Foundation

Cuesta College Foundation
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2026 | 12 p.m.
EP Wealth Advisors
892 Aerovista Place, Suite 220
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m.

B. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

Committee Members Present:
Stuart Campbell, Chair
Ryan Ashlock
Craig Darnell
Rob Garcia
George Pudlo
John Rolph

Committee Members Absent:
Barbara Martinez

Staff:
Rick Camarillo
Andrea Horvath
Katie Osman

Guests:
Nick Piccarreta, Mercer Advisors
Kenny Pitman, Mercer Advisors (Zoom)
Amanda Wirth, Mercer Advisors (Zoom)

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Darnell/Rolph)
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes from October 17, 2025. (Rolph/Pudlo)
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

F. Business and Action Items

1. Mercer Portfolio Presentation

Nick Piccarreta of Mercer Advisors provided an overview of the Foundation's investment portfolio performance, current market conditions, and Mercer's investment outlook. The presentation included a review of the 2026 Long-Term Capital Market Assumptions and an assessment of long-term return expectations based on the Foundation's strategic asset allocation.
Discussion only. No action was taken.

2. Private Equity Portfolio Review and Recommendation

At its previous meeting, the Finance Committee deferred a decision on allocating an additional $1.1 million to private equity pending further review of investment options. Nick Piccarreta of Mercer Advisors, along with colleagues Kenny Pitman and Amanda Wirth, presented an overview of private equity investment options available through Mercer, including Mercer Private Investment Partners VIII and Neuberger Berman. The presentation addressed investment strategies, fund structures, risk considerations, fees, and expected returns. HarbourVest was not included among the options presented by Mercer. Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the Foundation's existing investment relationship with HarbourVest and considered the additional fees associated with investing through Mercer. Based on the Foundation's prior experience with HarbourVest and the fund's historical performance, the Committee determined that a direct investment with HarbourVest was the preferred approach. Foundation staff was directed to work directly with HarbourVest to facilitate the additional investment.
Motion: Approve an additional $2.0 million allocation to the Foundation's private equity portfolio through a direct investment with HarbourVest. (Darnell/Garcia)
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Review of Endowment Investment Returns and Portfolio Composition

The Finance Committee reviewed investment performance reports for the period ending March 31, 2026. Rick Camarillo provided an overview of the procedures in place to monitor compliance with the Foundation's Investment Policy Statement. He also reviewed the processes for tracking contributions to and distributions from the endowment pool to ensure accurate accounting, reporting, and oversight of investment activity.
Discussion only. No action was taken.

4. Review of Cash Reserves and Certificates of Deposit

Rick Camarillo provided an update on the Foundation's cash reserves and

certificates of deposit, including current reserve levels, compliance with established policies, and procedures for ongoing monitoring and oversight. *Discussion only. No action was taken.*

5. **Review Spending Rate for FY27**
   The Finance Committee reviewed the Foundation's endowment spending rates and considered adjustments for fiscal year 2026–2027. The Committee recommended increasing the spending rate to 4% for above-water endowments and 2% for below-water endowments. The existing 1.5% administration fee will remain unchanged.
   Motion: Approve the spending rate increase for FY27, establishing a 4% spending rate for above-water endowments and a 2% spending rate for below-water endowments. (Garcia/Campbell)
   Result: Motion passed unanimously.

6. **Budget Development**
   The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed FY27 budget. The Committee approved the proposed budget for advancement to the Executive Committee in May and the full Board of Directors in June for final review and approval.
   Motion: Approve the FY27 budget as presented. (Garcia/Rolph)
   Result: Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Cash Management Policy Review and Approval**
   Katie Osman and Rick Camarillo presented the proposed Cash Management Policy and accompanying Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The documents formalize the Foundation's existing cash management practices, including cash oversight, account maintenance, and procedures governing the appropriate use and management of funds.
   Motion: Approve the Cash Management Policy as presented. (Darnell/Garcia)
   Result: Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Cash Reserve Policy Review and Approval**
   Katie Osman and Rick Camarillo presented the proposed Cash Reserve Policy and accompanying Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The documents formalize the Foundation's existing cash reserve practices and support long-term fiscal stability. The policy establishes minimum and maximum operating reserve levels for the General Fund.
   Motion: Approve the Cash Reserve Policy as presented. (Campbell/Rolph)
   Result: Motion passed unanimously.

9. **Investment Policy Statement**
   Rick Camarillo reviewed a proposed update to the Foundation's Investment Policy Statement (IPS), previously approved by the Committee in October 2025. The update included an appendix outlining the fixed-income benchmark. Based on Mercer Advisors' recommendation, the Committee discussed revising the benchmark to include both domestic and international bonds to better reflect the Foundation's investment strategy.
   Motion: Approve the update to the Investment Policy Statement with the amendment to include international bonds in the fixed-income benchmark. (Garcia/Campbell)
   Result: Motion passed unanimously.

G. COMMENTS BY STAFF

No comment.

H. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No comment.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: October 2026