November 19, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting

5:00-6:30 p.m. – District Office Building

(DRAFT) Minutes

Board Present: Advani, Andersen, Banerjee, Bautista, Bewtra, Dubin, Godfrey, Khechfe, Lambert, Mahoney, Mostafa, Park, Santora, Sathaye, Swift, Torres, Whalen, Wilson, Vaidhyanathan
Board Absent: Axelrad, Casas, Kniss, Rao, Swenson
Foundation Staff Present: Cima, Garcia-Vega, Howell, Latta, Reilly
District Staff Present: Pennington

Welcome and Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ahmed Mostafa.

Approval of Minutes

- September Minutes were approved.
    - *Action: Bautista moved to adopt the September minutes; Park seconded.* Vaidhyanathan abstained. *The motion carried; minutes approved.*

Report on Action(s) by Executive Committee – Cima

- The Executive Committee did not take any reportable action.

Election of Board Officers – Cima

- Cima reported that Swenson accepted the nomination as Vice President.

"Future Ready" Campaign - Discussion

- Lambert explained that Foothill-De Anza needs the Foundation board to help fundraise for a "Future Ready" Campaign, emphasizing that the goal is to improve alignment between the two campuses and Central Services to consolidate resources and strengthen student support districtwide.

- Ongoing initiatives include scaling the district's partnerships with corporations and looking for other partnerships.

- Lambert also reported that students have begun moving into district housing, and that faculty and staff may begin moving into housing as soon as the end of 2025.
- Cima shared that he and Lambert have discussed engaging in a feasibility study to determine resources needed to embark on a large-scale fundraising campaign.

President's Reports

De Anza College – Torres

- Torres presented an overview of De Anza College's Strategic Plan for 2027-30. The plan has 3 main goals all in alignment with the Chancellor's priorities:
    - Goal 1: Creating Equitable Access and Pathways
    - Goal 2: Elevating Equitable Engagement and Success.
    - Goal 3: Galvanizing Community Impact and Innovation
- As an example, Torres mentioned that through the "Future Ready" Campaign De Anza seeks to bring a virtual reality lab to the campus so that VR is more easily accessible to students.

Foothill College – Whalen

- Whalen referred to Foothill's strategic plan as well and how it relates to the Future Ready campaign. Whalen explained that Foothill is creating an artificial intelligence lab under the Emerging Technologies Institute. Part of this includes funding the AI fellows' program which includes 4 students, 2 administrators, 2 staff, and faculty. The scope will include exploring AI technologies, sharing information across the campus, providing training for staff/faculty and students, and supporting AI-related projects.
- Foothill will be making the Sunnyvale center a hub for workforce and Allied Health. With approximately 750 students vying for limited seats in Allied Health programs, the idea is to transition students over to similar programs that are just as high paying. One example is the new neurodiagnostic technician program, which is the only public access program in Northern California.

"Future Ready" Campaign Breakout Groups

- Cima reiterated the proposal that the Foundation's focus will be to raise funds for an umbrella campaign to fund projects at the colleges like those mentioned in the President's reports.
- Cima asked the Foundation board to do breakout sessions and handed out post-it notes. He asked each board member to write:
    - What major concerns do you have; what questions do you need answered; and what will you do to support the Future Ready campaign.

Discussion Highlights / Tables Reported Out

    - Importance of focusing on the uniqueness of Foothill-De Anza and articulating clear outcomes.
    - Concerns expressed about investing in technologies that could become obsolete quickly and wondered if there are ways to mitigate this such as possible partnerships, borrowing, etc. They also recognized increased competition for private funding due to reduced federal support.
    - One table requested additional data to refine campaign direction and discussed the need to frame essentials compellingly. They suggested using alumni to aid with fundraising and giving talks to donors that highlight how Foothill-De Anza meets the needs of Silicon Valley. They also spoke of the need to leverage LinkedIn and tell stories to connect donations to outcomes.
- Cima collected all the notes and will compile them for future discussion.
- Cima reminded the board they have four board seats available and asked the board to consider who isn't in this room that can add value.

Finance Committee Report – Latta

- The Foundation's FY 25-26 budget was presented by Latta, which reminded the board that a full presentation was done at the September's board meeting but need a formal adoption vote at today's meeting

  Budget Overview:
  Revenue Forecast: $5,025,000 – 15% increase from FY25 Forecast
  Expense Budget: $1,950,401 ~ $200K increase in salaries due to staff parental leave coverage and COLA.
  Operation Revenue: 5.7% draw on expendable funds and 1% draw on endowment funds to fund the foundation's budget.
    - *Action: Andersen moved to adopt the FY 25-26 budget; Dubin seconded. The motion carried; budget adopted.*

  Latta reported nearly $2.5M in fundraising revenue, and the Foundation's assets were nearly $67M at Mercer.

  Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.; next meeting January 28, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)