

California State University, Los Angeles Foundation

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2022
11:15 a.m.

California State University, Los Angeles
Zoom Meeting

Present: Larry Adamson, Nelson Algaze, Danielle Ares-Duran, Lorraine Bradley, William Covino, Rachel Friedman, Chris Garlington, Sergio Gonzalez, Devika Hazra, Andrew Klein, William Lewis, Rosario Marin, Dwight Nakata, Omel Nieves, Jorge Ramirez, Nilza Serrano, John Tchong, Mongwei Wee, Joyce Williams

Absent: Amber Beasley, Talia Mae Bettcher, Janet Dial, Bertha Haro, Lina Hu, Alev Lewis, Barry Rondinella, 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

Omel Nieves called the meeting to order at 11:18a

President's Report – Omel Nieves, President

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the September 23, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting was presented for review and approval.

Motion to approve the draft minutes of the September 23, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by William Lewis.

Devika Hazra presented a correction of her recorded absence at the September board meeting. Correction was noted.

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

University President's Report – William A. Covino

President Covino reported that Spring semester virtual classes began last week. Administration anticipates ending remote learning and resuming in-person classroom instruction after February 12th. Students, faculty, and staff will be required to have the booster shot. He reported that the Billie Jean King statue will be in front of the gym on the lawn facing the mural. Other cosmetic developments include the Garden of Well-Being. There will be a dedication ceremony and reception to honor this contribution to student well-being and student success. The campaign is nearly \$100M and there are various campaign closure events in the planning stages.

Commencement week is scheduled in May and honorary degree candidates have been confirmed.

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President Covino announced the appointment of Robert Avalos as vice president for university advancement, effective March 1, 2022. Janet Dial will be departing Cal State LA the end of February. He commended Mr. Avalos for the university's largest single donor totaling more than \$13M, including the \$10M for the School of the Arts in the College of Arts and Letters. Official press release and written announcement will be presented in the coming weeks.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – Dwight Nakata reported that the 990 ending June 30, 2021 is now being prepared. The committee plans to convene in March to review with the auditors before presenting to the trustees at the April meeting.

Development and Gift Acceptance Committee – Rosario Marin

Fundraising Report FY 21-22 Ending December 31, 2021 – Ms. Marin reported that ending December 31, 2021, private giving receivables was \$4,318,253, of which \$2.19M was earmarked to the foundation restricted accounts. Total philanthropic productivity commitments were \$13.6M. Donor count is currently 1,243 toward our goal of 5,000. As of January 7, 2022, the university has raised \$98.6M towards WE ARE LA: The Campaign for Cal State LA, exceeding the campaign goal of \$75M.

Second Quarter Highlights – The university has raised \$876,621 in private gift receivables through August 31, 2021, of which, \$532,854, is earmarked for Cal State LA Foundation accounts. The philanthropic productivity gift commitments totals (which include new gifts, new pledges, and new testamentary commitments) is \$459,241. The donor count is currently 203.

Distinguished Alumnus, Mary Levin Cutler, has pledged \$10,000,000 in her estate to establish the *Mary Levin School of Arts*, that will include the departments of Art, Music, TVFM (Television, Film and Media Studies), Theater and Dance, and the Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery. Ms. Cutler received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Music (1955 and 1959, respectively).

The Andrew Mellon Foundation pledged a \$1,000,000 grant to support the Degree- Granting Program and Re-Entry Support of Incarcerated and formerly Incarcerated students managed through the Center of Engagement, Service, and the Public Good. We received the first \$500,000 installment.

Nina Luce, a 1963 nursing alumna, and her husband, David Luce, have donated towards their pledge of \$2,000,000 to establish the *Luce and Ernst Nursing Director Endowment* in the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.

The Sikand Foundation made their annual donation of \$250,000 to fund the Sikand SITI Center, and an additional gift of \$20,000 to support the College of ECST (Engineering, Computer Science & Technology) Fund for Innovation & Excellence.

The Leonard Hill Charitable Trust completed their second-year grant of \$220,000 to fund the Cal State LA Peer Forward Project.

The Non-Profit Finance Fund awarded a grant in the amount of \$122,030 to the Pat Brown Institute to fund their COVID-19 Survey of LA County.

Edison International made several donations: \$50,000 towards the Edison STEM Scholarships; \$50,000 towards the ECST Senior Design Program; \$40,000 to support the Pat Brown Institute's Civic Education and Engagement Programs; and, \$15,000 to support the Acceleration Support Fund in the College of ECST.

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The Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation made their second and final donation of \$60,000 to support foster-youth in the Guardian Scholars Program.

James Chaplin and Judith Pointdexter established *The James Morrow Detchmendy Scholarship Endowment*, in memory of their son, a civil engineering alum (2007).

The Boeing Company donated \$75,000 to support the ECST Acceleration Initiative including LaunchPadX.

The Ralph M. Parson's Foundation donated \$75,000 to the ECST Acceleration Initiative: *Strengthening Persistence & Leadership through STEP Programs*.

J.T. Tai & Co. Foundation awarded a \$50,000 grant to support the Chinese American Oral History Project: *Chinese Garden – Liu Fang Yuan at the Huntington Gardens* in the College of Ethnic Studies.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities awarded a grant of \$50,000 to fund the Community-Engaged Learning Active Program (CLAP) in the Charter College of Education.

Renuka Sethi established the *Dr. Hari S. Sethi Memorial Fellowship* in the College of Natural and Social Sciences, in memory of her husband, Dr. Hari S. Seth, a former faculty member in the Department of Zoology.

Former Northrop Grumman Endowed Chair, Dr. Theodore Nye, made a gift of appreciated stocks to support the ECST Senior Design Project.

Deborah Wong, a 1998 biochemistry alumna, and her husband, Kenneth Wong, established their third endowed scholarship fund under the College of Natural and Social Sciences

Hiram and Janet Hironaka established an endowed scholarship fund in memory of one of their family members, Aimee Yoshioka Hironaka, a non-degreed alumna.

Morris Chernick established the *Dorsey A. Chernick Scholarship Endowment* in honor of his mother, a 1970 psychology alumna.

Bank of American donated \$20,000 to support the Professional Fundamentals Program in the College of Business and Economics.

SoCalGas Company donated 25,000 to the College of Engineering, Computer Science & Technology.

Emeritus faculty member, Dorothy Keane donated to her previously established scholarship in memory of her husband, to the Emeriti Association – *Roland L. Carpenter Memorial Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship/Grad Fellowship*.

MUFG Union Bank donated \$20,000 to fund the Leading For Equity in Entrepreneurship Accelerator and Fellowship (LEEAF) Program in the College of Natural and Social Sciences.

We received a realized bequest in the amount of \$30,000 from the Estate of Bobbe J. Allen, a 1962 alumna, to establish a named scholarship endowment. This is the first of two distributions towards the endowment.

We received a realized bequest in the amount of \$20,000 from the Estate of Ecaterini Gaitanou Living Trust to establish a Nurse Training Scholarship in the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.

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Governance Committee – Barry Rondinella

Updated Committee Directory for FY 2021-22

Updated committee directory was shared with the board for review and consideration.

Motion to approve the updated committee directory for fiscal year 2021-22, was made by William Lewis and seconded by Jorge Ramirez.

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

Investment and Finance Committee – Larry Adamson

Portfolio Update – Mr. Adamson briefly shared Jewel City Group’s economic outlook including market adjustments and the anticipation that the market will continue to be positive. He shared the executive summary of the endowment, reporting on the portfolio value of \$62.1M ending December 31, 2021. He presented net investment gain/loss for 2021 YTD, 2020 prior, trailing 3 and 5 years, and since inception, commenting that the portfolio has outperformed its benchmark.

He reviewed the portfolio’s performance overview, including top performing managers and detractors. He also shared the portfolio’s asset allocation summary. There was a rebalancing activity earlier in the month, noting monies were added to short term fixed income. He reported there are no managers on the watch list.

Investment Policy Statement for Non-Endowed – Mr. Adamson shared the draft statement for non-endowed funds as presented by Jewel City Group. The following sections/areas were updated: index fund names; lower and upper limits for both fixed income and cash & equivalents; language referencing socially responsible investing; fees section; and, terms for FDIC insured CD’s.

Motion to approve the committee’s recommendation to update the Investment Policy Statement for Non-endowed Funds was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by William Lewis.

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

Fossil Fuel Divestments and Reallocations – Jewel City Group presented to the board a strategy to divest and reallocate monies from fossil fuel investments.

Motion to approve the committee’s recommendation to divest from fossil fuel investments and reallocate monies within existing manager, or equivalent non-fossil fuel option was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by William Lewis.

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

Distribution Options for Fiscal Year 2022-23 – Management presented to the committee the distribution options for FY 2022-23. The committee proposed using a calculation commonly used by other foundations, which is a 20 fiscal-quarter rolling average of returns. Upon reviewing the endowment’s rolling average, and having considered inflation, the committee recommended 5% distribution.

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Motion to approve 5% distribution for Fiscal Year 2022-23 was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by Nilza Serrano.

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

Treasurer's Report – John Tcheng

Unaudited Financial Statements Ending December 31, 2021

Ending December 31st, the total inflow was \$4.3M and total outflow was \$2.1M for an ending fund balance of \$80.7M. 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* line-itemized the operating budget compared to the approved budget, reflecting available budget of \$412,827 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Executive Director's Report – Robert Avalos

We Are LA Campaign and University-wide Updates – Robert Avalos reported on Dr. Dial's behalf that the university has raised \$98.6M towards the campaign's aspirational goal of \$100M. There are additional gifts we can anticipate before the close of the fiscal year and the campaign. He shared there will be dedication ceremonies and various events throughout this year to commemorate the 75th year and the We Are LA Campaign. He invited all trustees to join as their schedules allowed. Mr. Avalos shared that email solicitations are well received, reporting an open rate of 20%, indicating there is interest from our constituents of campus news and events.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the foundation board is scheduled for April 28, 2022. Meeting location and details will be announced.

Motion to Adjourn

With no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Larry Adamson and seconded by William Lewis.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:32p.