Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
(Wednesday, January 13, 2026)

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present: Tom Minder (Chair), Norma Castaneda, Bill Chunowitz, Elisabeth Dick, Barbara Foster Monachino, Carol Fragen, Ramraghi Fuller, Jim Greene, Paul Hinkes, Joan Lamb, Dale Landon, Jaishri Mehta, Phillip Niblo, Diane Rubin, Jane Saltonstall, Alvin J. Schonfeld, Shari Stewart, Matt Walding (elected at this meeting)
Voting Members Absent: Christine Anderson, Amanda Augustine, Barbara Fromm, Ed Gubman, Jenell VanDenBos
Non-Voting Members Present: Catherine Abbott, Val Martinez Garcia, Juan Falcon, Joel Kinnamon (remotely)
Non-Voting Members Absent: Neil Lingle, Chip West, Corbyn Wild
***Recorder**: Eve-Marie Dehondt*

2. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The Board requested to edit section 9.2 as follows:

> **"9.2 Approval of the updated Investment Policy Statement**
> Tom Minder made a motion to approve the updated ~~Endowment Spending Policy~~ Investment Policy Statement."

The Board Minutes from December 10, 2025 were approved as amended.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approve Matt Walding as Board Director

Bill Chunowitz made a motion to approve Matt Walding as Board Director. Jane Saltonstall seconded. Motion carried.

6. CLOSED SESSION

The closed session took place at 3:04PM.

7. REPORT IN ACTION ITEM (If any)

There was no action to report from closed session.

8. REPORT ITEMS

8.1 Board of Trustee Liaison Report – Dr. Joel Kinnamon

Dr. Joel Kinnamon reported on the College's strong financial and institutional stability, highlighting successful leadership changes, reaffirmed accreditation, and enrollment recovery to pre-pandemic levels. He announced the launch of plEDGE for All in the Fall of 2026, which will be offering tuition-free and wraparound support for all students, building on the original plEDGE program's success.

8.2 Superintendent/President Report - Val Martinez Garcia

Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia welcomed Dr. Joel Kinnamon as the new Board of Trustee Liaison. He then informed the Board that an application was submitted for a Chancellor's Office Bachelor's degree program in Casino and Integrated Resort Management, emphasizing the importance of student support and increased persistence rates. He underscored the Foundation's critical role in student success and the College's commitment to the Coachella Valley community.

8.3 Student Representative ASCOD Vice President - Juan Falcon

Student Representative ASCOD Vice President, Juan Falcon reported that ASCOD convened on January 5th to get ahead on the semester and continue strengthening their planning collaboration with campus departments. Committees are meeting more consistently and advancing several key priorities, including updating the bylaws, events, external partnerships, and budget planning, among others. Finally, he reported that the SSCCC Federal Advocacy Academy will be hosted in Washington, D.C. and ASCOD will attend in March.

8.4 Board Chair Report – Tom Minder

Board Chair Tom Minder thanked the Stepping Out for COD Committee for their outstanding work over the year and for the great selection of silent and live auctions to be proposed at the gala. He reported that the first naming opportunity has been confirmed at the Palm Springs Campus from Glenn and Opal Barnett Foundation, which will be an unrestricted gift of $500,000. He informed the Board of the generous gift from Joan Lamb, who will be covering a large portion of the Legacy Leaders consultant's compensation, who currently is Darcy Carozza.

8.5 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott

Executive Director Catherine Abbott welcomed Dr. Joel Kinnamon as the new Board of Trustee Liaison and the newly elected Board member, Matt Walding. She informed the Board that the next meeting will be hosted at the Augustine Casino on February 18, 2026 in the Tribal Council room. Rides will be organized for board members who would like to carpool. She reported that many gifts were received at the end of the fiscal year. She reported that Diane and Gerry Wendel generously donated $12,000 of stethoscopes for the nursing department, which is regularly distributed during the Nursing Pinning ceremonies.

8.6 Directors' Reports
Shari Stewart, Chair of the Advancement and Stewardship Committee, indicated that a special fine dinner for President's Circle Diamond and Platinum members is scheduled in January. The annual Pizza and Putting President's Circle event will take place on March 22, 2026 and more information will be provided closer to the event.

Shari Stewart, Co-Chair of the Stepping Out Committee provided an update on the planning of Stepping Out for COD 2026. (This report will replace item 8.3 Update on Stepping Out for COD 2026.) As of today, the total sponsorship revenue is $489,111.34. The gala is almost sold out. Many silent auctions were donated to the Foundation and there will be 3 live auctions during the event. Shari thanked the Committee and staff for their hard work on the event planning.

There was no report from Bill Chunowitz, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

There was no report from Paul Hinkes, Chair of Finance and Investment Committee.

Ed Gubman, Campus Grants Committee Chair was not present.

9. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9.1 Sharing the COD Foundation Story - Talking Points
The Board requested that the numbers provided be rounded up.

9.2 Stepping Out for COD Update
The update was provided by Shari Stewart during her report.

9.3 Other Foundation Upcoming Events
There was no further discussion on upcoming events**.**

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 Next Meeting: February 18, 2026. Augustine Casino in Coachella.
The Board agreed to move the meeting earlier and organize a luncheon. Carpools will be organized for board members.

The Foundation staff will provide new timing and information in the coming weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm.