

Research Foundation**Board of Directors Meeting****September 27, 2019****9:00 a.m.****MINUTES**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of San Diego State University Research Foundation was held at San Diego State University in the James W. Cobble Boardroom of the Gateway Center, San Diego, California, on Friday, September 27, 2019 pursuant to the notice duly posted for public information.

The following Officers were present:

Adela de la Torre, President
Stephen Welter, 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	Natalie Mladenov	Ming-Hsiang Tsou
Bill Brack	Salvador Ochoa	Robert Zeller
Vickie Capps	Christian Onwuka	
Craig Hauser	David Page	

The following Directors were absent:

Joan Coppenrath
Randolph Philipp
Jennifer Thomas

The following University administrators, Research Foundation staff members, student and SDSU faculty members were present:

Debbie Brighton	Teresa Loren	Matt Spagnuolo
Steve Gill	Lizette Nájera	
Vicky Kern	Deb Naylon	
Leslie Levinson	Rachel Raynoha	

I. Call to Order

President de la Torre called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and welcomed Provost Salvador Hector Ochoa, Dr. Natalie Mladenov, and David Page to their first meeting. She also welcomed

Matt Spagnuolo of Grant Thornton, Dr. Steve Gill, , Teresa Loren and Vicky Kern with the Research Foundation's finance team.

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 May 3, 2019
- b) Resolution 19-09: Industrial Security Clearance

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

III. Election of Board Members and Secretary & Appointment of Board Committees

President de la Torre called for a motion to approve new board member appointments, Natalie Mladenov and David Page, a motion to re-elect William Brack and Karen Emmorey as board members and a motion to re-elect Karen Emmorey to serve as Secretary.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve Natalie Mladenov and David Page as new board members to serve their first three-year term, re-electing William Brack to serve an additional three-year term and Karen Emmorey to serve as Secretary and an additional three-year term.

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; William Brack, Vickie Capps, Randolph Philipp, and Robert Zeller as Finance and Investment Committee members; and Joan Coppenrath as Chair of the Audit Committee; Vickie Capps, Steven Gill, David Page, and Ming-Hsiang Tsou as Audit Committee members.

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

IV. Executive Director Report

Ms. Goetz reported on the following:

- Year-end numbers for FY 2018-19: \$148.5 million dollars in awards – a 10% increase from last year.
- Annual Report for 2018-19 has been published. Additional information that breaks down proposal and awards by colleges and funding history and volume indicators can be found on page 10. The annual report is available online:

https://www.foundation.sdsu.edu/pdf/about_annual_report_2018_19.pdf

- Federal Government Budget Update: The continuing resolution for the federal budget was passed and avoids a government shutdown, pushing funding out through November 21st. Congress has already passed legislation to suspend the federal debt ceiling and to set government spending levels for the next two years.
- Facilities Update: There was a fire near building six in Alvarado. The events unfolded quickly and the fire department responded rapidly and had the fire out in about 4-7 minutes. No damage was done. A second incident took place at the SkyPark facility. A tree toppled over and destroyed an employee's vehicle. An arborist will be assessing the other trees around the property and taking care of potential hazards. Discussion ensued
- IT Update: A group has been put together to assess the wireless capacity at Alvarado. \$250K has been set aside from one-time budget savings to address this issue.
- Staffing challenges continue at the research foundation due to a tight labor market combined with below market values including sometimes lower than SDSU's. Ms. Goetz provided analytics on trends throughout a ten-year period. Discussion ensued.
- A service survey will be embedded within staff emails. This is an opportunity to submit feedback and/or offer comments and suggestions.

V. Finance and Investment Committee Report

Finance and Investment Committee Chair Wong-Nickerson updated the board on the meeting held on September 17:

- Upcoming changes to the research foundation retirement plan that were previously approved by the board.
- Update regarding the ground lease for the Montezuma development, which the committee and Board had previously approved; construction anticipated to start in May of 2020
- Total investment assets as of June 30, 2019 were \$145 million which includes cash, investment and real estate assets
- Majority of the meeting was spent reviewing the result of the general fund budget for the past fiscal year
- Ms. Wong Nickerson provided a high-level update on the Mission Valley project

Ms. Levinson provided the committee with an overview of significant changes to the budget from mid-year to actuals. She then reviewed all significant changes to the Summary of Investments report.

VI. Audit Committee Report

In Ms. Copenrath's absence, Mr. David Page reported on the Audit Committee meeting held on September 23, 2019.

- SDSU Research Foundation had 13 sponsor audits during FY 2018-19 with no financial findings
- The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing the audited financial statements and results of the audit

Mr. Matt Spagnuolo of Grant Thornton reported on the audits. Overall, the audits went very well. No findings, which is a testament to the strong, internal controls in place at the research foundation.

Ms. Levinson provided a brief overview of the audited financial statement process and presented the draft financial statements and compliance report to the board.

President de la Torre requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 19-10:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF SDSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION
APPROVING FY 2018-19 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
COMPLIANCE REPORT**

RESOLVED, That the resolution as submitted to the board of directors at its meeting on September 27, 2019 be adopted.

Motion: A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 19-10:

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve resolution 19-10.

VII. Vice President for Research Report

Dr. Welter provided the following updates:

- Grant funding rose 10% in 2018-19, reaching \$148.5 million.
- 4 of 6 colleges have approved a request for independent Ph.Ds.
- University Research Council is heavily involved in trying to create ideas for funding initiatives. Graduate Council and GRA staff are being engaged in the conversations. Dr. Welter invited everyone to share ideas with him.

Discussion ensued regarding the Strategic Planning process and SDSU Mission Valley.

VIII. Associated Students (A.S.) Report

Christian Onwuka reported on A.S. activities:

- Aztecs Rock Hunger campaign takes place October 18 through November 10 to raise food for the Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Foodbank

- Rock the Vote campaign is underway and the goal is to register 2,000 students to vote. The campaign provides education on the positions, candidates and propositions on the ballot.
- Exercise & Nutritional Sciences (ENS) Field dedication is October 3 at 11:00 a.m.
- The Cal State Student Association (CSSA) meeting was held in San Marcos. SDSU student Michael Wiafe is the current president of CSSA.
- Sustainability on campus is a priority
- A.S. hosted Strategic Planning sessions for students and student leaders

IX. New Business

President de la Torre called for any items of new business. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michèle G. Goetz
Associate Secretary-Treasurer