



FOUNDATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Zoom Conference Call

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Isaiah Henry

Guests:

- Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.
- Attendance taken and quorum achieved.
- Consent Agenda
 - November 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes approved.
 - Gifts Received (12/1/25 - 12/31/25) approved.Jim Leach motioned to approve agenda, Anthony Ferry seconded, motion approved.
- Board Development – Jim Leach
 - Jennifer Voelker joined the Board last month.
 - Dr. Elizabeth McCann is coordinating to meet with Javad and will let us know if she gets some dates that work.
 - Mission Hospital is restructuring their new emergency care program. The potential executive nurse candidate is on hold.
 - Kevin McClelland is a possibility when he frees himself up.
 - A Board Development Committee meeting should be set up soon.
- Finance Committee Update – Anthony Ferry
 - Finance report was good news across the board.
 - Will have a discussion with the full Board on the Finance Committee considering investing in private equity and will bring up any Board concerns to Dan.
- President's Report – Dr. Elliot Stern
 - Students are back on campus and enrollment is great.
 - The new thing on campus this semester is a café in College Center, right on the quad. The inside looks like a Starbucks, and it has great coffee.
 - The cafeteria opened in fall semester upstairs in College Center. They will start catering at some events.
 - The Math and Computer Science building is a little behind schedule, due to the heavy rain. That slowed the concrete pour for the hardscaping around the building. Looking forward to opening mid-spring semester. Next fall semester, the gala will be held there.

- Working on a lot of initiatives to support our first-generation students. Looking to help them, with peer mentoring, educational plans, and navigating to college resources.
- Moving quickly on AI adoption work. Because of state level work we are probably one of the state leaders.
- Cabinet members creating a new pathway and onboarding for adult learners, recognizing the 25-plus-year-old student.
- The national search for a new president is underway. National search firm, PPL, has been hired. Expecting a robust pool.
 - o Expecting the completion of first and second level interviews and a choice made by the end of March.
 - o Will wrap up negotiations and present to the Board of Trustees in April.
 - o The new president will start on July 1st. Dr. Stern will be staying the first couple weeks of July to help onboard the new person and make introductions.
- Foundation Executive Director's Report – Dr. Elizabeth McCann
 - The spring is very busy.
 - Working with the District Facilities Manager to get another tour of the Math and Computer Science building. Will start planning a sneak peek event before the formal ribbon cutting event.
 - With the start of the new semester, the big news for us this week is the launch of the scholarship application process.
 - o We moved to a new software platform last year before the transition to Banner. This year the system had to be reconfigured to operate off of Banner instead of the old student information system.
 - o In the first week we have had 300 students accessing the system, which is really encouraging.
 - Next big event coming up is our third annual Giving Day, on February 11th.
 - o Building a culture of philanthropy with our faculty and staff on campus. Last year we pushed it out externally as well and encouraged folks outside of Saddleback College to give and we will do that again this year.
 - o As a lead up to the official Giving Day each week we are including four employee donor profiles in Dr. Stern's Friday Updates.
 - The first donor profile rolling out this Friday will feature Dr. Teresa Bear. She is the chemistry department chair and an amazing foundation partner. She and her family just made a \$20,000 gift to the Foundation for a scholarship in the name of Teresa's dear colleague who passed away last December, Fariba Vatandoust. The gift will fund a scholarship for 10 years and an endowment will be created at the end of the 10 years.
 - Following Dr. Bear's profile, will be a member of the Classified Professionals, then a manager, and finally a faculty member. All have been very generous donors. The profiles will talk about what inspired them to give and why they encourage others to give back to Saddleback College.
 - Dr. Elliot Stern will send his own message the week of Giving Day.
 - The first year was a big splash and we had things going on all day. We scaled it back and have a presence outside in the Quad. We give away some swag, treats and things.

- Employees can give through payroll deduction. It is very easy, you do not even think about it, it comes out of your paycheck monthly.
 - A separate payroll donor appreciation lunch will be held for new donors on April 8th.
 - It would be nice to have a Board member say something and acknowledge our employees who give.
- Table for Ten is on March 1st at 5 p.m. at the Irvine Marriott.
 - They will be honoring one of our faculty, Chef Kyle St. John, a Saddleback College alum. He is the executive chef at The Ranch in Laguna Beach. His sous chef is also a Saddleback College alum. Kyle was featured in one of our gala videos in October.
- Our first VETS golf tournament, supporting our veterans' program will be held on March 9th at Aliso Viejo Country Club.
- RX3 Charity Flag Football tournament is on Saturday, March 21st. We will be sending out information on all these events.
- May 14th is our Scholarship reception.
- We will have an Elliot celebration, too.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 26, AT 4:00 P.M.