



**Foundation Academic Angels Committee Meeting
Minutes for Tuesday, March 8, 2022
2:00PM**

Meeting Participants

Committee Members Present

Marge Dodge (Chair), Norma Castaneda and Peggy Jacobs

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Cynthia Cottrell and Linda Weakley

Committee Members NOT Present

Nancy Harris

Guest(s)

Catherine Abbott

Recorder

Eve-Marie Dehondt

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

1.1 Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:03PM. Peggy Jacobs joined the meeting at 2:19PM.

2. Action Items

2.1 Approval of Agenda: Foundation Academic Angels Committee Meeting of March 8, 2022 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 March 8, 2022 with any addition, correction or deletions.

2.1 Conclusion

Norma Castaneda moved to approve the agenda as presented, Marge Dodge seconded. Motion carried.

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

3. Minutes

3.1 Approval of the Academic Angels Committee Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2022.

Norma Castaneda moved to approve the minutes as presented, Marge Dodge seconded. Motion carried.

4. Comments from the Public

4.1 Public Comments: In accordance with Senate Bill 361 and guidance from the California Department of Public Health on gatherings, remote public participation is allowed and will be accepted in person, by email to codfoundation@collegeofthedesert.edu and read into the record during public comment or by using the raise your hand function by joining the Zoom link. There is a time limit of three (3) minutes per person. All comments must be submitted or brought forward prior to the end of the public comments section.

There were no comments received from the public.

5. Action & Discussion Items

5.1 Academic Angels Newsletter Update

- The March newsletter is almost ready to be sent.
- Marge Dodge wrote a memorandum on Donna Jean Darby, past President of the Foundation and who was part of the Academic Angels for many years, who recently passed.
 - Marge Dodge will share her notes on Donna Jean Darby with Catherine Abbott, for her to include in her Board of Trustees report. The Committee agreed to set up a recognition for Donna Jean Darby at one of the future events.

- The newsletter will also include a section on the students being back to campus, on Stepping out for College of the Desert Gala, on COD being selected for the California “College Corps” for students to be awarded scholarships for up to \$10,000, and the return of the campus tours.
- The Campus Tour section is drafted by Matt Durkan who should send the information to Amanda McCarthy to finalize the letter. The letter will be mailed when all these sections are completed.

| 5.1 Follow-up Items | 5.1 Task of | 5.1 Due by |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Matt Durkan to send the information to Amanda McCarthy to finalize the newsletter. | Matt Durkan | As soon as possible |
| Marge Dodge will share her notes on Donna Jean Darby with Catherine Abbott, for her to include in her Board of Trustees report. | Marge Dodge | As soon as possible |

5.2 Learning to Lead Program Update

- The Committee was informed that Sergio Munoz, the student who had dropped the program as he had moved out of the valley, joined back.
- The Committee discussed next year’s program and the selection of applicants. They required more time to review the application than last year.
 - Matt Durkan will contact Shaw Abramowitz to see how many students are allowed for next year.
 - Catherine Abbott will work with Carlos Maldonado to see when is the best time to start soliciting the first students and when the first classes will start in the Fall.
- The Committee discussed the option to coincide the Academic Angels’ Spring lunch with the graduation, to announce at that time the number of sponsorship for next year and fundraise for the program.
- On a side note, Catherine Abbott reported that Dakota De La Torre has been chosen to sing the national hymn during the annual graduation.

| 5.2 Follow-up Items | 5.2 Task of | 5.2 Due by |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Matt Durkan will contact Shaw Abramowitz to see how many students are allowed for next year | Matt Durkan | April 18, 2022 |
| Catherine Abbott will work with Carlos Maldonado to see when is the best time to | Catherine Abbott | April 18, 2022 |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| start soliciting the first students for next year's program | | |
|---|--|--|

5.3 State of the College Planning:

5.3.1 Event Date/Time/Location

- State of the College is being postponed to the Fall, as April was too close to the Stepping Out for COD Gala.
- Marge Dodge will look at the Community calendar and Catherine Abbott will work with the College on possible dates in the Fall.
- Matt Durkan will ask to remove the April 19 original date from the Community calendar.
- The gym is not available during the high season and therefore, Marge Dodge proposed having the event in the Pollock Theater on the Palm Desert Campus, which can host 180 to 200 people. High top tables could be set outside with continental breakfast served at 9AM. The guests would then enter the theater and have a 1h15 minutes program.
 - This would reduce the cost as it avoids the need to rent silverware, set a three-course meal or rent a sound system, as AV is already included.

5.3.2 Event Program

- Catherine Abbott suggested that in addition to the President and Superintendent's address, State of the College could be turned into a summit with keynote or a motivational speaker, and an impact panel, including business owners and members of the Community, who would discuss workforce development, such as Learning to Lead program.
- The Committee commented on the length of the event, which could be an obstacle for the business owners; as well, the cost to hire keynote or motivational speakers needs to be determined. An option would be to invite students to share their experience with the audience.
- The Committee also discussed the option to organize a fundraising during State of the College, such as raising fund to upgrade the sound system in the Pollock Theater, which would be a long-term investment.

5.3.3 Sponsors

- Norma Castaneda suggested reaching out the group that is currently building the new Disney resort, as they would become one of the largest employer of the valley, which would represent a great opportunity for the COD students.

| 5.3 Follow-up Items | 5.3 Task of | 5.3 Due by |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Catherine Abbott to contact Dean Butler to get information on the Pollock Theater's availability. | Catherine Abbott | April 12, 2022 |
| Marge Dodge will look at the Community calendar and Catherine Abbott will work with the College on possible dates in the Fall. | Marge Dodge & Catherine Abbott | April 12, 2022 |
| Matt Durkan will remove the April 19 State of the College date from the Community calendar. | Matt Durkan | April 12, 2022 |

5.4 April 19, 2022 - Academic Angels Potential Luncheon Discussion

- The Committee agreed to change the date to another day than April 19. Marge Dodge proposed organizing a luncheon in late April /early May and have a tribute to Donna Jean Darby.
- Marge Dodge suggested either May 2 or May 12, and will contact Big Horn to see if they are available. The Committee agreed to see if this could be coordinated around the graduation date for Learning to Lead people. Marge Dodge will provide the date of their graduation at the next meeting.

| 5.4 Follow-up Items | 5.4 Task of | 5.4 Due by |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Marge Dodge will provide the date of the Learning to Lead graduation at the next meeting. | Marge Dodge | April 12, 2022 |
| Marge Dodge will contact Big Horn to see if they are available on either May 2 or May 12. | Marge Dodge | April 12, 2022 |

6. Other discussions

There was no other discussion.

7. Adjournment

The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:41PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – 2PM