

THE FRIENDS OF CHABOT COLLEGE

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, April 24, 2020 * 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

1. Call to Order - Chair Mark Salinas

- Board members paid tribute to Trustee Marshall Mitzman, expressing their sadness and the loss of a person who had a great heart for the community and interest in and his passion for our students. He was a human presence for them as someone who had been to a community college himself and accomplished a lot in his life.

2. Roll Call - Vice Chair/Secretary Pat Gacoscos

- **Members Present:**

Vice Chair/Secretary Pat Gacoscos

Chair Mark Salinas

Dr. Hal Gin

Ms. Melinda Matsuda

Dr. Susan Sperling

Mr. Dale Wagoner

Ms. Sheryl Boykins

Ms. Yvonne Wu Craig

- **Members Excused:**

Ms. Marita Cheng

Mr. Obray Van Buren

- **Recording Secretary:**

Christine Herrera

3. Public Comments

Christine Herrera read the public comment submitted by Nancy Chung a faculty member:

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the work of the Friends of Chabot College Board, the Academic Senate and the Chabot community in raising emergency funds for the students. Many of my students applied for the emergency funds and were grateful to have received them so promptly. Thank you Yvonne Wu Craig, you are awesome!

Oftentimes, we forget how little our students have. I wanted to share a few quotes from students on how these funds made an impact on their lives:

"My mom is a nurse and is currently the only person in my family is working. As a daughter who is a full-time student, these funds were able to help me contribute to buying groceries and putting food on the table for my family."

"I want to thank everyone who raised the Emergency Fund to help students. It really means a lot to me at this time. We are a family of four and only my brother is working right now. The emergency funds helps me to contribute to my rent."

"My husband lost his job just before our school closed. I really appreciated that the school arranged the fund for students! I am going to use it for grocery shopping."

It is evident that the Friends of Chabot College has made a difference in the lives of many of our students during this difficult time. I am honored to be part of the Chabot Family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

4. Executive Director's Report

Chair Mark Salinas asked Dr. Sperling if she has a President's Report, she wanted to join in the praise for the work that Executive Director Wu Craig has done and also very deep gratitude. From all of us at the college for the work of the foundation board of directors. Those around this virtual table you got into action in such rapid response in this crisis. I think we got a sense from the public comment that was read to us how deeply meaningful this was to our students. Yvonne was kind enough to share some of the other comments with me that were on the applications. It was humbling to learn in a particular in these narratives of these struggles not just in the abstract.

In terms of the college in general my sense of it all this has been enormous and very amazingly successful effort. Against all odds to transition in as many ways and areas as possible successfully to the delivery of remote instruction. The more seasoned instructors who ever in their teaching lives expected that they would be delivering distance education, but they done remarkable and creative work in adapting themselves. I want to recognize the efforts that our Academic Services Vice President Stacy Thompson has been doing well before the virus in bolstering our online support which positioned us very well to move forward. I am not saying that there aren't continuing issues and challenges of course there are but I am very heartened by the ability of colleagues across all job descriptions to deliver education and services. From the district to our Vice President Dale Wagoner who continued to keep payroll running which is enormously important and to abate anxieties about that among employees to work out systems for those who don't have direct deposit to continue to work to on how they will get their paychecks, there many other examples, for the very work the Yvonne has been doing with the Office of Instruction and with Student Services to deliver laptops and Chromebooks to students, Student Services we have online and remote mental health services as well as general academic counseling services ongoing which is just remarkable.

Ms. Wu Craig reported that the laptop distribution has been very successful and this whole week we have given out 150 of the 200 laptops that we purchased. The prioritization referral, application process and through our online technology survey is what was used to filter the students for award of the Chromebooks. There is a new batch coming in soon not through the foundation but through other funds. Foundation issued a lot of checks at this point total is at \$40,000 in aid and direct cash aid. Students are able to elect to get it via PayPal or we sent checks that money is rolling out and would like to do another distribution later in the summer but will talk more about later in this meeting.

Mr. Dale Wagoner wanted to the board to know that we are in constant dialogue and as Dr. Sperling mentioned there are really good people working on a lot of different angles and again also with Dr Sperling's advocacy at the district level. We are looking at the CARES ACT which is \$4 million coming to the college but with strings attached kind of approach from the federal government. Of the \$4 million, two million is direct aid to students and the other two million is backfill to the college which

could help us refund some of the money the foundation has given, ideally foundation get the money back and then we can actually do more. The foundation could actually create a real win, win because we are helping our students right up front and we could continue to do if we are reimbursed with these funds.

As we have said we have a lot of good people at the college doing amazing things, like Kathy Medina our Financial Aid Director has just been marvelous in regards to the details on the CARES Act funds she really deserves the recognition.

Ms. Wu Craig shared that for the first round of funding prioritization was given to students that are graduating in 2020 because we wanted to make sure they finished. We are now getting students who are needing to pay for summer classes and books now. We can leverage some of the funding because our funding is a little looser for example like the Stupski Foundation funding because the CARES Act funds does not necessarily fund undocumented students or international students. Thinking creatively about how we can help which was to write it in the grant agreement for the United Way Bay Area and the Stupski Foundation because equity is definitely their primary goal.

Ms. Gacoscos if the Federal Government are going to leave people behind we need to find a way to help those individuals who are our students.

Mr. Wagoner stated that we are not able to give all students money which usually means that the students that you know with the most need many times are not going to get anything because they don't check the appropriate box under the current definition of who should be valued. So Kathy Medina is in the process of trying to kind of create buckets here and if we've got a bucket of students that fall into this area this bucket of funds would be their aid.

Chair Salinas stated from this point forward we begin to really take advantage of our membership, this is the way we will generate revenue for undocumented students who are ineligible for federal and state funds. We are going to be relying on this type of relief funding for our students so we need to start to steer our efforts toward the Central Valley to look at agricultural companies that are funding direct cash grants to community colleges. Ms. Wu Craig stated she has not looked into those types of companies but that is a good idea.

5. Discussion & Action Items

- a) Acceptance of Stupski Foundation Grant, Ms. Wu Craig reported that per the grant agreement they expect us to spend the funds by October 15th and submit a report by November 15th . She does not anticipate any problem spending the money by October 15th. We have spent about \$40,000 of this grant already and could maybe leverage the other about \$50,000 towards those student groups that the CARES ACT is not going to cover. It is up to us how we want to spend it on laptops or reimburse us so that we can cover more direct aid. Chair Salinas shared that what he has heard from the community groups and community engagement professionals all throughout the county is the one thing or two most immediate and most pressing needs that families have right now and students is direct cash aid and food. Chair Salinas stated that he is not against purchasing computers for students who need them but the main concern right now is

relief and what students need is money for rent and food. If we are in a position to help students in those two areas that we leverage those funds in that direction.

Ms. Wu Craig shared that they partnered with Bobby Nakamoto and used a little bit of the SASE funding towards the target gift cards because we are a little bit more flexible and was able to buy them outright and they distributed \$5,000 worth last week.

Motion to approve the Acceptance of Stupski Foundation Grant was moved by Ms. Gacoscos and Seconded by Mr. Wagoner

Motion passed with 8 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions

- b) Acceptance of United Way Ay Area Grant which is for \$20,000 which was submitted after the Stupski Foundation grant so we were able to actually tell them that we would dedicate the funds to undocumented and international students. The MOU is being created from the award letter and the scope of services which is not finished yet, but as soon as it is received will be forwarded to the board to review, there should be no big surprised but this will be the opportunity for the board to make any revisions. Chair Salinas asked so if this passes this will put us at about \$175,000 of aid the we've approved. Remember we also raised \$10,000 emergency funds from the gala, which brings us closer to \$180,000.

Motion to approve the Acceptance of United Way Bay Area Grant was moved by Dr. Hal Gin and Seconded by Dr. Susan Sperling

Motion passed with 8 Ayes, 0 Nays and 0 Abstentions

- c) Fall 2020 Gala - Ms. Wu Craig wanted to bring this to the board because this is a decision that the board should make in regards to whether or not we hold the Fall Gala. If we don't have the gala in the Fall do you want to move it to the Spring? If we did do one in the Spring would we do another one in the Fall of the same year? Do we want to just do something virtual or online? Just wanted to put some options out to you. Another thought is should we even do a fundraiser when a lot of people are fundraising for COVID-19 already. Ms. Matsuda stated that for sure cancel the Fall Gala and consider having it in the Spring because that will give us a little bit of time to see where we are at and then decide if we would bring it back to the fall or maybe just have it in the Spring. Mr. Wagoner asked what is the timeframe with Stonebrae relative to having our ducks in a row with them and reserving and a down payment. Ms. Wu Craig shared that nothing has been signed yet. Ms. Matsuda does not see the need for a virtual one because as you stated because of the COVID-19 everyone is raising funds for survival. Also thank goodness you are working to bring those funds from the district. Chair Salinas asked this is the \$800,000 from the district foundation, yes. Ms. Wu Craig mentioned we will need to think about what our commitment will be for the HSI endowment, this will be our last year. We will recover about \$8,000 through

some of this indirect that we're getting is from these grants plus leftover funds from other years so that is our only obligation that we have that relied on the gala. We will need to look at what our commitment can be next year and modify. Chair Salinas asked what do you think would the Federal Government let us off the hook on that environment for the last year? Ms. Wu Craig said we could ask them if they could convert that funding back to the program which we had to do back with the last Title 3 grant which does not think would be a big deal. The second thing we could do is also the program could ask for a no cost extension and we could try to fundraise for a year after that. The extension would be for the year 2021-22. Chair Salinas asked or the other option is ask for the dollars back into the program. Ms. Wu Craig stated we would give back \$30,000 to the college and have it be reallocated to the HSI program. Question when do we need to make a decision on this, not till next Spring. This is something we need to be thinking about but have time just want us to be ready to have the discussion and the dialogue when it presents itself.

Ms. Wu Craig said it sounds like there is consensus that we are not having a Fall Gala. Yes this is a good idea not only because of the illness from the virus but we just spoke about people not being able to pay their rent and pay for food. It would be a little arrogant on our part to have a \$75 to \$100 plate dinner at this time. That would set a kind of bad look as well. All agree that is a great point. Chair Salinas stated the gala will be suspended for this year. Ms. Wu Craig will announce it in the annual report.

6. For the good of the order

Chair Salinas wanted to say right off the top that Yvonne you are a Rock Star along with Mr. Wagoner. Also Dr. Sperling thank you very much for everything that you are doing. I think what we've been able to do today and over the last couple of weeks shows how we are meeting our student needs. We have got to thank everyone for their hard work and appreciate it very much.

7. Adjournment

Chair Salinas adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ms. Christine Herrera

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