



Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 25, 2025
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Stephen L. Weber Boardroom
Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center

Minutes

A meeting of The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, 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*, Risa Baron, Rick Bregman, Jason Campbell*, DeAnn Cary*, Mary Curran*, Adela de la Torre, Julie Dillon, Steve Doyle, Alan Dulgeroff, Mark Filanc*, Joyce Gattas, Jeff Glazer, Kareen Holstrom, Zeynep Ilgaz, Joe Johnson, Michael Kanigher, Alex Mora*, Mike Neal*, Patti Roscoe, Jessica Sarowitz, Kit Sickels*, Jennifer Stone, Adrienne Vargas, John Wills (*attended virtually)

The following members were absent: Ed Brown, Dan Gross, Kim Kilkenny, Mike Pack, Christine Probett, Michael Schweitzer, Elliot Scott

The following staff members were in attendance: Ivan Acosta, Tammy Blackburn, Travis Clancy, Mary Darling, Stephanie Dathe, Marian Lim*, Chris Lindmark, Bob Moosbrugger, Cynthia Swanson, Amy Walling, Agnes Wong Nickerson

The following special guest was in attendance: Mark McMillin

Call to Order and Public Comment

Julie Dillon called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. There were no members of the public in attendance, therefore no comments were made.

Julie thanked the Board for joining both virtually and in-person. She welcomed special guest, Mark McMillin, and thanked him for joining the meeting. Following her opening remarks, Julie introduced Stephanie Dathe who gave a brief recap of the ongoing audio and technology updates in the Stephen L. Weber Boardroom.

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 5, 2025
- Nominating and Governance Committee Meeting on July 9, 2025
- Government and Community Relations Committee on August 14, 2025
- Athletics Committee on August 21, 2025
- Audit Committee on September 23, 2025
- Finance and Investment Committee on September 24, 2025

Chair's Announcements & Executive Committee Report

Julie Dillon reminded fellow board members of upcoming events and invitations including a reception planned for the December 4th Board of Directors meeting; invitations to sit in the President's section during a 2025/26 Aztec Men's Basketball game; and the upcoming Evening Celebrating Philanthropy. She announced that at the Evening Celebrating Philanthropy the 2025 Fowler Impact Award will be bestowed upon Kit Sickels and Fred Pierce (posthumously).

Julie updated the Board on the discussion at the August 6th Executive Committee where President de la Torre shared progress on Mission Valley's residential development, shifts in Innovation District planning, and new A.I. and cybersecurity initiatives. SDSU Imperial Valley celebrated the opening of a new facility in Brawley and plans to introduce electrical engineering and chemistry undergraduate programs by fall 2026, expanding opportunities in health and science for the region. She shared that the committee was joined by Hala Madanat, Vice President of the Division of Research and Innovation, who reported on ongoing federal budget uncertainties, recent legal actions surrounding grant funding, and proactive steps to secure alternative funding models.

Julie shared that the All-University Convocation for SDSU faculty & staff was held on August 21st, kicking off the 2025/26 academic year. A video celebrating the recent accomplishments of the University was played.

Cynthia Swanson reminded the Board of the upcoming TCF Annual Gathering on October 30th at the La Jolla Country Club.

Guest Speaker

Julie Dillon introduced Dr. Seth Mallios, the inaugural Chair and Director of the Center for University Heritage and Community Engagement, a position endowed by board member Kit Sickels and his wife, Karen. Dr. Mallios was joined by his colleague and double SDSU alumna, Shannon Farnsworth.

Dr. Mallios presented on “The Lost Murals of San Diego State” and the rich artistic and cultural legacy of SDSU, focusing on its historic murals. The presentation focused on the rediscovery of lost student artworks, many of which were created under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and reflect themes of social realism and regionalism. It highlights notable artists and murals from the 1930s through the 1980s, including pieces by Genevieve Burgeson, George Sorenson, and Albert J. Lewis, as well as protest and Chicano art movements led by figures like Gilberto Ramirez and Mario Torero. The murals are shown to reflect evolving societal values, artistic styles, and student activism across decades.

Dr. Mallios’s concluded his presentation with a look at mural preservation efforts, including premiere of a video produced by Shannon Farnsworth showcasing the restoration process of Genevieve Burgeson’s 1936 *NRA Packages*.

At the request of TCF Chair, Julie Dillon, Dr. Mallios spoke about a recent event he spoke at on the USS Midway. *Dear Doc*, a theatrical performance created by SDSU alumna Jonnie Wilson and inspired by wartime letters sent to SDSU Professor Dr. Lauren Post by students and alumni. Dr. Post received over 4,000 letters from overseas during World War II, which he used to compile the “Aztec News Letter”. The performance brought these historical letters to life, honoring the legacy of SDSU’s wartime community.

Presidential Report

President de la Torre used her time to share several positive opportunities San Diego State is pursuing.

The College of Education was recently notified of a \$30 million 5-year grant from the Department of Education for the National Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center. The grant is a great example of how SDSU’s faculty is focused on work important to the current moment.

President de la Torre noted that SDSU’s willingness to be innovative has prepared us well for this historical moment. With respect to Mission Valley, private/public partnership frees

the University of state fund reliance, making this project unique and important experiment in higher education. She spoke about the University pivoting from the original biotech vision for the Innovation District to a focus on the industries of defense, engineering and cybersecurity. She mentioned initial discussions with the San Diego Unified School District regarding a potential Lab School to help feed these industries.

The President also updated the Board on SDSU's recent partnership with the San Diego Community College District to build a new academic facility on the Mission Valley campus which would increase accelerated degree pathways and provide opportunities to work with SDSU faculty.

Agnes Wong Nickerson, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs gave a brief update on the construction status of the new Life Sciences building.

Get to Know You

Michael Kanigher spoke with the Board about his time as a student at SDSU and member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Michael met his wife, Hillary, in Zura Hall as a freshman. They have been married for 37 years and have two adult daughters. Michael talked about the decision to get reengaged with San Diego State, resulting in him joining The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors and establishing the Michael and Hillary Kanigher Financial Services Endowed Scholarship in the Fowler College of Business. Michael concluded his presentation by sharing his passions for the Olympics and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Associated Students Report

Kareen Holstrom is the 2025/26 Associated Students President and TCF Student Representative. Kareen is a fourth year Industrial Psychology student and daughter of a SDSU alumnus. She presented the goals of the Associated Students Executive Officers, providing a handout for reference. This is the first fully female A.S. Executive Board in SDSU History. Kareen outlined current initiatives and strategic priorities aimed at enhancing student engagement, campus sustainability, and leadership development.

Fundraising Update

Adrienne Vargas outlined SDSU's recent fundraising achievements and financial performance. She reported that SDSU had its strongest fundraising year to date, raising over \$142 million in FY24/25, with the University's endowment surpassing \$500 million for the first time. The presentation also highlighted a 9% increase in philanthropic contributions from FY23/24 and a strong return on investment, with SDSU outperforming

both CSU and peer group averages. Additionally, the URAD operating budget was discussed, emphasizing the division's growing self-sufficiency amid ongoing state funding reductions.

Adrienne also addressed national and institutional donor trends, referencing the 2025 Giving USA report which showed a record high in charitable giving but a continued decline in donor participation. SDSU mirrored this trend, with fluctuating donor counts over recent years. Importantly, while donor numbers have varied, average giving per donor has steadily increased, reaching over \$8,000 in FY24/25. SDSU's donor retention rate, especially among non-athletics donors, remains strong at 57%, providing a solid foundation for future growth.

The presentation concluded with a brief overview of URAD's internal KPI tracking system, Measurements of Success. These goals are used to monitor departmental productivity, collaboration, and inform leadership decisions.

Adrienne informed the Board of a recent Public Records Act request received by the University and its auxiliaries.

Nominating and Governance Committee

Steve Doyle announced that the committee has concluded recruitment for the 2026 term.

The committee recommended Judy Hamilton, Jeff Partrick, Janette Lampe, and Georgia Griffiths to the board for approval, meeting the recruitment goal of 3-4 new board members. At year-end, Mary Curran, Ed Brown, and the Steve Doyle will end their board service, and Christine Probett will complete her third term as TCF Faculty Representative. Julie Dillon, Joyce Gattas, Patti Roscoe and Jessica Sarowitz have agreed to renew their terms; Kim Kilkenny declined to renew for a new term. Risa Baron agreed to a second term as Alumni Representative, and Dr. Sandra Wawrytko was approved by the committee as the sole Faculty Representative candidate.

Additional updates included: Keith Jones and Perla Long joined campus boards, with ongoing discussions involving Norma Diaz. Committee chairs for 2026 were announced: Alan Dulgeroff (Nominating & Governance), Dan Gross (Government & Community Relations), and Rick Bregman (Audit).

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve inviting Judy Hamilton, Janette Lampe, Jeff Partrick and Georgia Griffiths to the annual meeting in December for election and installation as Directors of the Board.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve inviting Risa Baron to serve a second one-year term as Alumni Representative and Sandra Wawrytko to serve a one-year term as Faculty Representative.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve Julie Dillon, Joyce Gattas, Patti Roscoe and Jessica Sarowitz to serve additional second and third terms as Directors of the Board.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve **Resolution 25-07**, approving the 2026 TCF Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

- March 5, 2026
- June 4, 2026
- September 24, 2026
- December 10, 2026

It was announced that the TCF New Board Member Orientation would be held on Friday, January 23, 2026.

Audit Committee

Alan Dulgeroff shared that the Audit committee had wrapped up its annual audit. Grant Thornton reported no internal control deficiencies in the FY 24/25 audit of The Campanile Foundation. Financial statements were found to be accurate and complete. One minor timing-related misstatement was noted but deemed immaterial. No issues were identified with related parties, accounting policies, or disclosures. The committee recommended the approval of the FY 24/25 audited draft financial statements to The Campanile Foundation Board of Directors.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve **Resolution 25-06** accepting the audited financial statements for period ending June 30, 2025.

Finance and Investment Committee

John Wills opened his update by sharing that the CSU's total endowment (inclusive of all 22 CSU campuses and the CSU Foundation) stands around \$2.8 billion of which SDSU's endowment accounts for \$500+ million. A point of pride for the University.

The endowment stands at roughly \$515 million with 11.8% earned on that investment in the last year; and 7.3% over the last 10 years. SDSU is well positioned with a diversified

pool of asset classes. Fixed income is \$70 million. Total assets of The Campanile Foundation are currently around \$635 million.

Julie Dillon adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.


Julie Dillon (Oct 3, 2025 09:59:51 PDT)

Julie Dillon, Chair



Cynthia Swanson, Secretary