



Adopted Minutes

Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Meeting 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

5700 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Members: Teresa Norton – Chair, Suzy Marzalek – Vice-Chair, Kate Jolley – Treasurer, Dr. Angélica Garcia – Secretary, Scott Bartley, Maggie Fishman, Kerry Rego, Shirley Ward, Carolina Spence, Evan Hershey, Bill Traverso, Steve Page, Doug Garrison, Marion Walker

Absent: Troy Sanderson

Staff: J Mullineaux, Breanne Beseda, Sarah Laggos, Katie Greenwald, Rebecca Merkley, Karen Brooks, Daisy Guevara

Consultant: Michelle Shireen Muri

Guests: Karin Demarest, Scott Ormerod

- 1) Call to order | Land Acknowledgment** – Teresa Norton
The land acknowledgement was read and the meeting was called to order at 9:02 am

- 2) Public Comment** – Teresa Norton
There were no members of the public present and no comments.

- 3) Approval of 11.30.23 Minutes** – Teresa Norton
Minutes of the 11/30/23 meeting were distributed in advance.
Kerry Rego motioned, Suzy Marzalek second. Minutes approved. M/S/P

- 4) Governance** – J Mullineaux
Brown Act and Teleconference Participation:
 - During this meeting, board members voted to extend the teleconference option, previously approved for regular board meetings, to all standing board committee meetings. This decision addresses the vulnerability of not meeting quorum for committee meetings in cases of illness or emergencies among board members. Shirley Ward motioned, Marion Walker seconded. The motion passed. M/S/P

FY2023 Audit

- The SRJC Foundation financial statements with independent auditor's report was provided to the board in advance. The report states that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the foundation.

Endowment Distribution Report FY25

- During this time of year, we provide this information to the Scholarship Office to communicate the amount of funds available from scholarship endowments for the upcoming year
- The Scholarship Office begins accepting applications for FY25 scholarships mid-January
- We have up to \$1,523,782 to distribute from 514 endowed scholarship funds for FY25
- We had \$1,447,045 available in FY24
- We have up to \$355,460 to distribute from 68 endowed program funds. We had \$362,700 available in FY24
- We have a total of 582 endowed funds compared to 575 in FY23
- Before we can distribute any funds from these endowments, we need Board approval
- At this meeting, we asked for the Board's approval to disburse up to \$1,879,232 in FY25 from endowed funds held and managed by the Foundation.
- Kerry Rego motioned, Suzy Marzalek second. Approved. MSP

5) Foundation Operating, November 2023 – J Mullineaux

J presented the YTD unrestricted operating budget to actual for the month ending November 30, 2023. The beginning unrestricted fund balance is \$2,182,323; total revenue is \$1,208,615; total expenses at \$366,330; ending unrestricted fund balance at \$2,761,560.

6) Four Principles of a Purpose-Driven Board – J Mullineaux

In advance of the meeting, J shared the Stanford Social Innovation Review article, *The Four Principles of Purpose-Driven Board Leadership*. Highlighting our mission (We inspire investment in higher education to provide life-changing opportunities for all SRJC students, their families and the community we share) and vision (We elevate our community to new heights through the power of philanthropy and the promise of higher education), the board was asked to live the four principles outlined in the article, including prioritizing fundamental purpose; community needs; inclusive and just outcomes; and authorized voice and power over organizational interests. Kerry Rego asked the board to consider prioritizing the authorizing voice and power piece above all else.

7) Retreat Kick-off – The Why – Dr. Garcia

Dr. Garcia shared her perspective on aiming to provide an education for everyone through the implementation of Community Centric Fundraising. She shared this through a recount of her personal history in regard to access to education and a strong matriarchal upbringing. She also shared a history of limited access to education for historically marginalized communities throughout the country and in Sonoma County, and the fights for justice that helped provide for the access we have today. She then presented data to show how our marginalized communities continue to struggle today at SRJC.

Of 18,427 unduplicated students, first-generation represented 31% of students, and 71% of students are part-time. The majority of students identify as white (8,148) and Latinx (7,991). Despite the relative equal number of students from each ethnic background, white students complete courses with a 79.8% success rate while Latinx students complete courses with a 69.8% success rate. This disparity trend continues for one-year persistence and transfers.

Dr. Garcia shared results from a Fall 2022 SRJC student survey which revealed that when asked “what could help you attend full time,” 21.1% of students said more money (grants, living stipends). External barriers include mental health (30.5%), overall time pressure (30.0%), personal problems (29.1%), and financial problems (26.4%).

Dr. Garcia asked the board to consider how we share this narrative with our community to inspire giving to support those needs and she shared the inspirational bell hooks quote “Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.”

8) Welcome Exercise – Michelle Shireen Muri

Board members were encouraged to share stories about their educational experiences with one another.

9) History of Nonprofit / Foundations in the US – Michelle Shireen Muri

Michelle provided a history on traditional practices that are problematic, including the idea that philanthropy has fueled the accumulation and privatization of wealth in America. She shared that 1) nonprofits and philanthropy are a political and economic system, 2) that most wealth is made through extraction, 3) foundations were created as tax shelters and wealthy families continue to hold power for generations and that 4) in the US, nonprofits were created by white women, and we need to consider who they aspired to help.

10) Exercise: How does this history shape your / this work? – Michelle Shireen Muri

“Charity” is supposed to resolve systemic issues. Charities are dependent on funders. We give funders power, influence and control over other people’s lives. We have set up funders to have power, influence and control over other people’s lives.

11) CCF – Michelle Shireen Muri

CCF is a content hub, a Seattle-based group of organizers doing research. It’s also a global community with 6,000 dedicated members. CCF is a growing movement that centers around 11 core principles. It’s designed to acknowledge harm and develop analysis, centering racial justice and equity.

The principles include:

1. Fundraising must be grounded in race, equity and social justice
2. Individual organizational missions are not as important as the collective community
3. Nonprofits are generous with and mutually supportive of one another
4. All who engage in strengthening the community are equally valued

5. Time is valued as equally as money
6. We treat donors as partners – and this means we are transparent and occasionally have difficult conversations
7. We foster a sense of belonging, not othering
8. We promote the understanding that everyone personally benefits from engaging in the work of social justice – not just charity and compassion
9. We see the world of social justice as holistic and transformative, not transactional
10. We recognize that healing and liberation require a commitment to economic justice
11. We commit to the work of internal, interpersonal and interorganizational healing

12) Breakout Exercise: Reviewing Principles – All

Board members broke into groups of four to five members to discuss the core principles as it relates to our work; then reported back.

13) Community Mapping – Michelle Shireen Muri & Dr. Garcia

Who is at the center of our work?

- Non-Exhaustive List: Single parents, returning students, undocumented residents, currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, future students, K-12, struggling HS students, new HS graduates, adult community members, lifelong learners, student employees, struggling HS students, performing artists, career changers / professional upscalers, athletes, AG community members, current and former foster youth, English language learners, veterans, international students, students with learning challenges, those interested in the fields that we offer, including nursing, dental hygienist, etc., unhoused population, first generation individuals, superstar students, trades people: auto mechanics, welding, building trades, farm workers, industrial arts, landscape architects, dual enrollers, students with disabilities

Who is connected to the people at the center of our work?

- Non-Exhaustive List: Foundation board, disabilities resource department, bear cub den, community at large, college leadership, coaches, childcare center, best friends, professors, alumni, civic orgs, like rotary, staff and faculty, employers, businesses, tutors, landlords, families, counselors, other foundations, like 100,000 Degrees and the CTE foundation, library employees, neighbors, board of trustees, donors, student health services, bus drivers, pets, K-12, members of the media, four year university, social clubs: Chops & Boys and Girls club, public transportation workers, police, bookstore employees, tutoring lab, financial institutions: Doyle trust, athletics and athletics clubs

Who might be values aligned with us? Who wants our students to succeed?

- Non-Exhaustive List: Donors such as McKenzie Scott, AG industry, educators, chambers of commerce, society at large, 10,000 Degrees, grateful parents, other community college graduates, public safety, employers, students, services clubs, construction industry, families and children, four year institutions such as Sonoma State, alumni, donors, the health care industry, local government, local business owners

Who is missing?

- Non-Exhaustive List: Employers who exploit their low wage employees, extended family, law enforcement, immigrants, business community, non-English speakers, high schools, middle schools, k – 6, farm workers, other foundations and non profits

14) Conversation Café – All

Breakout groups discussed the first principle in detail, “Fundraising must be grounded in race, equity and social justice”; then reported back.

15) Group Gratitude – All

Individual team members provided reasons for gratitude.

16) Closing – All

Meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm

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