



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, & Communication  
CSUN Art Galleries – Purple Critique Room (AC-300)

**Members Present:** Ivan Axelrod, Maite Baur, Silvia Bizio, Cindy Chernow, Dennis DeYoung, Colin Donahue, Chuck Gilbert, John Golisch, Wendy Greuel, Robert Gunsalus, Ruth Harris, Dianne Harrison, Mohammad Hotaki, Cary Lefton, Patricia Maloney (via teleconference), Robert Myman, Carson Schreiber, Robert Taylor, Ira Unterman, Diane Vicente, Stuart Waldman, Mary Beth Walker, Scott Weiss, Susana Ziarati

**Members Absent:** Alan Abramson, Honey Amado, Andy Carrasco, Leslie Cutler, David Fleming, John Harris, Paul Jennings, David Malone, Diane Manzella, Mary Pat Stein, Milt Valera, Keith Weaver, Irving Zakheim

**Emeriti Present:** Phil Mundy

**Staff Present:** Justin Cabanting, Assistant to the Foundation CFO  
Matt Rinnert, Associate Vice President of Development

**Guests Present:** Romey Sabelius, CSU Board of Trustees  
Michael Good, CohnReznick LLP

Mr. Myman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:09pm.

Members of the Board and University guests and staff were welcomed, including CSU Board of Trustee member Romey Sabelius, our two student body representatives Mohammad "Qaher" Hotaki and Diane Vicente, and new members Stuart Waldman and Silvia Bizio for attending their first Foundation Board meeting.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes of June 5, 2019, Foundation Board Meeting

**[Weiss/Axelrod]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the minutes of the meeting from June 5, 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**III. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Robert Myman introduced Dianne Harrison, President of California State University, Northridge.

President Harrison expressed her appreciation to the members of the Board of Directors for their attendance and continued support for the University. She introduced CSU Trustee Romey Sabelius and thanked him for his visit to the CSUN campus and for his support of the students and faculty. She also introduced Mary Beth Walker, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, who joined CSUN on July 1 and whose efforts are pivotal in achieving student success goals across the campus.

President Harrison shared that about 4,000 new freshman and 5,770 transfer students were welcomed to the campus to bring the total enrollment to approximately 38,500 students at the start of the new semester. The University is focused on meeting the objectives of Graduation Initiative 2025, a goal for incoming freshman to graduate within 6 years of their starting semester. The University has encouraged faculty to play an active role in student success through engagement with students who take 15 or more units and to help expand the success rate across all demographics to help the campus' achievement rate.

President Harrison was also proud to announce the success of the Itzhak Perlman Performance, commending the incredible efforts by the Younes & Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts program as well as its director, Thor Steingraber, for bringing the Violins of Hope to the University.

President Harrison shared the campus' hope to host one of Southern California's voting centers for the March 2020 primary election. She shared that the number of student voters has exponentially increased from 14.6% in 2014 to 48% in 2018. The national average of student voters is 36%. The campus plan is to help ensure students, faculty, and staff are engaged in the process.

CSUN's BUILD PODER, an undergraduate biomedical research training program established in 2014 with a \$22 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, received an additional \$19 million in funding to continue the program.

CSUN achieved its third Gold rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

CSUN faculty member Nhut Ho from the College of Engineering & Computer Science received additional funding from NASA to develop program in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

President Harrison announced the approval of the University's hotel project, which is set to open in 2021 with groundbreaking next year.

President Harrison provided an update that a record-breaking of 18,000 of 370,000 CSUN alumni made a charitable gift in Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 to help the campus raise in excess of \$20 million overall philanthropically. She also commended the efforts to date on the comprehensive campaign as we continue to receive significant gifts in advance of the public phase.



President Harrison ended her report with gratitude to the Board members for their energy and commitment to the University's students and faculty.

#### **IV. FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Robert Myman introduced Dr. Robert Gunsalus for his report to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Gunsalus welcomed new members of the Board of Directors: Stuart Waldman and Silvia Bizio as well as Diana Vicente and Mohammad Hotaki.

Dr. Gunsalus welcomed the Board to the Purple Critique Room within the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media and Communications. The Room is utilized to review and highlight the student art developed as part of the academic program in a gallery environment. He shared that the program following the meeting would showcase the art of the University Art Collection in the main gallery along with presentations from the Dean of the College and the Director of the Art Gallery.

Dr. Gunsalus provided an update on technological developments, such as CSUN Funder, a crowd funding platform available to students and faculty for projects across campus, and Net Communities, the platform for internet giving, membership, and event registration.

Dr. Gunsalus concluded his report by thanking members of the Board for their endorsement of the advancements in philanthropy.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Audit Committee**

##### **i. Audit Report for 2018 – 2019**

Robert Myman introduced Dennis DeYoung, Audit Committee Chair, to deliver his report from the Audit Committee.

Mr. DeYoung thanked members Pat Maloney, John Golisch, and Chuck Gilbert for their continued service. Mr. DeYoung stated the Audit Committee met on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, to review and discuss the financial audit for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019. Michael Good, Partner at CohnReznick, and Georgina Harris, Director at CohnReznick, presented the report to the Committee. After review and discussion, the Audit Report was approved by the Committee, and the members of the Board of Directors had copies in their meeting materials.

Mr. DeYoung introduced Michael Good of CohnReznick to provide highlights to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Good shared that CohnReznick completed and provided its clean and unmodified opinion on the audit report of the Foundation, and the auditors have been consistent in this level of assurance for many years. He shared that the new Financial Accounting Standards Board guidelines were implemented in the report. These guidelines ensure consistent reporting across all nonprofits and standardize the expectations in terms of the statements and footnotes. Mr. Good provided highlights within the report and answered questions from members of the Board.



**[DeYoung/Greuel]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

B. Development Committee

i. Giving Reports through June 30, 2019

Robert Myman introduced Cary Lefton, Development Committee Chair, to provide the Development Committee's Report for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019.

Mr. Lefton presented the Development Committee's report, where donor giving continues to surpass the \$20 million threshold annually. The Development team closed 106 major gifts, an increase from the previous year's eighty-five (85) gifts.

ii. Board Giving through June 30, 2019

Board Giving was 100%. Mr. Lefton thanked the members of the Board for making their gifts and encouraging others to join them in supporting CSUN. He reminded the Board members that the 2019 – 2020 expectation is \$10,000 per year.

Mr. Lefton acknowledged the eleven members of the Board, who have created planned gifts through their estates to benefit the University.

iii. Comprehensive Campaign Update

The University has reached 50% of its goal for the comprehensive campaign with \$98.9 million in gifts. Mr. Lefton reviewed the campaign reports with highlights regarding gift type, donor count, and gift designations by college and initiative. Mr. Lefton urged Board members to provide strategic advice to the Campaign Leadership Committee and to Robert Gunsalus and Matt Rinnert as the campaign is about the University and its students and faculty.

C. Finance & Investment Committee

i. Financial Statements through June 30, 2019

Robert Myman introduced Maite Irakoze Baur, Finance & Investment Committee Chair, to deliver the Committee's report.

Ms. Baur reviewed the audited financial statements with total Foundation assets as of June 30, 2019, at \$197.3 million with total investments under management at \$165 million and pledges receivable were \$22 million. With limited liabilities, the Foundation's net assets were also \$197 million.

The endowment activity was detailed, showing the value of the endowment at \$108 million, up \$8 million in the twelve-month period. The Statement of Activities shows total philanthropic revenue of \$16 million. Net assets increased by \$12.6 million for the year.

The Foundation operated within the parameters of the approved budget in terms of revenue and expenses.

She highlighted the Investment Report, which detailed the investment income by portfolio and manager.

Ms. Baur reported that the Committee reviewed these statements at their August meeting, and after extensive discussion, they recommend the Board's approval.

**[Baur/Axelrod]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

ii. Investment Performance Reports

Ms. Baur continued her report with the summation of the Investment Performance Reports.

A summary of the Foundation's Allocated Reserves Portfolio was presented with the portfolio fully funded at \$5.3 million and invested appropriately as to investment grade and liquidity. The return on this portfolio for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 was about 2.0%.

The Student Managed Investment Portfolio, which is managed by students in the Nazarian College's Department of Finance, had a good year with a return in excess of 5.50% for the fiscal year.

The investment in Makena Capital continues to perform during its liquidation, and the Foundation has received distributions quarterly since January 2019. The Committee reviewed the portfolio during their meeting.

Ms. Baur presented highlights from the report from Goldman Sachs showing the investment allocation and returns for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019. The Committee reviewed these reports and believes the allocation and returns are as expected. She also shared that the Committee met with Marene Jennings of Goldman Sachs, who reviewed the manager selection and due diligence process at Goldman Sachs.

**[Baur/Greuel]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the Investment Performance Reports for Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Committee Membership for 2019 – 2020

Robert Myman presented this agenda item to elect Honey Amado to the Audit Committee.

Ms. Amado brings a depth of knowledge from her active in nonprofit organizations throughout Los Angeles and her background in law. She will be a great addition to this very important Committee.

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**[Gilbert/Taylor]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation elects Honey Amado to the Audit Committee for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Robert Myman thanked the members of the Board for their attendance and the next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.



Ira N. Unterman  
Chief Financial Officer / Secretary

(Copies of all document mailed and circulated are filed in the minutes book.)