



FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Zoom Conference Call

Thursday, August 21, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Anthony Ferry Isaiah Henry Jim Leach
 Mark Schwartz Dr. Elliot Stern Elizabeth McCann, staff
 Emily Cramer, staff

Absent:

Guests:

- Meeting called to order at 3:57 p.m.
- Attendance taken and quorum achieved.
- Consent Agenda
 - March 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes approved.
 - Gifts Received (4/1/25 - 7/31/25) approved.Anthony Ferry motioned to approve agenda, Jim Leach seconded, motion approved.
- Board Development – Jim Leach
 - Committee looking for candidates in industry specific categories.
 - They have a couple prospects they still have to approach.
 - Executive Committee Slate of Officers for 2025-2026
 - Chair – Mark Schwartz
 - Vice Chair – Isaiah Henry
 - Secretary – Jim Leach
 - Treasurer – Anthony FerryDr. Elliot Stern moved to approve the slate of officers, and Anthony Ferry seconded, motion approved.
- Dr. Elizabeth McCann met with Javad Mokhbary, and he is interested in joining the Board.
 - She will reach out to schedule a lunch with the Executive Committee members.
- Anthony Ferry also has a CFO coworker who he will see if he is interested in joining the Board. They will meet for lunch and if it goes well, he will set up a lunch with the Executive Committee members.
- Finance Committee Update – Anthony Ferry
 - No update of Foundation financials due to closing of fiscal books.
 - Dan reported on the portfolio, and all around it is pretty good.
 - Outstanding performance was coming out of international funds.
 - Have a couple of struggling funds but not making any big moves there.

- Holding steady north of \$10 million
- President's Report – Dr. Elliot Stern
 - Classes have started.
 - Had our Grand Opening of ATEP.
 - Auto has an amazing facility with more modern, bigger bays that accommodate EV testing and calibration.
 - Culinary went from classes in a portable building to moving into the finest culinary arts facility in the state.
 - Board members will be invited to the opening of our new Multicultural Center and Basic Needs Center on September 30th at 11:00 a.m. It is located on the first floor of the College Center building.
 - We can support students who need housing, food, or clothing.
 - The new food pantry looks like a small grocery store.
 - The clothing closet looks like a boutique clothing store.
 - Excited to be able to destigmatize those services, where students feel like they have gone shopping as opposed to coming in for help.
 - In January we will be opening our new Math and Computer Science Building, or MCS.
 - Includes a first-floor cybersecurity lab with a full digital wall.
 - One area of growth for this Board to consider is anything in cybersecurity.
 - One of the advantages of Saddleback@ATEP is that it puts us in Central County. A lot of industry partners for culinary and auto are located there, and we are not going out of our service area.
 - We can find new industry partners and potentially new Board members.
 - A non-profit foundation, College Futures Foundation, created a database then applied a formula to determine which colleges create the most wage gains for their students, and had the highest tenure salaries after graduation. One school stood out in the LA County San Diego County and Orange County areas, and that was Saddleback College. We are number one out of 42 colleges in those three counties in wage gains.
 - Just for two years at Saddleback College, \$18,300 is the value of our associate's degree above and beyond a high school diploma.
 - At the end of last week, an online publication by the name of WalletHub, made another important distinction rating of community colleges. They looked at all the community colleges across the country which had data available. That was 632 out of 1,100 total in the country. They looked at the educational outcomes, how many students completed, career outcomes, what tenured salaries and wage gains were, cost of attendance and making sure there was a good return on investment. Ten colleges were at the top of the list across the country. Saddleback is a top ten community college in America according to the 2025 WalletHub assessment.
 - We are advertising on cable TV because we are proud of those things and want our community to know this is what Saddleback is.
 - Dr. Stern will miss next week's Board of Directors meeting.
- Foundation Executive Director's Report – Elizabeth McCann
 - Will connect with Jennifer LaBounty to relay Dr. Stern's information for next week's Board meeting.
 - Will introduce Rodrigo Garcia, our new Vice President for Administrative Services, to the Board members.

- Our Board meeting next week will not be on campus since campus is busy the first few weeks of school. We will meet at Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club, in the Foyer Room, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and a reception follows with appetizers and beverages.
- Lisa Inlow and Taylor Brooks, who are department chairs for Culinary Arts and Automotive Technology, will be joining us and giving highlights on the two new facilities.
- Everything right now is Saddleback at ATEP, including the Gala.
- The Gala will take place seven weeks from Saturday. Without the Ritz-Carlton's infrastructure, the planning has been a fun challenge. We have a great night planned at these beautiful new facilities.
- We are working with an event coordinator that we have worked with for the last three years and things are running smoothly.
- Our caterer, The Grand Food and Beverage, will showcase what they do.
- Our Arts, Media, Performance, and Design School will again provide entertainment, which will be a mid-century modern theme vibe. We want to convey we are fueling the future for both auto tech and culinary arts.
- Zach is our auctioneer, and the format will be the same.
- We will be celebrating our success with a lounge after-party.
- Next year we will be at the Math and Computer Science Building to showcase our newest facility and their programs.
- I am grateful to my team for making the Gala happen. Paula and I are working on the creative pieces. We will be happy when it is October 12th.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, AT 4:00 P.M.