



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN MARCOS FOUNDATION

A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

June 23, 2026

Directors present: Richard Armenta (virtual), Kyle Casement '11, Michelle Clark, Kristin Crellin, Dan Epstein (virtual), Tommy Friedrich (virtual), Emilie Hersh, Nathaniel Keifer '09, '21 (virtual), Carleen Kreider, Carol Lazier (virtual), Lou Monville (virtual), President Neufeldt, Itsarely Palma Castillo '26, Julian Parra (virtual), Justin Perron, Esther Phahla (virtual), Jason Simmons, Alisha Wilkins (virtual), and Leon Wyden, Jr.

Directors absent: Simon Kuo, Mitch Kuvinka '24, '26, Annie Norviel '09, Taylor Sutherland, and Steve Wagner (Emeritus Director)

University Staff and Faculty present: Debby Clark, Donna Day, Chuck De Leone, Matias Farre, Carl Kemnitz, Christa Koen, and Jocelyn Wyndham '04, '16

Guests present: Barbara Fischer, Kevin Harkenrider (virtual), Julianna Hunt '28, Rae Lynch '27, Ashley Ortiz '27, and Rebeca Perren

Members of the Public: None

Call to Order – 3:00 pm

I. Public Comment – Vice Chair Crellin acknowledged no members of the public were in attendance.

II. Welcome, Updates & Announcements – Vice Chair Crellin welcomed everyone to the meeting noting Chair Kuo is currently traveling. She invited the students, faculty and prospective elected Directors to introduce themselves.

- Vice Chair Crellin shared congratulations to Mr. Kuvinka and Mx. Palma Castillo on their recent graduation during last month's Commencement ceremonies.
- **President's Remarks** – President Ellen Neufeldt provided the following updates:
 - President Neufeldt acknowledged the CSUSM students and faculty along with prospective Directors in attendance and expressed appreciation for their active participation.
 - President Neufeldt reflected on Commencement ceremonies in May noting CSUSM held five ceremonies with more than 3,300 graduates crossing the stage. They join more than 75,000 CSUSM alumni across the region, state and country. She also acknowledged Mx. Palma Castillo who served as one of the student speakers.
 - President Neufeldt shared pride for CSUSM's softball team for advancing to the NCAA Division II National Championships.

- President Neufeldt recognized several Directors completing their terms of service and thanked them for their dedicated service and leadership on the Foundation Board:
 - Mr. Kuvinka and Mx. Palma Castillo recently graduated
 - Dr. Perron concluded his time as faculty representative
 - Ms. Hersh has completed nine years of service to the Foundation Board including her tenure as Board Chair
 - Executive Director Clark is concluding her service as Interim Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation.
- President Neufeldt noted the continued search for a permanent Vice President for Advancement.
- President Neufeldt shared excitement about the recent Hunter Hall Topping Out Ceremony noting the momentum that continues to build with the Blueprint for the Future campaign and testament to the impact of philanthropy.
- President Neufeldt reflected on recent grants CSUSM faculty have received with a special note that Dr. Perron received a \$1M award to expand hands-on learning opportunities in quantum information science and technology. She shared that research funding and philanthropy often work together to advance innovation, student success, and strategic university priorities.
- President Neufeldt offered gratitude to Ms. Lazier for hosting an event in her home focused on strengthening connections with friends of the university.
- President Neufeldt shared two upcoming events – an alumni event at a Lake Elsinore Storm game, as well as the Southwest Riverside Community Breakfast highlighting progress and partnership in expanding higher education access across Southwest Riverside County. She thanked Dr. Wilkins and Ms. Phahla for serving as co-emcees at this event, as well as Mr. Monville for his support in confirming Supervisors Washington and Spiegel's attendance.
- President Neufeldt reminded the Board that the CSU National Center for Social Mobility will be housed at CSUSM and serve all 22 CSU campuses, advancing social mobility as a national priority.
- President Neufeldt reiterated the Governor's May revise budget did not contain many changes from the January proposal.
- President Neufeldt announced that Barbarah Torres will join CSUSM as Director of Government Relations in July.
- President Neufeldt shared excitement for the upcoming Ribbon Cutting for Black Oak Hall & Kwila Dining which features 555 beds and a 10,000 square-foot dining facility.
- President Neufeldt shared construction is ongoing for the new student Wellness and Recreation Center which will provide an additional 900 beds for student housing.
- President Neufeldt mentioned she will be presenting at the July CSU Board of Trustees meeting alongside CSUSM alum Dr. Dilcie Perez, the inaugural Vice Chancellor of Strategic Enrollment Management for the CSU system. They will present the CSU's first-ever Strategic Enrollment Management framework to ensure the CSU is poised to serve students of all ages and backgrounds. President Neufeldt commented this will be vital for both social and economic mobility.
- President Neufeldt reported that philanthropic support is on track to be the second-highest fundraising year in university history and reflected on the many successful initiatives supported by the Blueprint for the Future campaign.
- President Neufeldt recognized Dr. Patricia Prado-Olmos' retirement after more than 30 years of service to CSUSM. She shared that Dr. Prado-Olmos will continue supporting

the university over the next year as a special advisor, helping advance CSUSM's presence and engagement in the Southwest Riverside County region.

Business

III. Consent Agenda – Vice Chair Crellin noted Mr. Epstein recused himself from voting due to the disclosure in item G and asked if there were any items to remove from the consent agenda. Hearing none, Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve all items which included the previous meeting minutes, Committee Minutes, Investment Performance, Financial Statements, Quarterly Report, Operating Agreement, and Annual Signature Items and Documentation; it was moved by Ms. Kreider, seconded by Ms. Hersh, and approved by all.

IV. Annual Meeting Business

- Class of 2026 Term Renewal – Vice Chair Crellin shared that the Governance and Executive Committees have provided a recommendation for approval to renew terms for Carleen Kreider, Esther Phahla and Carol Lazier. Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve the Class of 2026; it was moved by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Wyden, and approved by all.
- Prospective Elected Directors – Vice Chair Crellin shared that the Governance and Executive Committees have provided a recommendation for approval of prospective elected directors Barbara Fischer, Greg Hunter and Kevin Harkenrider. Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve the prospective elected directors; it was moved by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Ms. Kreider, and approved by all.
- Appointments
 - Students: Vice Chair Crellin shared that President Neufeldt has appointed the following people to serve a one (1) year term as Student Representatives:
 - Ray Lynch '27 (appointment)
 - Ashley Ortiz '27 (appointment)
 - Julianna Hunt '28 (shadow)
 - Faculty: Vice Chair Crellin shared that President Neufeldt has appointed the following people to serve a one (1) year term as Faculty Representatives:
 - Richard Armenta (reappointment)
 - Rebeca Perren (appointment)
- Emeritus Director Nominations – Vice Chair Crellin shared that, in recognition of their distinguished service to the Foundation Board and the university, Emilie Hersh, Anthony (Tony) Jackson, and Steve Wagner were nominated by the Governance and Executive Committees and approved by President Neufeldt for election as CSUSM Foundation Emeritus Directors. Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve the nominations; it was moved by Dr. Perron, seconded by Executive Director Clark, and approved by all.

V. California State Budget

- Mr. Monville provided an update on the state budget, noting that the Governor's May Revision maintains the CSU funding levels proposed in January, including restoration of the previously announced base reduction and continued compact funding. Mr. Wyden expressed optimism as the budget process moves toward final adoption.
- Mr. Monville shared updates on Community Project Funding Requests submitted through Congressman Scott Peters and Senator Alex Padilla in support of CSUSM priorities, including workforce development, applied research, and healthcare education initiatives. Both requests have advanced in the federal review process.

VI. Finance and Investment Committee Update: Executive Director Clark provided the following updates:

- A. Proposed 2026/2027 Budget – The Finance & Investment and Executive Committees have provided a recommended budget for approval. After discussion Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve the 2026/27 Budget; it was moved by Ms. Hersh, seconded by Mr. Simmons, and approved by all.
- B. Proposed Update to Gift Fee Policy – The Finance & Investment and Executive Committees have provided a recommendation for approval of the proposed revisions. After discussion, Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Gift Fee Policy; it was moved by Ms. Hersh, seconded by Mr. Simmons, and approved by all.

VII. Continued participation in the California State University Risk Management Authority (CSURMA) Auxiliaries Organizations Risk Management Alliance (AORMA) Coverage Programs

- A. Amended Participation Agreement
- B. Resolution
- C. Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement ([link](#))

This item addresses the Foundation's continued participation in CSU's systemwide auxiliary risk-sharing and insurance program. Board action is requested to renew and affirm the Foundation's participation through the amended AORMA Participation Agreement and associated governing documents.

After discussion, Vice Chair Crellin requested a motion to approve the continued participation in CSURMA; it was moved by Ms. Kreider, seconded by Mr. Wyden, and approved by all.

VIII. Student Perspectives: Our Future in Action

- Mx. Palma Castillo shared the Student Philanthropy Council hosted Thank CSUSM Day on April 23 and delivered 85 thank you cards written by students to faculty and staff donors across campus.
- Ms. Lynch asked Directors to save the date for this year's Giving Day on Tuesday, December 1. Ms. Ortiz noted the almost \$830k raised during the 2025 CSUSM Giving Day was the 5th highest among the 22 CSU institutions. She thanked Directors for their commitment and support of CSUSM students.
- Ms. Lynch shared this year's Cathy Baur Student Philanthropy Award was presented to the Foundation Board's own Mx. Palma Castillo. This award recognizes a CSUSM student who has demonstrated leadership in supporting philanthropic activities.
- Mx. Palma Castillo reflected on their service on the Foundation Board and opportunity to grow into the leader they are today.
- Ms. Lynch and Ms. Ortiz closed by thanking Mx. Palma Castillo and Mr. Kuvinka for serving as Foundation Board student representatives.

IX. Foundation Board Highlights: Celebrating Impact Through Service

- Vice Chair Crellin reflected on the success and accomplishments of the past year highlighting collective momentum across university leadership, the Foundation Board and the community in alignment with CSUSM's mission and strategic priorities. Vice Chair Crellin encouraged Directors to reflect on these highlights during the upcoming annual board survey.

X. Conversation of the Quarter – Advancing the Path to \$200 Million

- Mr. Keifer asked Ms. Wyndham to share an overview of campaign progress. She reported that 84% of the \$200 million campaign goal has been raised since July 1, 2021, with 76% of the campaign timeline elapsed. Ms. Wyndham also shared over \$14.3 million in philanthropy has been secured this fiscal year, marking the second-highest fundraising year in campus history.
- Ms. Wyndham reported on campaign momentum and highlighted campus-wide philanthropic priorities along with campaign successes to date.
- Dr. De Leone shared updates on research funding showcasing significant investments in CSUSM and noted successful campaign partnerships with research and philanthropic funding.
- Ms. Clark shared an overview of campaign communication outreach to faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners.

XI. Board Commitments: Looking Ahead Together

- Vice Chair Crellin asked Directors to share how they plan to advance the campaign before the next meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Christa Koen

Dated: June 23, 2026

Secretary



Leon Wyden
2026-09-28 18:36 UTC