



Foundation Academic Angels Committee Meeting

Minutes for Tuesday, September 8, 2020

2:00PM

Zoom Video: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/98800931747>

Meeting Participants

Committee Members Present

Marge Dodge (Chair), Norma Castaneda and Marlene O'Sullivan

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Linda Weakley

Committee Members Not Present

Christine Anderson, Nancy Harris and Jane Saltonstall

Guest(s)

Catherine Abbott and Bill Chunowitz

Recorder

Eve-Marie Dehondt

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:05PM.

2. Action Items

2.1 Approval of Agenda: Foundation Academic Angels Committee Meeting of September 8, 2020 Agenda: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2), the Committee may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda, upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a

need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).

2.1 Confirmation of Agenda: Approval of Agenda for the Academic Angels Committee Meeting of September 8, 2020 with any addition, correction or deletions.

2.1 Conclusion

Norma Castaneda moved to approve the agenda as presented, Marlene O’Sullivan seconded.

Motion carried.

2.1 Follow-up Items	2.1 Task of	2.1 Due by
None	None	None

3. Comments from the Public

3. 1 Comments From The Public: Comments from the Public: In accordance with Executive Order N-25-20 and guidance from the California Department of Public Health on gatherings, remote public participation is allowed and will be accepted by email until September 7, 2020 at 5PM to codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu and read into the record during public comment.

There were no comments from the public received.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Mission of the Committee

The Committee discussed the current mission of the Academic Angels Committee which reads as follow: “To positively impact the lives of students who are striving to achieve a purposeful education and enhance the communities of the Coachella Valley and the region.”

4.1 Conclusion

The Committee discussed the mission and agreed to keep it as is, given that it serves the purpose of the Committee and covers all the Academic Angels’ actions.

4.1 Follow-up Items	4.1 Task of	4.1 Due by
None	None	None

4.2 Name of the Committee

Marge Dodge provided background to the Committee as the Committee used to be known as the "Auxiliary Committee and was more recently renamed as "Academic Angels" around 2014.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of changing the name of the Committee.

4.2 Conclusion

The Committee decided to keep the name as "Academic Angels" as it gained recognition over the years thanks to the Committee's significant work within the community. With Cathy Abbott as the new Executive Director on board, the Academic Angels can now move forward and capitalize on the work accomplished in the past.

4.2 Follow-up Items	4.2 Task of	4.2 Due by
None	None	None

4.3 Increase the Number of Committee Members

As the Committee is planning several fundraising events, Marge Dodge proposed increasing the number of Committee Members to approximately 10 to 12 members. She has reached out to four individuals who may be potentially interested in joining the Committee: Cynthia Cotrell, Roberta Duke, Erica Espinola and Christine Nails. The latest graciously declined to serve at this time, but positively supports the COD Foundation.

The Committee would like to see a gender diversity within its members, as it used to be prominently feminine, which is no longer the intent.

4.3 Conclusion

The Committee will continue approaching potential Board Members as well as external candidates whom they would like to invite to participate in the Committee.

4.3 Follow-up Items	4.3 Task of	4.3 Due by
None	None	None

4.4 Increase Academic Angels Membership

4.4.1 Amount of Dues

The current dues of the Academic Angels Membership are set at \$150. The Committee discussed increasing them to \$250. A letter to Academic Angels members will be drafted for dues renewal and sent before Giving Tuesday, which takes place on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

In the letter, the Committee will include some excerpt of the thank you letters received from students who were Academic Angels Scholarship recipients last fiscal year. The letter will be sent through Constant Contact with a direct link and will include lapsed donors.

4.4 Conclusion

Marlene O’Sullivan moved to change the Academic Angels yearly dues from \$150 to \$250. Norma Castaneda seconded.

Motion carried.

4.4 Follow-up Items	4.4 Task of	4.4 Due by
A letter to Academic Angels members and lapsed members will be drafted for dues renewal and sent before Giving Tuesday.	Marge Dodge	October 2020

4.5 Events

4.5.1 Youth Leadership Program

Catherine Abbott suggested the Committee starts a Youth Leadership Program which would entail offering leadership courses to students during their freshman year, and which would be similar to the “Leadership Coachella Valley” program originated by the Coachella Valley’s Chambers of Commerce.

This program consists of young, or new, business professionals taking students under the Chamber’s wing and introducing them to the Community. Since setting up this kind of program is currently challenging during Covid-19, Cathy proposed to collaborate with one of the local the Chambers of Commerce and to make this a fundraiser within their fundraiser. This would be a great opportunity for the Academic Angels to participate in and work closely with the students.

In the future, students could eventually work with the Chambers members whom are participating in the program and find a way to partner with them and continue to have them as mentors during and after the program is concluded. Sponsors who agreed to participate in the program would be recognized during a zoom call.

There is an opportunity to include a second cohort of students for which the Foundation would do its own fundraiser and put the students into the program by paying their enrollment fees, similar to a scholarship. Cathy will be setting up meetings with the Chambers of Commerce to discuss further and report to the Committee. She indicated that the Chambers plan to launch their next Leadership Coachella Valley in February or March 2021.

Linda Weakley indicated that she taught leadership development nationally for a real estate company to help develop their management teams. She will gather any useful material and notes that that would be useful to the Committee in that regards.

4.5.2 Citizens of Distinction

The Academic Angels used to organize Citizens of Distinction events where specific honorees were recognized yearly. These fundraising events may be reinstated when in-person gatherings will be possible.

4.5.3 Other Events

Norma Castaneda recommended starting some virtual events such as culinary events which are currently popular and can be very successful to raise funds. It was noted that the President’s Circle Committee is already considering setting up virtual culinary experiences.

4.5 Follow-up Items	4.5 Task of	4.5 Due by
Catherine Abbott will be setting up meetings with the Chambers of Commerce to discuss the Leadership Coachella Valley Program and potential partnership.	Catherine Abbott	October 2020
Linda Weakley will gather any useful material and notes that she could share with the Committee regarding her past leadership training program.	Linda Weakley	October 2020

5. Adjournment

The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:01 PM.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, October 6, 2PM - Zoom