

# California State University, Los Angeles Foundation

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 24, 2021  
11:15 a.m.

California State University, Los Angeles  
Zoom Meeting

- Present: Larry Adamson, Nelson Algaze, Talia Mae Bettcher, William Covino, Janet Dial, Rachel Friedman, Chris Garlington, Sergio Gonzalez, Lina Hu, Alev Lewis, William Lewis, Rosario Marin, Dwight Nakata, Omel Nieves, Jorge Ramirez, Barry Rondinella, Nilza Serrano, Joyce Williams
- Absent: Danielle Ares-Duran, Lorraine Bradley, Emilio Campos, Diana Chavez, Devika Hazra, Robert Velasquez
- Staff: Robert Avalos, Associate Vice President for Principal and Planned Gifts  
Susana Moreno, Fiscal Analyst, University Advancement  
Jane Rhee, Administrative Assistant, University Advancement  
John Tcheng, Director of Budget Administration

Omel Nieves called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

### **President's Report** – Omel Nieves, President

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The draft minutes of the April 29, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting was presented for review and approval.

Motion to approve the draft minutes of the April 29, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by Nelson Algaze.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

### **University President's Report** – William A. Covino

President Covino announced Julianne Malveaux will begin her role as the dean of the College of Ethnic Studies, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. The fall semester is a hybrid model of virtual and in-person classroom instructions and the university is anticipating a larger and more diverse incoming class than last year. Orientation is in progress for first-year and transfer students. He reported that nearly all 1,500 beds in the new housing facility have been reserved, reflecting the large demand for on-campus housing. The former Physical Sciences building has been renovated and retrofitted and will serve as the new student services center. The staff who were in the Administration Building will move to this newly renovated building beginning on July 1 and the building will be referred to as the Student Services Building.

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The president reported there are plans to restore some of the budget reductions that occurred due to COVID-19 and those monies will be designated to hire new faculty. There is also anticipation of one-time funding from both State and Federal sources, that will provide monies for facilities and modernizing our classroom as it relates to technology needs and capacity.

Commencement ceremonies to recognize the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021 will be held on Reeder Field over seven days at the end of July. There will be a total of 20 ceremonies to accommodate students and their guests. University staff across divisions and units are working collaboratively to have events that will celebrate the students' achievements with the health and safety protocols in place to comply with county and state guidelines.

President Covino welcomed Joyce Williams in her new capacity as Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, and John Tchong, Director of Budget Administration. Upon Nancy Wada-McKee's retirement at the end of May, Octavio Villalpando became Vice President for both and Student Life, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

## **Committee Reports**

### Audit Committee – Dwight Nakata

Mr. Nakata reported that the preliminary field work for the GAAP Audit has already begun. The committee will convene in early September to review the draft. The committee will present their recommendation to the board at the next full board meeting in late September.

### Governance Committee – Barry Rondinella

Committee and Chair Appointments – Mr. Rondinella presented the committee's recommendation to approve the committee roster and committee chair appointments as follows: Audit – Dwight Nakata; Development and Gift Acceptance – Rosario Marin; Governance – Barry Rondinella; and Investment and Finance – Alev Lewis.

Motion to approve the committee's recommendation for fiscal year 2021-22, was made by Sergio Gonzalez and seconded by Barry Rondinella.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

Trustee Elections – Mr. Rondinella presented three trustee nominations. Mr. Algaze was excused from the main meeting room.

*Nelson Algaze* – Mr. Rondinella presented trustee nominee, Nelson Algaze, who is eligible to serve a second 3-year term effective, July 1, 2021, ending June 30, 2024.

Motion to re-elect Nelson Algaze was made by William Lewis and seconded by Sergio Gonzalez.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

Mr. Algaze was readmitted into the main meeting room.

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*Lina Hu* – Mr. Rondinella presented trustee nominee, Lina Hu, who is eligible to serve a second 3-year term effective, July 1, 2021, ending June 30, 2024.

Motion to re-elect Lina Hu was made by William Lewis and seconded by Sergio Gonzalez.  
With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

*Mongwei Wee* – Mr. Rondinella presented trustee nominee, Mongwei Wee, to serve one 3-year term effective, July 1, 2021, ending June 30, 2024. Ms. Wee previously served on the board fiscal years 2012 through 2018.

Motion to elect Mongwei Wee was made by William Lewis and seconded by Larry Adamson.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

*Officer Elections* – Mr. Rondinella presented officer trustee nominees for fiscal year 2021-22.  
All nominees were excused from the main meeting room.

*President Nominee* – Mr. Rondinella presented nominee, Omel Nieves, to serve as trustee and board president.

Motion to re-elect Mr. Nieves as trustee and board president for fiscal year 2021-22 was made by Rosario Marin and seconded by William Lewis.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

*Vice President Nominee* – Mr. Rondinella presented nominee, Larry Adamson, to serve as vice president.

Motion to re-elect Larry Adamson to serve as vice president for fiscal year 2021-22, was made by Rosario Marin and seconded by Nelson Algaze.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

*Secretary Nominee* – Mr. Rondinella presented Danielle Duran, to serve as secretary.

Motion to re-elect Danielle Duran to serve as secretary for fiscal year 2021-22, was made by Rosario Marin and seconded by Chris Garlington.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

*Treasurer Appointee* – Mr. Rondinella presented John Tcheng. This position is an appointment by the chief financial officer, ratified by the board, according to the foundation by-laws.

Motion to ratify the chief financial officer's appointment, John Tcheng, to serve as board treasurer, was made by Rosario Marin and seconded by William Lewis.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

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All were readmitted into the main meeting room.

## Development and Gift Acceptance Committee – Rosario Marin

*Fundraising Report ending May 31, 2021* – Ms. Marin reported that ending May 31, 2021, private giving receivables was \$6.7M, of which \$2.8M was earmarked to the foundation restricted accounts. Total philanthropic productivity commitments were \$8.1M. As of May 31, 2021, the university has raised \$83.1M, with total number of donors at 15,506.

*Fourth Quarter Highlights* – Wells Fargo awarded a \$1M grant to the College of Business and Economics, and the College of Natural and Social Sciences to fund the “Leading for Equity in Entrepreneurship Accelerator and Fellowship” (LEEAF) program. The College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology received a \$300K grant to support existing community college partnerships and create new baccalaureate pathways to increase STEM transfer student success. The California Community Foundation made a grant payment of \$176,342.82 to Student Life to fund “Feeding Our Students and Communities” grant. They also awarded a \$156K grant to the Pat Brown Institute to fund their 2021 Community Impact Survey Program.

The Pat Brown Institute received several sponsorships towards their April 2021 Annual Gala: \$50K from Wells Fargo Bank, \$15K from the Weingart Foundation, and \$5K each from Cedars-Sinai Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, Reyes Coca-Cola, and SEIU - Local 721.

Hauser & Wirth made their annual grant payment of \$68,005 towards the Television, Film and Media Center’s (TVFM) Department Grant Partnership. In-kind donations of equipment have also been committed to TVFM. The Conrad Hilton Foundation made their annual board-directed and matching gifts totaling \$22,625 to support the “James R. Galbraith Endowed Scholarship for Speech Communication,” and the “James R. Galbraith Public Affairs Fellowship Endowment.” The Charter College of Education received \$374K from a realized bequest to establish the “Ratcliffe Endowment for Educational Equity and Justice.” The Division of Athletics received \$134,851 from a realized bequest to establish the “Bob Sanders Baseball Endowed Scholarship.”

An alumnus has committed to raising \$500K towards a naming opportunity in the Garden of Well-Being, including a personal pledge of \$100K, and \$400K, from other individuals and organizations. An alumnus from the College of Natural and Social Sciences made provisions in her estate to donate \$200K towards the naming of “Alma’s Path” at the Garden of Well-Being. The remaining \$70K pledge (from a total \$140K pledge) from a Charter College of Education alumnus was recorded towards the “Jaime and Elidia Sosapavon Graduate Student Scholarship.” An alumnus and spouse donated \$25K towards the “Summer Transition to ECST Programs” (STEP) under the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology from their donor advised fund. A double alumnus from the College of Arts and Letters, donated \$41,721.78, to establish the “James A. Penn Memorial Scholarship Endowment.” A double alumnus from the Charter College of Education donated \$30K towards the “Ron Prescott Scholarship Endowment.”

## Investment and Finance Committee – Alev Lewis

*Portfolio Update* – Ms. Lewis presented the executive summary of the endowment, reporting on the portfolio value of \$59.2M, ending May 31, 2021. She presented net investment gain/loss for 2021 YTD, 2020 prior, trailing 3 and 5 years, and since inception. She shared the portfolio’s performance overview, including top performing

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managers (and detractors). She reported that the committee voted to allocate a total of \$1.8M towards clean/alternative energy investments. This allocation represents 3% of the endowment portfolio. Ms. Marin commended Ms. Alev for her committee leadership. Mr. Adamson noted that ESG investments is an agenda at the Chancellor's Office and throughout the CSU system.

## **Treasurer's Report** – John Tcheng

*Unaudited Financial Statements Ending May 31, 2021* – Ending May 31<sup>st</sup>, the total inflow was \$15.7M and total outflow was \$2.8M for an ending fund balance of \$76M. On the *Statements of Activities*, Mr. Tcheng reported the total revenue and supports, and total expenses, including sub-totals for unrestricted, quasi-restricted, and restricted. On the *Statements of Financial Position*, he presented total assets and liabilities, including unrestricted, quasi-restricted, and restricted. The following page included the detailed pledge receivables for award and non-scholarship, endowments, and investments (non-endowed and endowed). The *Detail Statement of Activities* showed the operating budget compared to the approved budget, reflecting available budget of \$183,739 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

*Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22* – Dr. Dial presented the proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2021-22, which includes a surplus from this current fiscal year. The proposed increase in University Advancement Operations line item is to anticipate expenses for campaign celebratory events for the close of the campaign, including the university's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. Other changes were minor increases for auditing fees and insurance.

Motion to approve the operating budget for fiscal year 2021-22, presented by management, was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by Rosario Marin.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

## **Executive Director's Report** – Janet Dial

*We Are LA Campaign and University-wide Updates* – Dr. Dial stated that since the \$75 million campaign goal has been exceeded eighteen months before the close of the campaign now the advancement team is working toward the aspirational goal of \$100M. There are many six, seven, and eight figure donors engaged with the campaign, and she is optimistic that the team will exceed the \$100 million mark before the end of 2022. She addressed the importance of a 100% giving board and reported the Alumni Association's board has successfully achieved this goal. The advancement team has currently raised \$8.5M this fiscal year. There are pending estate gifts that will help the advancement team achieve their goal of \$10M before the end of the fiscal year next week. Dr. Dial shared that donors are beginning to accept in-person donor visits and that she has also commenced in-person meetings with the staff. She shared a vision of a reorganized structure of the advancement team that would include major gift officers working across colleges, rather than being "college-based." She also shared that she is in the midst of annual reviews and remarked how successfully the Alumni team pivoted to virtual events and platforms during this pandemic.

*Lillyvale Property* – Dr. Dial presented the Charter College of Education's recommendation to sell the condominium property that is owned by the Foundation. Their recommendation included selling the property and using the proceeds to enhance the existing Guglielmo endowment.

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Motion to sell the Lillyvale property and transfer the proceeds to augment the existing Guglielmo endowment was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by Alev Lewis.

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

The trustees discussed next steps and agreed to assign the Investment and Finance Committee to review market evaluations. Management will proceed with obtaining a market analysis of the property for the committee's review.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the foundation board is scheduled for September 23, 2021. Meeting location and details will be forthcoming.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

With no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Rosario Marin and seconded by Chris Garlington

With no further comments, the Trustees conducted a verbal vote and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm.