



**Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
(Wednesday, February 18, 2026)
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present: Tom Minder (Chair), Christine Anderson, Amanda Augustine, Norma Castaneda, Bill Chunowitz, Elisabeth Dick, Barbara Foster Monachino, Ramraghi Fuller, Barbara Fromm (remotely), Jim Greene, Ed Gubman, Gib Hentschke (elected at this meeting), Paul Hinkes, Joan Lamb, Dale Landon, Jaishri Mehta, Phillip Niblo, Tony Ogden (elected at this meeting), Diane Rubin, Jane Saltonstall, Alvin J. Schonfeld, Shari Stewart, Jenell VanDenBos, Matt Walding, Scott White (elected at this meeting)

Voting Members Absent: Carol Fragen

Non-Voting Members Present: Catherine Abbott, Donna Greene (representing Corbyn Wild), Joel Kinnamon, Neil Lingle, Roberto Ramos (representing Juan Falcon), Chip West,

Non-Voting Members Absent: Val Martinez-Garcia

Recorder: Eve-Marie Dehondt

2. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The Board Minutes from January 13, 2026 were approved as amended.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

5. CLOSED SESSION

The closed session took place at 11:15AM.

6. REPORT IN ACTION ITEM (If any)

The Board reported election of the following Board members:

- Guilbert "Gib" Hentschke
- Anthony "Tony" Ogden
- Scott White

The Board and staff welcomed the new Board members to the Board.

7. MISSION MOMENT

Jocelyn Vargas, Manager of the Basic Needs Center, Counseling Services discussed the challenges of supporting students with limited resources and the importance of partnerships and the Foundation's support, to provide emergency assistance and

maintain student stability. Student William Garcia shared his transformative journey from being emancipated at 17 to becoming a full-time student and leader through the College Corps program.

8. REPORT ITEMS

8.1 Board of Trustee Liaison Report – Dr. Joel Kinnamon

Dr. Joel Kinnamon reported on the accreditation received from the California Indian Nations College (CINC), he discussed the renovations at the Palm Desert campus, the constructions at the Palm Springs Campus, and the Roadrunners Motors, which is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2027. He finally congratulated the Foundation for the successful Stepping Out for COD Gala.

8.2 Superintendent/President Report - Val Martinez Garcia – Absent. Vice-President of Administrative Services, Chip West read a written report provided by Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia. The report focused on the success of the Stepping Out for COD Gala, the College's entry into a period of expansion and transformation including the PIEDGE for All initiative, the Palm Springs Campus and the Roadrunners motors opening.

8.3 Student Representative ASCOD Vice President – Juan Falcon – Absent. Roberto Ramos, ASCOD Vice President, presented on behalf of Juan Falcon, who could not attend the meeting. Roberto reported ASCOD will be participating in a march in Sacramento in March with several COD students. He also reported on the Interclub Council, a Committee that he chairs, and all of their upcoming activities.

8.4 Board Chair Report – Tom Minder

Board Chair Tom Minder thanked Amanda Augustine and the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians for hosting today's Board meeting and lunch. He then thanked the Stepping Out for COD Committee Chairs and Committee members, for their outstanding work over the year, as well as the Foundation. He acknowledged the Jim & Jessica Greene Foundation, as well as the Schnitzer Foundation and Diane and Gerry Wendel for their ongoing support. Finally, he welcomed new board members Scott White, Tony Ogden, and Gib Hentschke.

8.5 Executive Director Report - Catherine Abbott

Executive Director Catherine Abbott thanked the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians for hosting today's Board meeting and lunch. She also thanked the Foundation staff and chairs, Chris Anderson and Shari Stewart for their work on the successful Stepping Out event, which was sold out. She also acknowledged Frank Goldstin from Momentous and his team for the fantastic work accomplished. Finally, she welcomed new board members Scott White, Tony Ogden, and Gib Hentschke, informing them that an upcoming board orientation was scheduled on April 15th at the Desert Willow.

8.6 Directors' Reports

Shari Stewart, Chair of the Advancement and Stewardship Committee, informed the Board of the upcoming President's Circle event, including a Putting and Pizza Party on March 22 at the Shadow Golf Club in Palm Desert. She reported that President's Circle and Business President's Circle contributions reached \$244,306, and that Campus Tours were encouraged to help promote the school.

Bill Chunowitz, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported the Nominating Committee is reviewing additional board prospects and will meet next on April 6.

Paul Hinkes, Chair of Finance and Investment Committee provided a quick update on the Ferguson's presentation. A few highlights were provided in the Board material.

Ed Gubman, Campus Grants Committee Chair reported that the Campus Grants Committee will meet in March to review the applications received for Spring 2026.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Approve the 2nd quarter financial statement – October to December 2025

Diane Rubin moved to approve the 2nd quarter financial statements. Dale Landon Seconded.

Motion carried.

9.1 Approve the minimum donation for Named Temporary Restricted Funds and Named Endowed Funds as recommended by the Finance and Investment committee

Paul Hinkes moved to approve the minimum donation for Named Temporary Restricted Funds at \$50,000 and the Named Endowed Funds at \$150,000. Phillip Niblo seconded.

Motion carried.

10. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10.1 Stepping Out for COD 2026 Report Out

The Board discussed the Stepping Out for COD" gala, which was a huge success. It was sold out and raised \$843,863 of which \$346,842.98 is restricted. Of that, \$329,342.98 is for the Pledge Forever program, an additional \$7,500 was for the NASA program, and \$10,000 for the Roadrunner Essential Living Textbooks. The unrestricted portion is \$405,354.94. Expenses for the event were \$264,391.

10.2 List of Responsibilities of the Governance and Nominating Committee

Jane Saltonstall provided information on the materials that were distributed and the work done by the Governance Committee to identify the different responsibilities between the Governance and Nominating Committee. She invited Gib Hentschke to participate in future discussions on this topic given his expertise.

10.3 Review the 2026-27 Proposed Slate of Officers

A proposed Slate of officers for the upcoming year was distributed in the Board materials for the Board's review. Approval for the Slate of officers will take place at

the Annual meeting on April 15. The only change proposed at this time is Ed Gubman to be Treasurer and Chair of the Financial and Investment Committee, as Paul Hinkes has reached its term limit.

10.4 Board Self-Evaluations Forms

The Board Self-Evaluations are ready for the Board to complete via JotForm. Eve Dehondt will send them a link to complete these confidential evaluations after today's meeting. Board members were asked to complete within the next two weeks.

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1 Next Meeting: Annual Meeting April 15, 2026 at 2:15PM. A Board orientation is scheduled on the same day at 1PM and the day will conclude with a reception at 4PM. These will all take place the Desert Willow in Palm Desert.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44PM.