# Foundation Board Meeting Minutes
**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**
**Hospital Rock 133 and Zoom**
**12:30 – 2:00 PM**

**Members present:** *(In-person):* Bob Ainley, Mariann Bettencourt, Brent Calvin, Megan Crouch, Tom Giampietro, Raymond Macareno, Lionel Moreno, Richard Nunes, Jack Rosa, Gerry Schneider, & Davy Vartanian

**Members absent:**, Stephanie Amaral

**Others present:** Tim Foster, Peighton Garcia

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** – T. Giampietro called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM.
   a. T. Giampietro welcomed J. Rosa to the board. J. Rosa thanked the board for the opportunity to serve COS.
2. **Action Items**
   a. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – Lionel Moreno**
      i. T. Giampietro asked if the Foundation was approved for the $300,000 from Jay Pritzker Foundation listed under Action Item B. T. Foster clarified that yes, the COS Foundation was approved for the $300,000 and we have awarded scholarships as such.
      ii. G. Schneider motioned to approve of the minutes as presented. D. Vartanian seconded. All approved.
   b. **Foundation Project Funding – Megan Crouch**
      i. The task force evaluated 19 proposals requesting $228,810.41 and formulated a recommendation for allocating $119,905 to the approved projects. The task force members were challenged by the number of proposals and the amounts requested. M. Crouch stated the committee did discuss several of the projects they did not fund, but it would be appropriate to send them to other fund committees. Projects like the evidence collection kits and fire academy helmets would be sent to Local Heroes, and the Equestrian area footing would potentially be sent to the Ag Fund. B. Ainley asked if the Scissor Lift project would be sent to the CTE Fund Committee. T. Foster confirmed that it would. B. Ainley motioned to approve the allocation as presented. D. Vartanian seconded the motion. All approved.
   c. **Athletics Fund Committee Recommendation – Richard Nunes**
      i. The Athletics Fund Committee evaluated a project request from the COS Football Program for $19,000 to pilot an Academic Preparedness Project. The project is intended to increase the grade point averages of football student-athletes while fostering college and team pride. R. Nunes reported that the committee felt the

project was worthwhile and recommended moving it forward. T. Giampietro suggested that, if approved, the Board receive a mid-year report on the team's academic performance to assess progress toward the project's goals. L. Moreno asked whether tutoring programs are currently available on campus. T. Foster explained that COS offers a Student Success Program, and coaches strongly encourage student athletes to participate. He further noted that the proposed project is designed to provide additional structure and accountability to help athletes work toward the team goal of achieving a 3.5 GPA. B. Calvin shared that the district operates six Student Success Centers—one in Hanford, one in Tulare, and four on the Visalia campus. He also noted that most COS athletic teams consistently maintain GPAs at or above 3.0. T. Giampietro pointed out that the proposal states a 3.5 GPA broadens opportunities for student-athletes seeking to transfer to four-year institutions after graduation. J. Rosa asked whether each student-athlete would have an individual academic goal or whether the project was based on an overall team goal. As an example, he asked if all athletes would receive the proposed apparel package if the team reached a 3.5 GPA by week six. T. Giampietro stated that his understanding was that all student athletes would receive the package regardless of academic performance. He also suggested revisiting the project in January to review academic outcomes following the first semester. T. Foster clarified that the project would focus on individual student goals rather than a universal benchmark. Coaches would assess each student-athlete's academic standing and identify areas for improvement. He added that the committee was willing to pilot the project and, if substantial progress was not demonstrated after the first year, would reevaluate future funding. J. Rosa asked whether a quote had been provided for the notebooks, as no pricing was listed in the proposal. L. Moreno noted that the submitted quote was based on 100 students, while the proposal referenced 150 students. T. Foster explained that the larger number likely included all recruits at the beginning of the season and that the number of participating athletes would decrease over time. M. Bettencourt moved to approve the proposal as presented. M. Crouch seconded the motion. All approved.

d. **2026- 2027 Draft Budget – Tim Foster**

   i. T. Foster presented the proposed 2026–2027 Foundation budget and reviewed actual revenue and expenses compared to the current year's budget. He reported that the Foundation is projected to finish with a surplus of approximately $13,600 below budget. He explained that several one-time expenses contributed to the shortfall. One significant expense was the eTeamSponsor contract. T. Foster noted that eTeams fees are based on the amount of funds raised during the previous year. Because fundraising through eTeams nearly doubled compared to the prior year, the Foundation incurred approximately $7,000 in additional platform fees. T. Foster explained that the Foundation absorbs both the eTeams platform fees and the associated credit card transaction fees. This approach ensures that donors are not responsible for those costs and that each program receives the full value of every gift contributed. M. Crouch asked whether eTeams donations are directed toward individual student-athletes or deposited into a general fund for the program. T. Foster confirmed that donations are typically designated for the program's general fund and support its overall operations. He explained that eTeams serves as the annual fundraising platform for participating athletic programs. M. Crouch suggested that it would be beneficial for the Board to periodically receive updates on how eTeams funds are being utilized by athletic programs. She noted that the associated platform fees are significant and that understanding the impact of the funds would help the Board better assess the value of the program. She added that this information could also be helpful when evaluating future Athletics Fund project requests. T. Foster agreed and stated that he would plan an in-service presentation for the Board to provide an overview of how eTeams is being utilized by the Foundation and athletic programs. T. Foster also identified another budget variance related to the contract for P. Garcia's new full-time equivalent position. Although the Foundation was able to implement the position during the previous fiscal year, the first billing invoice was not received until after July 1. As a result, the Foundation effectively incurred a thirteenth month of billing during the current fiscal year. T. Giampietro asked about the adding the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners in October. T. Foster explained that he typically attends the annual CASE conference for foundations affiliated with California Community Colleges. However, due to a scheduling conflict this year with the Crush Party event and his extensive prior attendance, he felt that it would be best to miss this year. Given the Foundation's increased focus on planned giving, T. Foster plans to attend the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners conference. He noted that the conference aligns well with the Foundation's current priorities and does not conflict with any other scheduled events. T. Foster further explained that the CASE conference is typically held in Southern California, while this year's National Association of Charitable Gift Planners conference will be held in New Orleans. As a result, travel expenses are expected to be higher due to the out-of-state location. G. Schneider asked T. Foster to explain the personnel cost reimbursement change reflected in the proposed 2026–2027 budget. T. Foster stated that when the Foundation and the District agreed to add an additional staff position, it was understood that the Foundation would reimburse the District for 100% of the position's salary and benefits during the first full year of employment. Effective July 1, 2026, the cost-sharing arrangement will transition to a 50/50 split, with the Foundation and the District each covering 50% of the position's salary and benefits. This change accounts for the reduction in personnel costs reflected in the proposed budget. L. Moreno motioned to approve the budget as presented. D. Vartanian seconded. All approved.

3. **Committee Reports**
   a. **Athletics Fund Committee Report – Richard Nunes**
      i. The committee considered the single funding proposal submitted by the Football program to fully fund an Academic Preparedness Project at $19,000. The committee discussed the merits of the project with Athletics Director, Brent Davis and was satisfied that the project showed potential to increase the overall GPA of the 100-plus athletes on the football team. The committee members agreed to submit a recommendation to the full board for the funding of the project. R. Nunes shared there was discussion about the lack of other proposals, but Brent Davis assured the members that a few others are in the works and should be presented at the next meeting. R. Nunes also mentioned that the committee is looking for younger members. The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 20th at Amigos Restaurant.
   b. **Student Services Committee Report – Tim Foster**
      i. The committee reviewed two funding proposals, both being in under $10,000 so the committee was able to approve them at the meeting. T. Foster shared the first proposal was a Classroom to Career proposal for $2,500. The proposal was to support the execution of a successful College of the Sequoias Job Fair by assisting with marketing and employer incentives for participating, and advisory committee meetings. The committee members wanted more specific performance metrics, but opted to fund the relatively inexpensive project and ask that Foundation staff work with the project lead to properly gather and report out performance metrics as part of the final report and as a condition of funding future renewals. The other proposal was for financial assistance to students needing blood work as a condition of employment, lab work, or clinical placements. This funding provides a "catch-all" for students who do not currently have access to any of the other resources available to some students for this cost. The committee agreed to funs $5,000 for one year or until consumed. T. Foster also shared that the committee also wanted some more performance metrics and for the project staff to explore an efficient way to determine the financial need for this assistance to help mitigate cost. The committee also discussed some ways that both funded projects could generate some social media content to help advertise the use and effectiveness of the Student Services Fund to inspire future donors.
   c. **Alumni Relations Committee Report – Jack Rosa**
      i. J. Rosa shared that the Alumni Relations Committee has had great success with the Retiree Brunches and Excursions that take place each semester. The committee was looking for other groups to engage with, the three that were decided on were: Healthcare professionals, COS Athletes, and Agriculture Industry professionals. J. Rosa also shared that at the upcoming

commencement ceremony license plate frames will be distributed to each graduate with the alumni logo displayed on the frame. J. Rosa shared the committee is in the middle of a fundraiser T-Shirt Fundraiser, selling 100 year anniversary T-shirts with your name listed for $100. The proceeds will be used to purchase more copies of the shirt to hand out to students and community members at COS events for the balance of the calendar year.

d. **Fine Arts Fund – Lionel Moreno**
    i. The committee reviewed a single funding request from COS Symphonic Band to help sixty members travel to Washington DC to perform at the Wamar Theatre during the celebration of America’s 250th birthday on July 4th. The total cost is $84,000. The band's fundraising efforts have reduced the overall funding request to $6,800, the minimum needed to cover all known costs. The committee deliberated and agreed to fund up to $9,000 to ensure any unforeseen expenses would not jeopardize the trip for any of the members. B. Calvin also shared that when he spoke with Michael Tackett, Tackett was concerned about unforeseen expenses like food and hotel costs and B. Calvin agreed to cover $5,000 for his Presidents Discretionary account should they run into those expenses.

4. **Trustee Report – Raymond Macareno**
    a. Trustee Macareno reported that the groundbreaking ceremony for the University Center took place earlier this month. He expressed his appreciation for the Foundation Board and noted that the Board was instrumental in helping communicate the purpose and benefits of the University Center to the community. Trustee Macareno emphasized that the Foundation’s outreach efforts helped ensure community members understood the opportunities the center will provide for students. Trustee Macareno shared that the new Trustee, Trustee Aguilar, is doing well. He lastly shared that there will be three Trustees up for re-election this November.

5. **Superintendent/President Report – Brent Calvin**
    a. B. Calvin commended Trustee Macareno for his closing remarks at the University Center Groundbreaking Ceremony. He also recognized Dr. Saul Sandoval of Fresno State University for his participation and contributions to the event. B. Calvin reported that the College hosted approximately 25 events over a 10-day period, including an Employer Appreciation Breakfast, Scholarship Night, and several awards ceremonies. He also shared that the College held its annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon in the Quad. More than 300 employees and approximately 50 retirees attended the event. This year’s luncheon featured a 100-year anniversary theme and included the presentation of awards recognizing the Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year, Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year, Classified Staff Member of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and Community Member of the Year. B. Calvin announced that M. Bettencourt was selected as the 2026 Community Member of the Year. He thanked M. Bettencourt for her years of service on the Foundation Board and highlighted her leadership and dedication,

particularly her role as the driving force behind the Power of the Purse Luncheon.

6. **Foundation Director Report – Tim Foster**
   a. T. Foster thanked Trustee Macareno and B. Calvin for their recognition of the Foundation's efforts related to the University Center. He noted that there is still an opportunity for the Board to support the project, particularly through identifying and securing a potential naming gift for the building. T. Foster reported that the Foundation hosted Scholarship Night on April 30 and thanked the Board members who attended. A total of $705,000 in scholarships was awarded to 317 students, representing an increase of $88,500 over the previous year. He also shared that 1,141 scholarship applications were submitted this year, a 22% increase compared to the 2025–2026 application cycle. T. Foster informed the Board that Kristen Petty began her maternity leave earlier in the week. During her absence, her responsibilities will be distributed among T. Foster, P. Garcia, D. Beavers, and newly hired bookkeeper Shelly Gahagan. T. Foster further reported that the Foundation's investment portfolio reached a new high of $24,196,527.22 during the past month. Lastly, T. Foster invited Board members to attend Commencement on Thursday, May 21. T. Giampietro reported that the President's Cup was successful. He noted that the event was relocated from Visalia Country Club to Valley Oaks Golf Course and felt the transition was handled smoothly and effectively
7. .**Other Business**
   a. **Foundation Volunteer Holiday Reception Venue – Sunny Hyde Up – December 1, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM**
      i. T. Foster reported that the venue for the Volunteer Holiday Reception has been changed from Elderwood Restaurant to Sunny Hyde Up. He explained that the reception was not consistently meeting the restaurant's minimum food and beverage spending requirements, resulting in the Foundation paying a premium for the event. T. Foster noted that Sunny Hyde Up is not normally open during the hours of the reception, allowing the Foundation to cover only the staffing costs necessary for the event. He stated that the venue change is expected to be more cost-effective while still providing an appropriate setting for the reception.
   b. **Next meeting – Tuesday July 28th 12:30 – 2:00 PM**
8. **Adjourn -** T. Giampietro adjourned the meeting at 2:16 PM.