

# CSUSB FOUNDATION

*Building a Culture of Philanthropy*

## **Executive Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Zoom

## **Minutes**

Members Present: William Stevenson (Chair), Monica Alejandre, Debbie Brown, Cole Jackson, Nefertiti Long, Gary McBride, Robert Nava, Paz Olivérez, Robin Phillips, Rheanna Rodriguez, Sam Sudhakar

Members Absent: Carson Fajardo, Rafik Mohamed, Louis Monville, Shanthi Srinivas

Guests: Tania Pantoja, Zack Tucker, Crystal Wymer-Lucero, Estefania Vazquez

Vice Chair, Nefertiti Long called the February 20, 2024, Executive Committee meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

The December 5, 2023, meeting minutes were approved as distributed.  
(McBride/Brown/Unanimous)

### **Committee Reports**

Executive Director Robert Nava, on behalf of Advocacy Committee Chair Lou Monville, presented the advocacy committee report. Nava announced that the Cal State system is organizing an Advocacy Day with all CSU Presidents, Chancellor Garcia, and the campus delegation to focus on CSU budget discussions with legislators. The committee briefly discussed the CSU Budget, noting that the Governor has deferred a 5% funding increase for CSU until July 1, 2025. Nava emphasized the importance of the advocacy meeting in Sacramento, highlighting the competition for state funding among various agencies and educational institutions. A detailed report on the advocacy meetings will be presented at the Foundation board retreat. The Advocacy Committee will continue to monitor the CSU budget situation.

Rheanna Rodriguez, Chair of the Alumni Committee, highlighted the Alumni Hall of Fame event and congratulated Ellen and Bill on their awards. The event hosted more than 300 attendees. Additionally, Rodriguez announced the opening of the first-ever Alumni Center at CSUSB will occur in Spring 2024. This center will enhance alumni engagement and foster connections with current students and the community.

Rodriguez highlighted that the Coyote Network saw a 13% increase in users for the alumni-student mentoring program, with alumni from 18 different countries participating. Efforts to expand the mentoring program will continue. Rodriguez also commented on the seventh annual alumni mixer held on December 12th, which had over 200 attendees, and noted an upcoming Alumni Night at the 66ers on July 27th.

Cole Jackson, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the audit report, noting a successful completion of the last audit cycle. Jackson's concerns with the timing of the current auditor were discussed among the committee.

Tania Pantoja, on behalf of Board Membership Committee Chair Shanthi Srinivas, delivered the board membership report. The committee discussed new member onboarding, new nominees, and the roles and responsibilities of board members. Additionally, the committee is developing a self-evaluation tool for board members, which may include a survey and discussions. They are seeking suggestions for new nominees to join by July 1. Members are encouraged to send names and brief bios of potential candidates to Srinivas and Pantoja.

Gary McBride, Chair of the Investment Committee, delivered the investment report during the meeting. The portfolio had an excellent quarter with an 8.9% increase. Year-to-date performance through December was 15.7%. The market value of all invested funds closed just under \$62 million. The portfolio is now well-balanced, achieving the target allocation with alternative investments.

Debbie Brown, Chair of the Philanthropy Committee, presented the philanthropy report, highlighting that the team has raised \$214 million, surpassing the \$200 million goal. Alumni have contributed significantly, with 6,270 donors, while friends, corporations, and foundations have donated the largest amounts. Brown introduced new staff member Jessica Marin, who will oversee the 1965 Loyalty Society among other duties. She emphasized the importance of committee and board members attending university events to engage with the community. A list of upcoming events was provided to encourage participation.

### **Director's Report**

Robert Nava, Executive Director, delivered an update on the Investment Committee Chairs meeting that was held at Cal State Fullerton. The primary discussion centered on investment approaches, best practices, and market volatility. Nava welcomed Gary McBride and Sam Sudhakar to share their perspectives and takeaways from the meeting. Furthermore, Nava shared that several executive committee members attended the AGB conference in Los Angeles, which featured workshops and sessions on various governance topics.

The committee reviewed the board retreat agenda, highlighting the significance of encouraging active participation and engagement. They stressed the importance of fostering dialogue and feedback from all board members.

Monica Alejandre provided an update on North Pier's timeline. Alejandre mentioned that meetings with the investment committee members have been arranged, and a report with recommendations is anticipated by mid-March.

Additionally, Alejandre sought committee feedback regarding the scheduling and structure of board meetings. The committee provided their input on the matter with a recommendation to hold in person meetings, later afternoon/early evening meetings.

**Open Discussion**

During the open discussion session, campus development plans were discussed. Robin Philips shared the expansion of the staff development center which will have a focus on wellness for campus community. Paz Olivérez updated everyone on plans for the PDC Student Center and mentioned upcoming athletic events.

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**  
**CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
February 20, 2024  
Zoom

Signature: Monica Alejandre Date: 5/28/2024

Print Name: Monica Alejandre

Board Position: Secretary