

COMBINED PHILANTHROPY & GOVERNANCE MINUTES

Thursday May 20, 2021

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom/Teleconference

*Members Present:* Terry Atkinson (Chair - Phil), David Felte (Chair – Gov), Tom Isaak (Phil & Gov), Robert U’Ren (Phil), Jeannette Anglin (Gov), Ian Hannah (Phil & Gov), Mario Perez (Phil & Gov)

*Committee Staff Present:* Kyle Bishop-Gabriel

# Opening Comments

Mario Perez opened the meeting at 2:03pm.

Perez provided an update on the campus Commencement activities noting that 2020 Commencement held this past weekend went well with approximately 400 graduates returning to campus to celebrate the drive-thru ceremony. He shared that the 2021 Commencement is following with graduates returning this weekend to participate in their drive-thru ceremony. He noted that approximately 1,500 graduates registered to participate with several having last minute RSVP’s as they saw how the 2020 Commencement was conducted.

Committee noted they didn’t see any local press coverage of SSU’s Commencement. Perez shared there is expectation of coverage for the 2021 Commencement.

Lastly, Perez shared that Foundation Board member Irv Rothenberg was selected at this year’s Honorary Doctorate and will be recognized at the School of Business and Economics ceremony this upcoming weekend.

# Approval of Meeting Minutes

*(see 5.20.21 meeting packet)*

Action: Governance Committee members unanimously approved 11.12.20 meeting minutes.

Action: Philanthropy Committee members unanimously approved 2.18.21 meeting minutes.

# Update on Philanthropic Productivity through Q3 of FY20/21

*(see 5.20.21 meeting packet)*

Perez reviewed the recent quarter of Philanthropic Productivity fiscal year to date thru 3/31/21 and noted $7M in gift commitments which is 74% of goal for the fiscal year. He shared that Advancement is trending in a good direction for reaching goal this year. As of 4/30/21 donations totaled $7.8M reaching 82% of annual goal of $9.5M.

Perez shared that Advancement is trending short of goal for number of donors and number of alumni donors but are seeing higher activity than last year. Recent solicitation initiatives and campaigns such as Giving Day and Grad Packs will help bring numbers up and build a stronger culture of philanthropy at SSU.

Committee members inquired how SSU fundraising goal is set. Perez and Ian noted that the goal is set between the VP for Advancement and the President in consultation with the Chancellor’s Office. Multiple factors are considered when setting the goal including historical data, Advancement team and resources, CSU tier group, etc.

Perez shared with Committee the Giving Day results infographic prepared by Tiffany O’Neil, Sr. Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving. Perez hopes that next year Giving Day can be used as an initiative for the Board to engage and possibly commit to a giving challenge to help boost donations.

Committee members shared concern with online donation site and suggested that the site be simplified and made more user friendly. Staff and Committee members discussed.

Perez transitioned discussion to current planning for next fiscal year 2021-22 in Advancement which include supporting the institutional priorities of the following:

* Access/Scholarships
* Workforce Development
* Diversity Equity & Inclusion
* Social Justice

Perez noted the with the new Deans having had a year in their positions are focused on which direction they would like to move with their schools and are setting their priorities to work along the campus priorities listed above.

# SSUF Board Member Giving Minimums

*(see 5.20.21 meeting packet)*

Perez reviewed a couple of CSU comparative data spreadsheets to show the range of Board Giving minimums for each Foundation Board in the CSU as well as the Board Demographics for each. He noted the broad range in the Board giving minimums across the different CSU’s to begin discussion.

Perez continued with a quick review of the revisions made to the Board of Director’s Statement of Understanding presented to the Board at the March meeting that went unapproved. Question remained on how to move forward and set giving minimums taking into any impact it would have on diversity efforts in the Board membership.

Perez shared it is desirable to have 100% board giving participation at a meaningful amount and to have an engaged Board with a philanthropic focus keeping in mind the importance of having a diverse board reflective of the local community. Taking into consideration cultural diversity, gender, alums, and various profession business and organization representation.

Perez continued to also suggest focusing on some Board structure revisions suggesting that the Board Chair be a community Board member as well as the Committee Chairs being community Board members to encourage more engagement from the Board. The Board Chair would work with the University President and VP for Advancement in setting priorities that align with campus initiatives.

Committee members brought up questions regarding the Board being ready for an active community Chair to take the lead as well as how to identify who the key person would be to hold the Chair position.

After discussion, Committee members agreed that it would be best to determine the Board structure before setting up giving minimums.

Perez set forth the following items for Governance Committee to consider:

* Focus on structural changes before revisiting board giving minimums
* Board organization changes, including identifying Community Chair of Board.
* Diversity considerations in identifying new Board Members to serve.
* Identifying holes in professional diversity on Board.

# Nominations and Potential New Board and Committee Members

*(see 5.20.21 meeting packet)*

Hannah reviewed new Board Members to be voted in at the upcoming June Board meeting.

* New AS student reps Noelia Brambila, AS President & Christian Franco, AS Senator for Community.
* Faculty Rep Lynn Stauffer is retiring and will be stepping down as the Board Faculty Rep. New Faculty rep will be identified once the new Provost has been appointed. Committee suggested asking Stauffer to remain on Board as a Community member and Committee agreed to appoint her if she accepts. Staff will reach out to determine her continuance.
* With Joyce Lopes leaving SSU, Interim VP of Administration and Finance and campus CFO, Stan Nosek will hold her vacant spot on the Board until a new VP has been appointed. In filling this role, Nosek will also be a member of the Investment Committee and staff to the Audit Committee.
* SSU Alumni Association Rep, Joe Huang term has ended and Travis Saracco, President of SSUAA has been appointed to serve as the new Alumni Association Rep. As of July 1st, he will be past president of SSUAA. Felte recommended asking Joe Huang to continue to serve on Foundation Board as a Community member. Committee supported Joe’s nomination if he accepts.

# Open Items

Before concluding meeting, Hannah proposed to Committees whether to continue with joint meetings or revert to separate meetings. Committees agreed to continue with joint meetings for the time to have better collaboration in determining key items in Board organizational changes and how it will drive future decisions on Board Philanthropy.

Meeting closed at 3:37pm.

Kyle Bishop-Gabriel – Redacted Signature

Ian Hannah – Redacted Signature

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*Minutes Approved by: Minutes Prepared by:*

Ian Hannah Kyle Bishop-Gabriel

*Chief Operating Officer & Sr. Advancement/Foundation Analyst &*

*Secretary, SSUF Assistant to the VP, SSU*