

# CSUN | FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Orange Grove Bistro  
Lamb Lounge

**Members Present:** Honey Amado, Ivan Axelrod, Maite Baur, Cindy Chernow, Dennis DeYoung, Colin Donahue, Chuck Gilbert (via teleconference), John Golisch, Wendy Greuel (via teleconference), Robert Gunsalus, John Harris (via teleconference), Ruth Harris, David Malone, Patricia Maloney (via teleconference), Robert Myman, Carson Schreiber, Mary-Patricia Stein, Robert Taylor (via teleconference), Ira Unterman, Milt Valera, Stuart Waldman, Mary Beth Walker, Keith Weaver, Irving Zakheim (via teleconference), Susana Ziarati

**Members Absent:** Alan Abramson, Silvia Bizio, Leslie Cutler, David Fleming, John Harris, Dianne Harrison, Mohammad "Qaher" Hotaki, Paul Jennings, Cary Lefton, Diane Manzella, Diana Vicente, Scott Weiss, Susana Ziarati

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

**Guest(s) Present:** Becky Rifold, Moorpark Community College Guest Writer

Robert Myman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Members of the Board and University guests and staff were welcomed.

### I. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

### II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2019, Foundation Board Meeting  
**[DeYoung/Chernow]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the minutes of the meeting from September 26, 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### III. FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Robert Myman introduced Robert Gunsalus, Foundation President, for his report on the activities of the University and the Foundation.

Dr. Gunsalus welcomed members of the Board in attendance and expressed his gratitude on behalf of President Harrison, for their ongoing dedication and contributions to the University.

Dr. Gunsalus shared that President Harrison was appointed to the American Council on Education's Commission on University Transfers, a significant topic for higher education. Dr. Harrison is serving alongside CSU Chancellor Tim White and other presidents and chancellors from across the country



to examine best practices and strategies to ensure students have what they need to complete their collegiate programs for their degrees.

In response to the growing concern of COVID-19, the University activated its Emergency Operations Center and convened a task force of University leaders to work closely on the campus' response to this pandemic. The task force will work with federal, state, and local officials to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

The Presidential Search Committee, convened by the CSU Board of Trustees, continues to work toward the announcement of President Harrison's successor. In addition to faculty and students, four alumni are on this committee: Robert Myman, Cindy Chernow, Milt Valera, and Carlos Fuentes. All of whom have a long history of University and CSUN Foundation engagement. The goal is for the new president to be announced in May.

Dr. Gunsalus shared that the Foundation Board's Annual Meeting and Dinner in June will be enhanced to include a tribute to President Dianne Harrison and her eight years of service to CSUN and its students and faculty. Proceeds from Reception and Dinner will benefit the Dianne F. Harrison Leadership Award Endowment. Information on sponsorship packages was distributed to members of the Board for their consideration.

Dr. Gunsalus highlighted campus programs that highlight the academic mission of the University:

- the upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Assistive Technology Conference in Anaheim (hosted and planned by CSUN since inception)
- the upcoming Cloud Jam, which highlights student projects in the area of sustainability utilizing cloud technology
- Marilyn Magaram Center Celebration of community engagement
- The choice of Matthew Cristi as one of ten *2020 New Faces in Civil Engineering – Collegiate Edition* by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Dr. Gunsalus concluded his report with a reminder of the tour of the Solar Observatory and a discussion with Dean Jerry Stinner of the College of Science and Mathematics after the adjournment of the meeting.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Robert Myman introduced Dennis DeYoung, Chair of the Committee, to deliver the report on behalf of the Audit Committee.

Mr. DeYoung thanked the members of the Committee; Honey Amado, Chuck Gilbert, John Golisch and Patricia Maloney; for devoting their valuable time and service to the Board. Mr. DeYoung stated the Audit Committee has not met since their previous meeting on September 17, 2019, but management is working on the IRS Form 990, which the Committee will review with CohnReznick and each member of the Board will receive prior to submission.

##### **B. Board Membership Committee**

Robert Myman introduced David Malone, Chair of the Committee, to deliver his report from the Board Membership Committee.

i. Election of Directors

Mr. Malone reported that the Board Membership Committee met on February 10, 2020. The Committee recommends the election of three individuals to the Board of Directors: Barbara Levy '74, Ravi K. Sawhney '79, and Richard Schweitzer '87. Each of these will be elected for a three-year term from March 5, 2020, through March 4, 2023. The Committee also recommended the election of Barbara Levy to the Audit Committee and Richard Schweitzer to the Finance & Investment Committee.

**Motion: [Malone/Schreiber] Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation elects Barbara Levy, Ravi K. Sawhney, and Richard Schweitzer to the Board of Directors for a three-year term from March 5, 2020, through March 4, 2023.**

**Be it Further Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation elects Barbara Levy as a member of the Audit Committee for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020.**

**Be it Further Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation elects Richard Schweitzer as a member of the Finance and Investment Committee for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020**

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

ii. Policy on Emeritus Status

Mr. Malone presented an amendment to the Policy on Emeritus Status to stipulate that the Board of Directors makes the decision when they elect a director emeritus to the Board that there will be a dual status, and that the elected status takes precedence over the emeritus status. The Committee feels this amendment reflects the intention of the Board of Directors based on previous discussions regarding members who are an elected director and a director emeritus. The Committee recommends the amendment.

**Motion: [Malone/Harris] Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the amendment to the Policy on Emeritus Status, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

iii. Election of Directors Emeriti

Mr. Malone presented the Committee's recommendation to elect three of our former directors to the status of Director Emeritus – Bryan Green '94, George S. Leis '81, and Barbara Levy '74. Each of these individuals fulfilled the requirements for consideration.

**Motion: [Malone/Chernow] Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation elects Bryan A. Green, George S. Leis, and Barbara Levy as Directors Emeriti. The motion was approved unanimously.**

C. Development Committee

Mr. Myman introduced Matt Rinnert, Assistant Vice President of Development, to provide the Development Committee's Report on behalf of Cary Lefton, Development Committee Chair, for the period ending December 31, 2019.



i. Giving Reports through December 31, 2019

Mr. Rinnert presented the Development Committee's report, where philanthropic giving exceeded \$8 million as of December 31, 2019, with continued success during the months of January and February. The total for the year is \$12.6 million versus \$11.8 million in 2019.

ii. Board Giving through December 31, 2019

Board giving was at 73% as of December 31, which pacing is ahead of last year at 63% at this point in the fiscal year. 38% of Board members have met the \$10k giving threshold, which is right where it was this time last year. Mr. Rinnert acknowledged that 10 Board members documented a planned gift, representing 34% of the Board. At this time last year, there were 8 planned gifts documented.

iii. Comprehensive Campaign Update

The University surpassed the \$111 million mark, which is more than 50% of the goal. This is a significant milestone for the University in our first campaign and reflects the generosity of our constituents from members of the Board, alumni, and friends. Mr. Rinnert thanked the Board for their giving and for their outreach on the University's behalf.

With a \$200 million working goal authorized by the Campaign Planning Task Force last year, best practice encourages the University's efforts to reach at least \$125 million (60% of the goal) in the Leadership Phase before making the campaign public. The goal is to challenge ourselves to reach a stretch goal of \$140 million by December 2020. In the meantime, the Campaign Public Launch has been postponed to Fall 2021 given the presidential transition and investiture.

iv. University Giving Website

Mr. Rinnert introduced Dr. Gunsalus to provide a demonstration of the University Giving website, Engage CSUN, implemented through the Foundation.

Dr. Gunsalus introduced the new website, which highlights University priorities by college, area, and cause. The website also provides donors with the ability to make philanthropic gifts to any of the over 1,700 funds managed by the CSUN Foundation. Dr. Gunsalus demonstrated the website and showed the new payment portal. Members of the Board asked questions and complimented this new comprehensive tool.

D. Finance & Investment Committee

i. Financial Statements through December 31, 2019

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

Ms. Baur shared that the Committee met on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 to discuss the financial statements, investment report, and refund policy. Total assets are \$208 million with investments under management at \$181 million, up from \$16 million in the six months from June 30. The increase is a combination of investment earnings (\$9 million) and philanthropic gifts (\$7 million). Pledges receivable decreased by \$5 million during the



six month period, which reflects the net of new gifts and pledge payments. Net assets for the period ending December 31, 2019 is \$207.8 million.

The Foundation's endowment was valued at \$117 million as of December 31, 2019.

Total revenue for the six month period was \$17 million with philanthropic giving of \$6.3 million, investment earnings of \$9.4 million, and the balance in various program revenue. Expenditures are comparable year over year at \$6.5 million. Foundation Operations are enumerated and both revenue and expenses are within the parameters of the Foundation Budget previously approved.

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

**[Baur/Harris]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

ii. Investment Performance Reports

Ms. Baur continued her report with the Investment Performance Reports. She reviewed the consolidated investment performance report and asset allocation report, which provides information by portfolio and demonstrates its compliance with the Foundation's Investment Policy Statement.

The Foundation's Allocated Reserves Portfolio continues to be invested in short-term, relatively liquid investments, providing a safety net for our cash flow needs. The return on this portfolio for the six month period was about 1.0%, which reflects the market conditions and the investment philosophy.

The Student Managed Investment Portfolio, which is managed by students in the Nazarian College's Department of Finance, continues to do well. The Committee was reminded that the portfolio is invested in ETF's and is re-balanced twice a year. The portfolio had a return of 4.6% for the six-month period ending December 31, 2019.

The investment in Makena Capital continues to perform during its liquidation, with \$12.8 million in distributions on the foundation's \$16.5 million investment. The unrealized gain as of December 31, 2019, was \$7.3 million. The stated value of the investment is in excess of \$11 million as of December 31, 2019.

Ms. Baur presented highlights from the report from Goldman Sachs showing the investment allocation and returns for the six month period. The Committee reviewed these portfolio reports showing a 19% return for the 2019 calendar year and 6.0% for the period ending December 31, 2019. The Committee will continue to discuss asset allocation and economic indicators at each meeting.

Ms. Baur also shared her perspective on recent market volatility and the valuation of the portfolios. She will continue to monitor the conditions, and if necessary, convene the Finance and Investment Committee to discuss the portfolios with our investment



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managers. She also shared that our Investment Policy Statement is our guidelines, and it is reviewed regularly by the Committee.

**[Baur/Harris]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the Investment Performance Reports for the period ending December 31, 2019, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

iii. Refund Policy

Ms. Baur presented the Refund Policy, which upon the Board's approval, will be the Foundation's policy. The policy represents best practices for philanthropic giving, membership, and event registration. The approved policy will be posted on the Foundation's website. The Committee recommends its approval.

**[Baur/DeYoung]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation approves the Refund Policy, as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Committee Membership for 2019 – 2020

Robert Myman presented this agenda item to elect Ruth Harris as Vice Chair of the Development Committee and Ivan Axelrod as the Vice Chair of the Finance & Investment Committee.

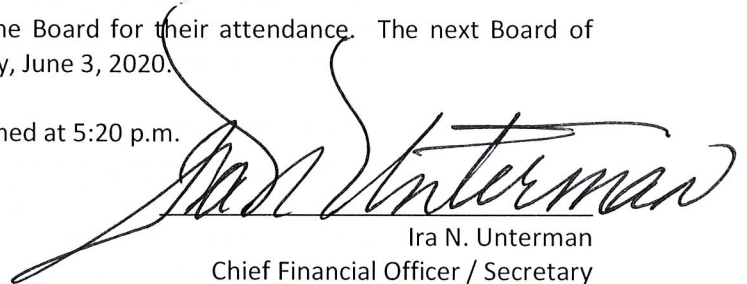
Dr. Gunsalus continues to recruit new members to the Board and also to the standing committees, so there will be more recommendations at future meetings.

**[Donahue/Weaver]: Be it Resolved, the Board of Directors of the California State University, Northridge Foundation elects Ruth Harris to be Vice Chair of the Development Committee and Ivan Axelrod as Vice Chair of the Finance & Investment Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Robert Myman entertained questions and discussion from members of the Board in reference to COVID-19 with University administrators providing additional information regarding the University's response to the situation. Colin Donahue, Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Mary Beth Walker, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared their perspectives and efforts on behalf of their respective areas.

Robert Myman thanked the members of the Board for their attendance. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



Ira N. Unterman  
Chief Financial Officer / Secretary

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