



## Board of Directors – Special Meeting

Unadopted Meeting Minutes

**Friday, October 30, 2020**

**8:00 am to 9:00 am**

**Zoom online conference**

**Members Present:** Steve Page – Chair, Teresa Norton– Vice Chair, Frank Chong – Secretary, Kate Jolley – Treasurer, Scott Bartley, Jeff Bricker, Dan Condron, Maggie Fishman, Doug Garrison, Suzy Marzalek, Teresa Norton, Kris Shear, Jorge Servin, Carolina Spence, Shirley Ward

**Staff Present:** J Mullineaux, Sarah Laggos, Breanne Beseda

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions – Steve Page

Called to order at 8:00 am

### 2. Public Comment

Public comments limited to 3 minutes each, in order of appearance on Steve’s screen:

Robert Ethington, Dean of Students – shared student data and experiences from his supervisory role of Student Health Services and Mental Health Programs. Robert spoke on behalf of students in support of Measure O, reminding the group that if it passes, SRJC mental health programs will receive \$800,000+/year for 10 years, totaling more than \$8 million. Robert shared data from a recent survey conducted by the American College Health Association of SRJC students that revealed the following:

- 85% felt overwhelmed emotionally
- 64% felt overwhelming anxiety
- 46% felt so depressed it was difficult to function
- 14% seriously considered suicide
- 8% intentionally cut themselves

These numbers are staggering and alarming and have only grown worse with Covid:

- Virtual psych appointments are full with waiting lists
- Nearly 80% of conduct cases include mental health issues
- More than 50% of the SRJC disabled student population have mental health as a primary diagnosis; we have the largest program in the state

Another national study of our students conducted by the Hope Center showed:

- 40% are food insecure
- 20% are housing insecure

Though we will have student housing on campus in two years, we will need to be prepared to offer mental health services 24/7. Scholarships mean nothing if students drop out due to mental health or basic needs issues. Rescinding support for Measure O would send wrong message to students.

West Below – expressed disapproval from the student perspective, stating that the Foundation was failing to live up to its mission by donating \$20,000 to a political campaign. He called the action irresponsible, and was critical of the Foundation for utilizing “funds meant for students,” especially just as more devastating wildfires hit the area. He shared that when the Student Government Association was asked to donate \$10,000 to the campaign, they denied the request with “overwhelming student opposition” and questioned how much Measure O funding would actually benefit students should it be approved.

Delashay Benson – spoke as the President of the Student Government Association in support of Measure O and the Foundation’s support of the campaign. She shared that the SGA voted not to donate to the campaign only due to budget constraints, but unanimously voted to endorse the measure in support of SRJC students. She shared that she receives a lot of communication with concerns about Covid and fires and Black Lives Matter and many other reasons why students are struggling with mental health and would benefit from the funds generated by Measure O.

All other guests on the call were individually asked if they’d like to make comments but declined.

### **3. Foundation Support of Public Campaigns – Steve Page**

Board Chair called for a retroactive vote on recent support of \$20,000 provided to the Yes on Measure O campaign by the SRJC Foundation. Shirley Ward made motion, second by Teresa Norton.

Board engaged in discussion of Foundation policies regarding the use of Foundation funds to support or oppose ballot measures and the decision to support Yes on Measure O campaign. Each individual board member in attendance provided input and feedback. Most comments were in favor of the Foundation’s support of Measure O, with the exceptions of Dan Condron questioning the expenditure plan, Jorge Servin questioning the procedure, and Doug Garrison expressing his disapproval of both the support and the process.

Dr. Chong addressed the group to express appreciation and take responsibility for the process. He assured Dan that the JC is in fact an explicit part of the expenditure plan and will share documentation following meeting. He agreed with Doug that process and procedure definitely need to be addressed going forward. Dr. Chong reminded us about the college commitment to equity and encouraged leadership to “walk the walk” and “not hide behind process.” He reiterated that the donation was legal and ethical and would benefit the students who need it most.

Steve Page also took responsibility for process as Board Chair and spoke to the issue of Executive Committee authority. He committed to developing a plan and criteria for the type/level of issues that must be brought to the full Board going forward, and to revisiting policies and procedures governing donations to influence legislation. Steve admitted that while this donation may be

considered unconventional, it could generate millions of dollars to address a critical need on campus and reinforced his support.

Vote was taken by show of hands to approve Foundation donation to Yes on Measure O campaign. MOTION PASSED.

**4. Other Business**

No other business.

**5. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 8:47 am.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

Thursday, November 19, 2020 4:00pm to 5:30pm Foundation Board of Directors meeting, Zoom