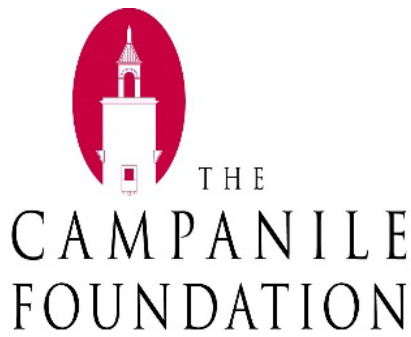




*Supporting San Diego State University*

## **Minutes**

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### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, September 24, 2026

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Stephen L. Weber Boardroom

Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center

A meeting of The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in the Stephen L. Weber Boardroom of the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center, located at San Diego State University, pursuant to the notice duly posted for public information.

The following members were present: Terry Atkinson\*, Rick Bregman\*, DeAnn Cary, Adela de la Torre, Julie Dillon, Alan Dulgeroff, Mark Filanc, Joyce Gattas, Jeff Glazer, Georgia Griffiths, Judy Hamilton\*, Zeynep Ilgaz, Michael Kanigher\*, Janette Lampe, Mark McMillin, Milan Rawls, Jessica Sarowitz\*, Michael Schweitzer\*, Elliot Scott, Jennifer Stone, Adrienne Vargas, Sandra Wawrytko, and John Wills (\*attended virtually).

The following members were absent: Risa Baron, Dan Gross, Joe Johnson, Alex Mora, Mike Neal, Mike Pack, Jeff Partrick, Patti Roscoe, and Kit Sickels.

The following staff members were in attendance: Ivan Acosta, Travis Clancy, Mary Darling, Stephanie Dathe, Gema Deleon, Chris Lindmark, Cynthia Swanson, Amy Walling, John David Wicker, and Agnes Wong-Nickerson.

The following special guest was in attendance: Trudy Milburn

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Chair Julie Dillon, called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. She thanked everyone for being there and for their flexibility with the adjusted start time.

### **Public Comment**

There were no members of the public in attendance, therefore no comments were made.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda, thereby approving minutes of The Campanile Foundation Board Meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Committee Meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>, Nominating and Governance Committee Meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>, Government and Community Relations Committee on August 14<sup>th</sup>, Athletics Committee on August 19<sup>th</sup>, Arts Committee on August 19<sup>th</sup>, Audit Committee on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Finance and Investment Committee on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Chair's Announcements & Executive Committee Report**

Chair Julie Dillon reminded the group that the TCF Annual Gathering will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> at the home of Zeynep Ilgaz and her family. She also noted that a reception is being planned to follow the December 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Julie reported that the Executive Committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup> and received updates from committee chairs and the President on key university priorities. The President reported strong enrollment of approximately 46,580 students, with SDSU continuing to exceed its state-funded FTES target by approximately 2,000 FTES. Discussion also included strategic enrollment management, strengthening SDSU's identity and value proposition, and the University's broader five-year planning efforts. Updates were also provided on continued development at Mission Valley, including affordable housing and the Senior Living Project, which is expected to create new opportunities for student internships, experiential learning, and university engagement.

Following the Executive Committee update, a video was shared from All-University Convocation for SDSU faculty & staff which was held on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The video highlighted SDSU achievements in fundraising, research, accreditation, athletics and more.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried approving Resolution 26-05 which finalized the 2027 TCF quarterly meeting schedule. Board meetings are scheduled for: March 4<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and our annual meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. In March the TCF Board of Directors will be joined by the SDSU Alumni Board of Advisors for a joint meeting and the June meeting will be in conjunction with a full-day Board retreat.

### **Fundraising Update**

Adrienne Vargas, Vice President for University Relations and Development, provided an update on SDSU's fundraising performance, endowment, donor trends, and philanthropic priorities. Vargas reported that the University raised \$179.3 million in FY 2025–26, a 26% increase over the prior year, and that the endowment approached \$600 million as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. She also highlighted continued growth in the University's return on philanthropic investment which is up to \$8 for every \$1 spent.

Adrienne discussed broader national philanthropic trends, including record charitable giving alongside declining donor participation, and compared those trends with SDSU's recent performance. SDSU reached 12,361 non-athletics donors in FY 2025–26, representing approximately 12% year-over-year growth and a second consecutive year of increased donor participation. She also highlighted significant major and planned gifts secured during the year.

The presentation concluded with an overview of current fundraising priorities across SDSU's colleges, Student Affairs and Campus Diversity, Athletics, and university-wide initiatives.

## **Athletics Update**

Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, John David (J.D.) Wicker, provided an update on SDSU Athletics, highlighting student-athlete academic achievement, programs supporting student success, facility priorities, the evolving college athletics landscape, and SDSU's transition to the Pac-12. He began by presenting on "The New Era" of SDSU Athletics, focusing on three pillars: Championing the Student-Athlete, Elevating Aztecs, and Building on Legacy. Student-athletes achieved a record 3.32 overall GPA in 2025–26, with 439 earning a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Wicker credited the continued academic progress to the commitment of student-athletes, coaches, and faculty.

J.D. discussed investments in the student-athlete experience, including the Aztecs Going Pro four-year, for-credit career development program; a new nutrition center providing meals to student-athletes five days per week; and future facility priorities, including a broadcast center and upgrades to existing athletics facilities.

He also addressed changes in the national collegiate athletics landscape, including the proposed Protect College Sports Act and its provisions related to eligibility, transfers, revenue sharing, and student-athlete protections. He concluded with an update on SDSU's move to the Pac-12, highlighting the opportunity for strong competition and alignment with institutions that similarly invest in their athletics programs.

## **Get to Know You**

Elliot Scott shared an overview of his background and connection to SDSU. An SDSU alumnus, Scott graduated in 1995 from what is now the Fowler College of Business. He spoke about his family, including his wife and three daughters, as well as his career in commercial real estate. After beginning his career with a brokerage firm, Scott moved into apartment acquisitions and sales before expanding into restaurant real estate. Today, his firm, EAS Investments, manages projects across the country. In addition to his service on The Campanile Foundation Board, Scott serves on the boards of Aztec Shops, Scripps Health, San Diego Jewish Academy, and the Jewish Federation of San Diego.

## **Presidential Report**

President de la Torre stood to share her heartfelt reflections in her ninth year as President of San Diego State University. She proudly shared that now two thirds of SDSU students complete their degree in four years, as opposed to less than half when she began her tenure nearly a decade ago.

The President looked back on the University's progress over the past five years, contrasting where SDSU is today with the height of the COVID era, and shared her vision and strategy for the next five years centered on four themes: focus, build, brand, and sustain.

She emphasized the importance of focusing resources in areas where SDSU has the greatest opportunity to lead and make an impact, including high-demand academic programs, graduate and doctoral education, and research responsive to regional needs. Building on those strengths will

require continued investment in faculty and staff, experiential learning and career preparation, partnerships, and SDSU's growing regional presence, including Mission Valley and Imperial Valley. The President also discussed the importance of strengthening SDSU's brand by more clearly communicating what distinguishes the University and demonstrating its value. Finally, she emphasized the need to sustain this progress by ensuring future growth is supported by the financial strength, resources, and flexibility needed for long-term success. She noted TCF's continued role in advancing these priorities through philanthropy, partnerships, connections, and advocacy.

The discussion that followed included questions regarding artificial intelligence and the university's approach to its evolving role in higher education, as well as the expansion of four-year degree programs at community colleges and SDSU's perspective on that development.

Alan Dulgeroff commended the University's leadership for remaining actively engaged in its academic mission, noting the President's continued teaching and the Provost's ongoing research. John Wills similarly recognized the University's strong and comprehensive commitment to student success.

### **Nominating and Governance Committee**

Alan Dulgeroff provided an update on the work of the Nominating & Governance Committee, including the 2026 Board recruitment process. Following a strong recruitment year, the Committee recommended Cody Barbo, Charles Lu, Kris Michell, Zane Rowe, and Bob Scarano for Board membership.

He reviewed upcoming Board transitions, including members concluding their service (Dan Gross, Alex Mora, Kit Sickels, and John Wills) and members renewing for additional terms (Jeff Glazer & Terry Atkinson). Dr. Sandra Wawrytko agreed to continue for a second one-year term as Faculty Representative, and Sam Brown was recommended to succeed Risa Baron as Alumni Representative.

Alan also announced the proposed changes to 2027 committee leadership, with Julie Dillon returning as Chair of Nominating & Governance, Jennifer Stone proposed as Chair of Government & Community Relations, and Jeff Partrick proposed as Chair of Finance & Investment. Committee chair appointments and rosters will be presented to the Board for approval in December.

The following motions were made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve:

- Inviting Cody Barbo, Charles Lu, Kris Michell, Zane Rowe and Bob Scarano to the annual meeting in December for election and installation as Directors of the Board.
- Inviting Sam Brown to serve a one-year term as Alumni Representative and Sandra Wawrytko to serve an additional one-year term as Faculty Representative.
- Additional terms for Jeff Glazer and Terry Atkinson.

### **Audit Committee**

Rick Bregman reported that Grant Thornton conducted this year's audit which was a smooth process. The audit was clean, and the Audit Committee made a recommendation to present the audited financial statements for the 2025-26 fiscal year to the full Board for approval.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 26-06 approving the audited financial statements for the period ending June 30th, 2026.

### **Finance and Investment Committee**

John Wills shared that current funds (cash) are at a balance of approximately \$75 million with a bond market return of about 4%. As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, the endowment balance sat around \$603 million, up \$100,000 from this time last year.

### **New Business**

Chair Julie Dillon invited Board members to bring forward any new business for discussion. The following updates and announcements were shared:

- Mark McMillin reported that the SDSU Baja Race Team, which presented at the previous TCF Board of Directors meeting, was in Ohio competing in its annual design and racing competition.
- Georgia Griffiths shared that she recently toured the Aztec Electric Race Team lab and learned about the team's work toward autonomous vehicle technology.
- Adrienne Vargas thanked DeAnn Cary for hosting an MFA student showcase at her home earlier in the month.
- DeAnn Cary and John Wills reminded Board members of the upcoming celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of theatre at SDSU.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

  
Julie Dillon (Oct 1, 2026 16:53:21 PDT)

Julie Dillon, Chair

  
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Cynthia Swanson, Secretary