

Board of Directors Meeting

May 6, 2022

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Directors of San Diego State University Research Foundation was held virtually on the Zoom platform from San Diego, California, on Friday, May 6, 2022 pursuant to the notice duly posted for public information.

The following Officers were present:

Adela de la Torre, President

Hala Madanat, Vice President

Agnes Wong Nickerson, Treasurer

Michèle Goetz, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

The following Officer was absent:

Karen Emmorey, Secretary

The following Directors were present:

Guadalupe X. Ayala

David Page

Ming-Hsiang Tsou

Bill Brack

Randolph Philipp

Alex Waters

Vickie Capps

Ashley Tejada

Robert Zeller

Joan Coppenrath

Jennifer Thomas

Salvador Ochoa

The following Directors were absent:

Natalie Mladenov

The following University administrators, guests and Research Foundation staff members were present:

Debbie Brighton

Lizette Nájera

Leslie Levinson

Rachel Raynoha

Shawki Moore

I. Call to Order

President de la Torre called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed newly elected AS president Shawki Moore to the meeting.

II. Consent Agenda

President de la Torre requested a motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

Motion: **A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to accept the Consent Agenda for the SDSU Research Foundation Board of Directors meeting thereby approving:**

- a) SDSU Research Foundation Board Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2022
- b) Resolution 22-06 Authorizing Signatories for banking and investment transactions

President de la Torre acknowledged and thanked four members of our board whose term ends after today's meeting: Bill Brack, Karen Emmorey, Natalie Mladenov and Ashley Tejada.

III. Election of Board Members and Committee Membership

President de la Torre nominated board member re-appointments for Ming-Hsiang Tsou and community member David Page. She also nominated Tom McCarron to fill the community member vacancy and Sweta Sarkar and Steve Gill to the faculty member vacancies.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve Ming-Hsiang Tsou to serve an additional four-year term and David Page, Tom McCarron, Sweta Sarkar, and Steve Gill to serve three-year terms.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve all appointments.

President de la Torre called for a motion to approve the following committee appointments: Agnes Wong Nickerson as Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee; Vickie Capps, Tom McCarron, Randolph Philipp, and Robert Zeller as Finance and Investment Committee members; David Page as Chair of the Audit Committee; and Vickie Capps, Joan Coppentrath, Steven Gill, and Ming-Hsiang Tsou as Audit Committee members.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve all Committee appointments.

IV. CEO Report

Ms. Goetz reported on the continued positive trends in proposal and award numbers noting as of April 30, faculty submitted 927 proposals which was in line with last year's volume, however, the number of proposals are valued at \$211 million – almost \$26 million more than prior year proposals. She also pointed out there were 569 proposals in the pipeline valued at \$132 million dollars that are still pending review and 557 awards valued at almost \$116 million had been received – 21 more awards, \$19 million in direct costs and \$2.5 million more in indirect than the same time last year. Ms. Goetz went on to describe three opportunities in the country of Georgia that would bring in another \$10 million in contracts if SDSU is selected, concluding that SDSU is on a positive trajectory for the year.

Ms. Goetz also noted that staffing and retention continue to be a recurring theme for both the research foundation and the university. She described the significant investments that

had been made to address compensation, especially at the entry-level and across the critically important professional positions in finance, human resources, pre- and post-award units. She further noted that a pool of funds for general increases has been built into the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and reiterated the importance of continuing to invest in staffing to support the projected growth in research. Ms. Goetz went on to describe the importance of the hybrid work model to staff and the positive impact it has on the recruitment and retention efforts. She discussed how hybrid work created opportunities for space creation, cost-savings, and increased staff retention, and noted that management was working on a plan to reduce the SDSURF use of space to meet research or other academic needs and reduce rent costs when the ground lease expires next fiscal year. In addition, it would free up parking, reduce carbon emissions, and allow for more meaningful and deliberate employee engagement.

- 1) Finally, Ms. Goetz described university plans to conduct an external assessment of the research infrastructure noting that SDSU issued a request for proposals (RFP) in March and bids closed at the end of April. The scope of work calls for an assessment of the overall research infrastructure at SDSU and recommendations on what is needed to support the strategic goal of becoming an R1 university. Discussion ensued.

V. Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Report

Interim Vice President Madanat updated the board on institutional investments recently made, noting that investing in research assigned time has proven to be successful with a host of submissions. She went on to describe recent proposal submission including five center grants and the receipt of seven NSF career awards. Interim VP Madanat noted that in the history of SDSU, there have been 26 career awards and 13 of those were awarded in the last three years and seven in this year alone. She went on to describe other research investments including \$1.5 million in equipment grants.

Discussion ensued.

VI. Finance and Investment Committee Report

Finance and Investment Committee member Vickie Capps updated the board on the Finance & Investment Committee meeting held on April 27, 2022.

The Committee met in a closed session for an update on the SAG-AFTRA negotiations.

Ms. Levinson updated the committee on some finance and accounting management changes, noting the department was undergoing a reorganization. The Finance & Investment Committee also reviewed the budget in depth and Ms. Levinson gave a thorough review of the FY22-23 General Fund Budget. The budget schedule found on page 39 of the board packet was reviewed.

President de la Torre called for a motion to adopt Resolution 22-07:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF SDSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION
APPROVAL OF SDSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S
FY 2022-23 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

Motion: A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 22-07.

RESOLVED, That the General Fund Budget, as submitted to the board of directors at its meeting on May 6, 2022, at a total Source of Funds of \$37,208,000 and Use of Funds of \$37,690,000 reflecting potential use of Reserves of \$482,000 be adopted as SDSU Research Foundation's budget for FY 2022-23 and forwarded to the president for her approval.

VI. Associated Students Report

Ashley Tejada welcomed incoming AS president Shawki Moore who was recently sworn in with approximately 50 other student leaders. Ms. Tejada reported that AS had recently established a Mission Valley committee to keep apprised of stadium policies. Meet and greets with AS officers will begin in the summer.

VII. PI Presentation

Interim VP Hala Madanat presented on the Mission Valley Innovation District.

VIII. New Business

President de la Torre called for any items of new business. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michèle G. Goetz
Associate Secretary-Treasurer