COLLEGE of the DESERT FOUNDATION

Foundation Executive Committee Meeting
(Thu, May 14, 2026) MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Voting Members Present: Tom Minder (Chair), Liz Dick, Barbara Foster Monachino, Barbara Fromm, Ed Gubman, Joan Lamb, Tony Ogden, Shari Stewart

Voting Member absent: Bill Chunowitz, Diane Rubin

Non-Voting Member Present: Catherine Abbott

Non-Voting Members absent: Val Martinez Garcia, Joel Kinnamon, Chip West

Guests: Catherine Abbott

Recorder: Eve-Marie Dehondt

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee voted to move action item 5.1 into Discussion Items instead of Action Item. The agenda was approved as modified.

3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting.
The minutes were approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. ACTION ITEMS

The only item under this section has been moved **as Agenda Item 6.4**, under Discussion Items.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Welcome the New Executive Committee Members

Tom Minder welcomed Liz Dick, Tony Ogden and Joan Lamb as new Members of the Executive Committee for 2026-27.

6.2 Discussion on Revising the Foundation Mission Statement

The Committee discussed possible options to review the current Foundation Mission and Vision Statements.

Existing/Current Mission Statement
The mission of the College of the Desert Foundation is to act as an advocate for the College and to secure financial support, enhancing the educational opportunities for all students.

Foundation <u>proposed</u> "Mission" Statement
The Mission of the Foundation is to secure and steward financial resources for the benefit of current and future generations of College of the Desert students.

Foundation <u>proposed</u> "Vision" Statement
The Vision of the College of the Desert Foundation is to support College of the Desert in expanding educational access and empower students to achieve academic, career and lifelong success while strengthening the workforce and enriching the community.

Existing Foundation Values
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Service Excellence
- Trust

Catherine Abbott will send the proposed revisions to the Committee as per today's discussion and will bring this item back to the October Executive Committee meeting.

6.3 Executive Committee Annual Goal Discussion
The Executive Committee discussion several options for their Annual Goals, which could help streamline the meetings. They provided the following options:

- Organize a meeting of the Board where they could receive information and specifically discuss Planned Giving and Legacy Leaders, for them to help support growing legacy leaders.
- Create an onboarding program for new board members and revisit and restructure the mentorship program, involving the committee chairs.
- Reimplement Board Retreat for Board members to get a better understand of what the organization is doing. Retreats would help board members to get to know each other on a personal level and increase their confidence asking questions.
- Tom Minder requested that the board self-evaluations from 2025-26 be provided to new Governance Committee Chair, Liz Dick, for her to provide a summary at the next Board and follow-up on their general feedback.

The Governance Committee will:
- Create an ad-hoc committees to work on the new mentoring and onboarding program, as well as the board retreats
- Create a summary of all the self-evaluations from the board members from 2025-26
- **Bring their recommendations to the board on all these items.**

6.4 Discuss the increase of the Student Emergency Fund allowance from $500 to $1,000 per ask.
The Committee discussed whether they should increase the Student Emergency Fund allowance for students from $500 to $1,000. Finance Committee Chair, Ed Gubman indicated that the Finance Committee discussed and found this recommendation appropriate. This will be put on the agenda of the next Executive Committee for review and put this back as an action item to vote on.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57PM.

7.1 Next Meeting:
Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 1:30 PM - Palm Desert Campus, in the Cravens Student Services Center Multipurpose Room.