



SRJC Foundation Executive Committee

Adopted Minutes

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 / 8am – 9:30am

Members: Suzy Marzalek – Chair; Troy Sanderson – Vice Chair; Kate Jolley; Teresa Norton; Scott Bartley

Absent: Dr. Angélica Garcia

Staff: J Mullineaux; Katie Greenwald

1. **Call to order** – Suzy Marzalek

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. The Land Acknowledgement was read.

2. **Public Comment** – Suzy Marzalek

There were no members of the public present and no comments.

3. **Approval of Minutes** – Suzy Marzalek

Minutes from Executive Committee meeting on August 28, 2024 were approved. Scott Bartley motioned, Teresa Norton seconded. All in favor. M/S/P

4. **Board Retreat Debrief** – Suzy Marzalek

Suzy provided an overview of the board retreat and asked for feedback. Scott vocalized that he appreciated the interaction and Teresa's overview of planned giving from the perspective of an estate attorney. The values card exercise provided a nice opportunity to interact with peer board members and strengthened us as a body. This kind of activity helps the board understand the work of the Foundation staff. It's been valuable to add student voices to our work. Suzy and J continue to discuss ways to incorporate and report on Community Centric Fundraising (CCF)-aligned efforts.

J and Katie to conduct the values cards exercise with SGA leaders and our intern, Elizabeth, on Oct 28.

5. **District Update** – Kate Jolley

Dr. Garcia was at a leadership conference in Seattle and unable to attend this Executive Committee meeting.

LumaFest and the Shone Farm Fall Harvest Festival were successful. Through the help of the Foundation, \$16,000 was raised in sponsorships for the Fall Festival. Ribbon cutting at the Construction Training Center went well and 120 people attended. Kate thanked the Foundation for the support.

Dr. Garcia is leading efforts to review District procedures and processes. The District is working on a redesign of participatory governance. The team is working through hundreds of policies. Strategic planning is moving forward (Planning and Budget Council signed-off on next steps). The District is working to identify long- and short-term ways to achieve the initiatives and goals which have been defined. The work is high-level at this point. An ambitious timeline to come in the spring. Support for students and programs is high-level, and the District is working to flesh it out.

The VP, HR search is ongoing.

Audit - The last of the fieldwork has been sent for the audit. It is expected to be completed in the new year. The District continuing to work with Gilbert CPAs.

6. **Community Centric Principles & Strategic Planning** – J Mullineaux

We've adopted four of the 11 Community Centric Fundraising principles to prioritize. Through the SRJC Foundation strategic planning process, we will define how we apply these principles. An Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee is being formed, and the whole board will be brought back into the conversation during the March '25 board meeting.

7. **Students Learning to Give** – Katie Greenwald

The SRJC Foundation staff will introduce a new project called *Students Learning to Give* through the Spring '25 semester.

Through the *Students Learning to Give* project, SRJC students will engage in a 14-week guided giving project. Throughout the semester, students will gather with industry professionals to learn about the philanthropy sector through a community-centric lens, explore their individual values and award \$10,000 to a collectively selected SRJC program or initiative.

The purpose is to continue to develop the future pipeline of community-centered philanthropy professionals; to provide an overview of the philanthropy sector to inspire future personal and professional giving; and to uplift and empower the voices of our students.

The goal is for SRJC students to complete the program with a strong grasp of community-centered philanthropy, learning how to align their values to meaningful financial decisions that benefit the community as a whole. By the end of the program students will have a deeper understanding of how philanthropy can address systemic inequities, foster collaboration and promote long-term, community-driven change.

8. **Student Investment Program** – Kate Jolley

Anthony Spinozzi, SRJC Foundation Student Director, and Ruben Garcia, SGA President, brought forward this idea in coordination with the Economics Club. Program advisors will

provide financial literacy and students will learn how to invest in markets. Upon launch of the program, it will be the first of its kind within the California Community College system. Students will suggest trades, and advisors will make trades using real funds. The students can't make a trade, but they'll make in depth recommendations. Students will have to pass a test to get to the point of making recommendations. Program organizers have created bylaws and put structure around the program.

Then the recommendations will go to the student advisor and advisory board. The program will be advised by Kate Jolley, a representative from the SRJC Foundation, a faculty member, and possibly others. The advisors will have final approval and execute trades. Program organizers recommend that the funds are held at the SRJC Foundation. The trading platform will have no more than \$100,000 at a time. It is recommended that any additional funds stay in the Foundation account. These funds will be tracked separately within the Foundation statement. This idea is gaining traction and attention at a state-wide level and is in line with K-12 legislation. A local community member who is supporting this was involved in K-12 financial literacy. Other colleges want to roll out a similar program. This program will not be investing Foundation dollars. The funds come from separate fundraising.

The program will help disrupt generational poverty. It's open to anyone who wants to learn. There will be levels within the program based on how much knowledge students want to learn. It's similar to an investment club. The program organizers will be working toward receiving statewide money. The Foundation is the repository. If there is no action in 2 years, funds revert to the Foundation. Advisors have full authority to veto any student recommendations. There is no connection with Graystone.

9. Personnel Committee Update, Accounting Position – J Mullineaux

The Personnel Committee had a meeting. The SRJC Foundation will eliminate the position of accounting and business at the Foundation, and instead work with the District to set up a District accounting level position that the Foundation will fund at sixty percent. The Foundation will continue to be supported by this position and obtain all of the current level of accounting. This will be an elevated position. This is a great opportunity for the accounting team and will allow for strengthened internal controls. Troy motioned, Teresa seconded. All in favor. M/S/P.

This will be brought to the board for approval in November.

Breanne Beseda is leaving the Foundation to become the Chief Development Officer for the Redwood Empire Foodbank. Her last day is November 14. Beseda made huge contributions to the Foundation and we wish her wonderful success.

In the interim, Katie will lean in to some responsibilities of the Director, Community Engagement role. Sarah and J will meet to assess the long-term staffing needs of the Foundation and the sustainability of funding for staff over the next five years.

10. Board Nominating Discussion – Troy Sanderson

Teresa’s final term with the SRJC Foundation board will end on June 30, 2025. Additional board members may decide to step down as well. The nominating committee is reviewing the board matrix. It would be valuable to have an estate planning attorney on the board.

Troy will begin some outreach.

11. Engaging Former Foundation Board of Directors – All

Shirley Ward introduced the idea of starting a Board Emeritus program. This will be a board alumni group who gathers to share ideas and have social connectivity on occasion. This will help keep legacy knowledge with the board. Shirley is being asked to lead this effort and she will outline a proposal for membership, which will then be brought to the Executive Committee

12. Other Business

There is no other business.

13. Adjourn – 9:20am

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