

**The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors**  
**Monday, March 4, 2024**  
**3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Stephen L. Weber Boardroom**  
**Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center**

**Minutes**



Steve Doyle called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**The following members were present (\*virtual):** Terry Atkinson\*, Chilo Baty, Jason Campbell, DeAnn Cary, Adela de la Torre\*, Julie Dillon, Steve Doyle, Alan Dulgeroff, Joyce Gattas, Jeff Glazer, Dan Gross, Joe Johnson, Kim Kilkenny, Lidia Martinez, Alex Mora\*, Tarek Morsy, Mike Neal, Fred Pierce, Christine Probett, Patti Roscoe, Jessica Sarowitz, Michael Schweitzer, Kit Sickels, Adrienne Vargas, John Wills

**The following members were excused:** Rick Bregman, Ed Brown, Mary Curran, Zeynep Ilgaz, and Peter Shaw

**Staff in attendance:** Ivan Acosta, Mary Darling, David Fuhriman, Chris Lindmark, Bob Moosbrugger, Anita Nottingham, Amy Walling, Agnes Wong Nickerson, and Dr. William Tong

**Guests Speakers:** Dr. Mary Taylor, Dr. Chris Manning, Chasley Schoettle, Jen Stanley

**I. Welcome**

Steve welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following announcements:

Additional thank you notecards are available to those who participate in writing thank you notes each month to donors who have given gifts over \$10,000. If Board members are in need of additional notecards, envelopes, or stamps, they were directed to contact Anita Nottingham.

The TCF Annual Gathering, which will celebrate The Campanile Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mike and Merrilee Neal. A formal invitation will be mailed out soon. Board members were asked to save-the-date.

Steve concluded his announcements sharing that Sandy Mekany, former Vice President of University Affairs for Associated Students, was the university's first Rhodes Scholarship finalist - the most competitive and prestigious international scholarship, which is awarded to 100 people globally each year and to only 32 in the U.S.



Impressively, Sandy made it to the final stage of the selection process. In addition to having been awarded the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, this was a first for any SDSU student.

## **II. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present.

## **III. Approval of Consent Agenda & Past Meeting Minutes**

Jeff Glazer suggested an amendment to minutes of the December 7, 2023 Board meeting. The amended minutes were presented to the Board for review.

A Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda, thereby approving amended minutes of The Campanile Foundation Board meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Stewardship Committee meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Nominating and Governance Committee meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Audit Committee meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Arts Committee on February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Government and Community Relations Committee on February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Athletics Committee on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and the Finance and Investment Committee on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **IV. Executive Committee Chair's Report**

Steve Doyle shared that at the February 7, 2024, Executive Committee meeting, President de la Torre reported that in fall 2023, the university administered a student survey on Artificial Intelligence (AI) which drew participation from more than 7,000 students. The results provided a detailed summary of students' engagement with AI offering a valuable resource for understanding their perspectives, knowledge, and expectations on AI in both educational and broader contexts.

As volunteers for the university and given their involvement with students through mentorship or internships, the university generously opened access for Campanile Foundation Board members to participate in an online Academic Applications of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) Micro-Credential Program. Details for the program were emailed earlier in the week by Anita with information for those who are interested to self-register for the course. John Wills completed the course and provided words of encouragement for fellow Board members to participate. He added that they can customize the objectives of the course to adapt to their own purpose.



## V. Guest Speakers

Steve introduced Dr. Chris Manning, the new Vice President for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity, and shared that it was only his 3<sup>rd</sup> day at SDSU. Dr. Manning shared information about his background including his former position as Vice President and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer at University of Southern California and that during the 2019-20 year, he chose SDSU as his host institution as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow.

Dr. Manning shared that in his new role he will be responsible for leading the strategic vision and direction for the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity. He will also be responsible for teams that oversee the development of programs and services that provide transformational experiences for students and will work closely with the University Senate and Associated Students to help ensure that the voices and interests of students, faculty and staff remain at the core of our strategic efforts and decision-making.

Dr. Mary Taylor, SDSU Associate Chief Diversity Officer for Outreach Success, was introduced and provided an overview of the Guardian Scholars (GS) Program. The GS Program supports students who are current or former foster youth, wards of the court, under legal guardianship or unaccompanied homeless youths.

The GS Program is overseen by the Office of Educational Opportunity Programs and Ethnic Affairs, it supports students transitioning to, through and beyond SDSU. The program offers students scholarships, help with housing and services such as tutoring, mentoring and both personal and academic counseling. Established in 2007, the GS Program currently supports 150 SDSU students, the largest number to date. The annual graduation rate is an impressive 83% and a total of 458 students have graduated from the program to date.

## VI. Get to Know the Gift

TCF Board member, Jessica Sarowitz, was asked to share her passion behind making a gift to endow the Jessica P. Sarowitz Guardian Scholars Center. She remarked how the gift was personal as her family has concern for marginalized identities. She first gained some of her insight from a friend who works in the foster care system and learned even more while executive producing a film called *Foster Boy*, which highlights inequities in the foster care system. Jessica is aware that foster care students are a vulnerable community often subject to low outcomes in terms of graduation rates and this is something she hopes to help change. Through supporting this center, she plans to provide a space that provides centralized access and inclusion for those in need.



## VII. Guest Student Speaker

Chasley “Chazz” Schoettle, a Guardian Scholar student, spoke about her experiences in the GS program and as a student at SDSU. She shared stories about her journey as a foster youth and how the GS Program changed her life. She expressed her gratitude to the Board, and all who support the program, and how their generosity has allowed her to embrace her dreams of becoming a professional dancer and pursue a double major in kinesiology-pre physical therapy with a minor in public health. In the future she hopes to potentially attend medical school and weave these disciplines together to heal people physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Chazz concluded her presentation by sharing that she was just recognized with the President’s Award at the Student Research Symposium. She presented research titled *Dancing Beyond Boundaries* which demonstrated how she was able to find her voice as a former foster youth and become an experienced dancer.

## VIII. SDSU President’s Report

President de la Torre joined the meeting virtually from the American Council on Education meeting in Washington D. C. She reported that she has been in meetings exploring opportunities to expand research funding.

She made the following updates:

- Scholarship distribution is at an all-time high at 99.9%
- Seventy-five percent of the target activities for the Strategic Plan have been completed.
- The Chula Vista project is underway with funding plans with the City of Chula Vista for the development of a Health Professional Hub. The university is exploring the opportunity to relocate or expand the Athletic Training, Nursing, Homeland Security, Teacher Education, or Global Campus degree programs to the new location.
- Seven of the 23 CSU campuses are suffering with contraction of enrollment. As they downsize, SDSU will likely absorb more students.
- As a result of information gathered from a survey of SDSU students on Artificial Intelligence (AI), the university is conducting an in-person conference and an online Micro-Credential Program for faculty. The online program has been offered to TCF Board members to complete.
- SDSU broke ground on the Sciences and Engineering Laboratories in Brawley on February 9, 2024 – a result of \$80 million in state funding and university investments. The new state-of-the-art building is one part of SDSU’s commitment to meeting the STEM and both the current and future geothermal energy sector



demands of 'Lithium Valley. There is a lot of excitement about building P3 partnerships with geothermal companies to utilize this space.

President de la Torre concluded her report thanking Board members for their ongoing leadership and partnerships with the university. She welcomed Dr. Tong to conclude the university updates.

Dr. William Tong, Interim Provost, provided the following updates:

- SDSU is expecting approximately 120,000 applications for the fall semester, an all-time high for the university. There are 38,000 students during the academic year and an additional 12,000 during the summer session, with 5% growth each summer. The average GPA for an incoming student is 4.12.
- The Imperial Valley Campus is expanding with two new nursing programs.
- Explore SDSU will be held on April 13, 2024. This is an open house for admitted first-year and transfer students and the university is expecting 20,000 visitors.
- There are delays in the FAFSA system with administering financial aid to students. The CSU and UC systems have agreed upon a later deadline of May 15 for students to confirm their acceptance.
- There are 62 open faculty lines. The university recently completed the hiring of 25 new faculty members and are in the process of hiring an additional 15.
- The university is in need of lab space and has a goal to rebuild the North Life Sciences building. In the meantime, they are exploring partnerships with community colleges to utilize wet lab space. SDSU has a goal to move the most intensive research to the SDSU Mission Valley site and there are 15 parcels available in the innovation district.

## **IX. Development Update**

Adrienne Vargas shared that Julie Dillon's grandson, Cole Conklin, was recently admitted to SDSU. The acceptance video he received with the announcement was shared with the Board.

Adrienne provided the following updates from the Division of University Relations and Development:

- Tim Rice, former Senior Associate Athletic Director for Development, recently accepted a position back at SDSU as the Senior Director of Development for Principal Gifts. Tim will work with central development to identify and cultivate principal-level gifts that support all areas on campus.



- The Planned Giving team is partnering with KPBS to identify donor prospects who are interested in leaving SDSU an estate gift. Amy Walling and her team are working with KPBS on the language and execution of the ads that will be broadcast on KPBS.
- SDSU Alumni is exploring a partnership with a major vendor to make an investment leveraging technology to build a pipeline to expand the donor base. There are currently 15,000 individual donors and approximately 500,000 alumni.

## **X. Get to Know You**

Steve introduced Kit Sickels as the guest “Get to Know You” speaker. Kit has served on The Campanile Foundation Board for a total of 23 years. During that time, he has Chaired the Board, Chaired the Finance and Investment Committee and served on the Executive, Finance & Investment, Nominating & Governance, Athletics and Campaign Cabinet committees. Kit provided an overview of his professional endeavors and spoke about remarkable experiences during his tenure at SDSU, as a student, philanthropist, and Board member. Kit acknowledged and thanked past university presidents, past presidents of The Campanile Foundation Board, and university staff for their leadership and friendship during his time at SDSU.

## **XI. Nominating & Governance Committee Update**

Patti Roscoe shared that the Nominating and Governance Committee began efforts to recruit new Board members beginning in 2025. The committee, along with input from Adrienne and Anita, composed a list of prospects in order of priority based on levels of Affinity, Capacity and Diversity. Committee members are currently in the process of reaching out to these prospects to gain their interest and determine next steps. The committee anticipates adding between 3-4 new members during this recruitment process. The committee meets next on April 10.

## **XII. Audit Committee Update**

Alan Dulgeroff reported that Audit Committee members received the Form 990 for review prior to the meeting. Grant Thornton conducted an examination of the findings revealing that the appropriate allocations of substantial funds were made to support campus programs. The committee moved to approve the FY 22/23 990 and 926.


## **XIII. Finance & Investment Committee Update**



John Will reported that the endowment is just over \$450 million and the annualized return for the last year was 6.6%. He proudly reported that all endowments are now above water or are breaking even and are potentially available for distribution. UBS is managing the fixed income fund which continues to draw 4.25% on the balance, which provides funding to TCF.


#### **XIV. Conclusion**

Steve announced that the next scheduled committee meeting is Thursday, June 13, 2024, and adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

  
Stephen Doyle (Mar 12, 2024 12:00 PDT)

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Stephen P. Doyle, Chair

  
Anita Nottingham (Mar 12, 2024 13:26 PDT)

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Anita Nottingham, Secretary

