de la Torre and complemented her on addressing all of the challenges of 2020 with leadership, compassion, focus, and wisdom.

## **VIII. President's Q & A (Presenters: Adela de la Torre)**

President de la Torre shared her excitement and pride for the SDSU Men's Basketball team on their current 11 game winning streak; this is the longest winning streak in our conference and places them in a tie among the Nation.

Board members engaged in a question and answer session with President de la Torre. The discussion included topics such as the university's plans and protocols for the fall semester with regard to the pandemic, budget updates, and the strategic plan. Following the meeting board members will be provided charts that detail funding trends for the CSU and UC systems.

Jim Herrick, Assistant Vice President for SDSU Alumni, spoke about the success of the joint Alumni and TCF Thank You Note campaign. He noted that 2,114 note cards were sent to students on campus. He thanked members of the board for their participation in the project and emphasized the positive impact the project had on the students. Additional information on this project may be found [here](#) as well as on the OnBoard homepage.

President de la Torre announced that the Mission Valley project is continuing to progress on time. Members of the board were encouraged to tour the new stadium site. Board members Mike Neal, Ed Brown, Fred Pierce and Steve Doyle serve on advisory boards for the Mission Valley Innovation District and Residential Policy. They were acknowledged for their service on these advisory boards and the board was thanked for their continued support of the Mission Valley project.

President de la Torre concluded her report stating that the university is planning on pivoting to a hybrid model of online and in-person learning for the summer and fall semester. Additional small in-person courses will be offered for incoming freshman and sophomore students. The university will continue to keep the current pandemic protocols in place which include contact tracing, extra cleaning on campus, and maintaining student COVID-19 testing. It was announced that there is an on-campus COVID-19 vaccination site at the Calpulli Center and a second site will open at Viejas Arena toward the end of March.

Nikki introduced Provost Ochoa to provide an update from Academic Affairs on Points of Pride.

## **IX. Provost's Update "Points of Pride" (Guests: Provost Salvador Hector Ochoa)**

Provost Ochoa presented a comprehensive report that cataloged accomplishments and distinctions in Academic Affairs. The board appreciated hearing what differentiates SDSU and what makes it such a great university. They found the report to be informative and valuable.

The following are highlights from the report:

- SDSU was ranked 65th nationally for public universities and 143rd for all universities by U.S. News & World Report and 9th nationally among all universities with respect to Graduate Rate Performance.
- In 2019-2020 there were 9,815 Degrees Conferred at SDSU.
- During a period of national enrollment decline, SDSU grew to its highest enrollment in 12 years, with nearly 35,600 students in Fall 2020 (+500). As of December 16, 2020, SDSU had received the highest number of first-year applications in the CSU system (~67,500) and was one of only 4 campuses to see application growth for fall 2021 entry. Total applications across all student levels surpassed 100,000. Nearly 1,700 international students from 85 countries bring their global perspectives to SDSU's classrooms.
- The SDSU Imperial Valley Campus (IVC) is transitioning to become a full four-year university in Imperial County. In Fall 2020, SDSU-Imperial Valley had its highest enrollment in history with a 1,075 headcount.
- The university had effective response efforts due to the COVID-19 pandemic for faculty, staff, students, the San Diego community, the state and the country. Response efforts include the prompt transition of more than 1,000 faculty members to teach online, establishing the "ConnectWell" Healthy Work Program and expanding access for COVID-19 research.

The "Points of Pride" PowerPoint presentation will be shared with the board on the OnBoard portal following the meeting.

Nikki introduced Associated Student Body President Christian Holt and reminded the board of Christian's leadership through his messaging of 'the concept of one'.

## **X. Associated Student President's Report (Guests: Christian Holt)**

Christian provided the following updates:

The Aztec Recreation Center (ARC) construction project continues to move forward as planned. The front of the building will be completed by the fall and the rest of the project will be completed by spring 2022. The Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union has been open since the fall semester, providing a safe place for students to study and attend their courses virtually. The A.S. food pantry remains open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and for drive thru on Fridays. The SDSU Children's Center remains open offering childcare for faculty and staff on campus. The Mission Bay Aquatic Center is open and offers many outdoor courses to students including surf and stand up paddle board.

The 2020 Aztecs Rock Hunger Campaign raised over 344,000 pounds of food. This annual campaign provides support not only to our SDSU students, but the greater San Diego community as well.

The Associated Student (A.S.) Government Elections will take place mid-April 2021. The new A.S. leadership team will continue to offer academic and mental health support for students who have faced challenges during the pandemic. A.S. recently received approval for in person events and are working on plans to host council meetings in person. The next student-led event is a movie night that will feature Wonder Woman.

Christian reflected back on his time at SDSU and shared gratitude for all that the university has offered him. During the past year he has seen the impact of the great leadership that he has worked with. He encouraged everyone to continue the 'Concept of One' that he embodied during his tenure as A.S. President; one hello, one conversation, or one action can have a significant impact on someone's life. Upon graduation he looks forward to pursuing his passion for business and leadership in healthcare administration.

Nikki introduced Finance and Investment Committee Chair John Wills and complemented him on running a great committee meeting.

#### **XI. Finance & Investment Committee Update (Presenters: John Wills)**

John provided an update from the March 3, 2021 Finance & Investment committee meeting. His report noted that the current balance of the endowment is just short of \$375 million. The committee had a discussion regarding making potential revisions to the investment policy. A subcommittee was established to review Meketa's recommendations moving forward and they hope to have an update by the next meeting.

Nikki introduced Nominating and Governance Committee Chair Julie Dillon and thanked her for taking the lead on the board survey and for assigning mentors to all new board members.

#### **XII. Nominating & Governance Committee Update (Presenters: Julie Dillon)**

Julie provided an update from the January 13, 2021 committee meeting. The report included the committee's continued commitment in identifying and reviewing potential board candidates with a focus on increasing diversity on the board. The committee reviewed the research profile of Rick Bregman and recommended him to the board for election and installation at the June 3, 2021 Board of Directors meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to bring Rick Bregman to the full board at its June 3, 2021 Campanile Foundation Board meeting for election and installation as a Director of the Board.

#### **XIII. Conclusion of Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Nikki Clay 04/23/2021 16:15 PDT

Nikki Clay, Chair

**Attest:**



Anita Nottingham 04/27/2021 09:44 PDT  
Anita Nottingham, Secretary