Foundation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Aug. 3, 2026 | 3 p.m.

I. Call To Order

President Craig Darnell called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

Board Members Present:

Executive Committee
Craig Darnell, *Chair*
Jim Anderson
Stuart Campbell
Jeff Darnton (Zoom)
Eric Holmen (Zoom)
Grigger Jones
Patrick Mullen
Debbie Perrault
Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Board Members
Ryan Ashlock
Erica Flores Baltodano
Shaun Chilton
Elizabeth Coria, Ed.D. (Zoom)
Kyle DeBernardi
Andrea Devitt
Rob Garcia (Zoom)
Patricia Gordon, Ed.D.
Mary E. Howell
Tim Kensinger
Robyn Letters (Zoom)
Pragna Patel-Mueller (Zoom)
George Pudlo
Marcy Woolpert Rourke
Lisa Rubio-Castillo (Zoom)
Farid Shahid
Tom Strait
Cheryl Vines

Board Members Absent:
Michael Boyer
Susan Dressler, Ph.D.
Cyndee Edwards
Scott Lathrop
Barbara Martinez
Steve McGrath
John Rolph

Foundation Staff Present:
Rick Camarillo
Sarah Fesseden
Andrea Horvath
Katie Osman
Jessica Strano

Guests Present:
None

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve as presented. (Jones/Flores Baltodano)
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve the June 7, 2026, Board of Directors meeting minutes as presented. (Howell/Lathrop)
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Mission Moment

Board members shared their connection to Cuesta College.

VII. Information Items

a. Financial Report

Katie Osman and Rick Camarillo presented a year-end summary of the Foundation's FY26 financial and fundraising performance. Preliminary results included $3.8 million in total giving, representing increases over FY25 and FY24, with growth across all major fund categories. No action was taken.

b. Strategic Plan Update

Katie Osman presented the finalized Foundation Strategic Plan and introduced the FY27 KPI dashboard, which will track progress toward the plan's five strategic goals. She reported that Quarter 1 implementation is progressing well, with several initiatives completed and remaining priorities generally on track. The dashboard will be reviewed regularly at Board meetings and included in future Board packets to support ongoing oversight and identify items requiring future committee, Executive Committee, or full Board discussion or action. Staff will continue working with appropriate committees on objectives aligned with their areas. No action was taken.

VIII. Action Items

a. Approval of FY27 Committee Assignments

The Board reviewed the proposed FY27 Committee Assignments, which were developed based on Board member feedback, prior committee experience, and the goal of maintaining balanced committee participation. Board members were given an opportunity to review their assignments and request changes.
Motion: Approve the FY27 Committee Assignments, as presented. (Chilton/Anderson)

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Annual Signature Authorization FY27

The Board reviewed the Annual Signature Authorization for FY27, which identifies individuals authorized to sign on behalf of the Foundation and outlines applicable limitations of authority.
Motion: Approve the Annual Signature Authorization for FY27 as presented. (Gordon/Perrault)
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Executive Reports

a. Foundation Board President

Craig Darnell reported on ongoing coordination with Executive Director Katie Osman, reflected on the recent New Board Member Orientation, and highlighted upcoming Foundation and College activities. He also shared a personal "Cuesta Moment" illustrating the impact of Cuesta College programs and opportunities. No action was taken.

b. Superintendent/President

Dr. Jill Stearns provided updates on enrollment, facilities, and major District initiatives. She highlighted the opening of the new instructional building at the North County Campus, continued planning for the future South County Campus, and upcoming Measure L renovation projects on the SLO Campus. She also reported record summer enrollment, continued fall enrollment growth, and more than $4 million in taxpayer savings from refinancing a portion of the Measure L General Obligation Bond. Dr. Stearns concluded with an update on the College's new 16-week semester calendar and its alignment with Cal Poly. No action was taken.

c. Foundation Executive Director

Katie Osman highlighted the Foundation's impact on student support, reporting that approximately $1.19 million in scholarships was awarded to 696 students for the 2026–27 academic year, an increase from the prior year. She also noted additional student support provided through the Cuesta Promise, CASE Fund emergency grants, and departmental funds. Katie discussed plans to increase community awareness of the Foundation's impact. No action was taken.

X. Representative Reports

a. Board of Trustees (Patrick Mullen)

Trustee Mullen provided updates on several District initiatives, including continued progress on the South County Campus, the opening of the new instructional building at the North County Campus, and upcoming SLO Campus renovation projects. He also highlighted continued development of workforce programs, including aviation and unmanned aircraft opportunities, and noted several infrastructure projects scheduled for consideration by the Board of Trustees. No action was taken.

b. Associated Students of Cuesta College (Shaun Chilton)

Shaun Chilton emphasized the importance of student representation and increasing student awareness of the Foundation's scholarships, emergency assistance, and other support. He shared his goal of strengthening communication between students and the Foundation and provided an update on Associated Students' planning for the year, with priorities focused on student persistence, graduation, workforce preparation, and transfer opportunities. No action was taken.

c. Faculty (Andrea Devitt)

Andrea Devitt emphasized the importance of personal connections and advocacy in helping students access needed resources. She encouraged Board members to refer students who may need assistance to appropriate College resources and highlighted the value of direct outreach in supporting student success. No action was taken.

XI. Committee Chair Reports

a. Alumni Relations Committee (Jeff Darnton)

Jeff Darnton reported that three Honored Alumni have been selected for recognition in October. He also shared that the Committee will begin the next nomination cycle and continue work to strengthen alumni data, engagement, and ongoing connections with former students. No action was taken.

b. Development Committee (Eric Holmen)

Eric Holmen reported on continued fundraising activity, including successful crowdfunding efforts, major gifts, and upcoming campaign and sponsorship opportunities. He also highlighted the Committee's goal of increasing Board participation in Foundation

giving. No action was taken.

c. **Finance Committee (Stuart Campbell)**
   Stuart Campbell reported that the Committee authorized a $2 million phased private equity investment pursuant to its delegated authority. He also noted that the Foundation's investment portfolio continues to outperform its benchmark, net of fees, and that the total endowment was valued at approximately $60.8 million. No action was taken.
d. **Nominating Committee (Scott Lathrop)**
   Scott Lathrop was absent; no report was presented.

XII. Comments by Staff
None.

XIII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.