



Board Meeting Minutes September 23, 2025

Board Members:	Laurie Brandt, Ralph Felix, Cynthia Grande, Heath Gregory, Karla Harness Brown, Janan Johnson, David Liaw, Laurie Love, Katherine Maschler, Brooke Matson, Laurie McCarthy, Darcie McClelland, McKenzie Neely-Wright, Tamara Ritchey Powers, Richard Rede, Rob Van Lingen, Paul Wafer, Mark Waronek, Clay Zachry
Absent:	Komal Ahmed, Roy Dietz, Kelsey Iino, Victoria Lozzi, Charlie Mitchell, Jason Nishiyama, Daniel Shrader, Ben Steinberger, Brenda Thames
Staff:	Kate Choi, Nancy Tonner, Heidi Wang
Absent:	Andrea Sala
Recorder:	Richard Rede

President Laurie Love called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

1) Approve Consent Agenda:

*Paul Wafer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mark Waronek seconded.
Motion passed.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Laurie Love

1) President's Remarks

- Starry Summer Nights event was wonderful. Love encouraged all Board members to attend events, as they are the face of the Foundation.

2) Board Member Introductions

- All members introduced themselves and said what was their first car.

3) Sigli Amadu, ECC/CSUDH Presidential Scholar

- Sigli shared his route from high school to ECC to California State Dominguez Hills. He credits the writing center and EOPS as valuable resources at ECC. He is grateful to McKenzie Neely-Wright, Foundation Board member, for helping him navigate the scholarship process at CSUDH. Sigli is now taking six classes at CSUDH and is thinking of joining the debate team.

II. BOARD GOVERNANCE

Tamara Ritchey Powers

1) Board Policy Review

- Four policies will be reviewed this year.

III. FINANCIALS

Clay Zachry

1) 2025-2026 Operating Budget Approval

- Zachry reviewed the proposed Operating Budget for fiscal year 2026.

Clay Zachry made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget. Richard Rede seconded. Motion passed.

2) ECC Investment Overview

- Dan Tichenor, Graystone Consulting, gave an investment overview for fiscal year 2024-2025.
 - Turmoil of April may increase inflation and eat into corporate profits. Our economy is still relatively strong. More interest rate cuts may be coming. However, the market still shows volatility.
 - AI is really hot right now but expectations may not equal reality.
 - Estimates show more of a “soft landing” than full recession. Our assets are allocated based on Board direction. Our goal is to maximize returns with minimal risk.
 - NACUBO study is pretty similar to our peer cohort. We are getting closer to \$25 million threshold. That will open more opportunities for our investments.

IV. OPERATIONS

Laure Brandt/Mark Waronek

1) Scholarship Update

- Over 500 students have activated their scholarship.
- The 2026-27 scholarship application is now open until December 21.

2) 2026 Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Award Recipients

- Mark Waronek reported the Fundraising Committee met and selected the 2026 honorees:
 - Ashley Danial
 - Bill Kim
 - Jerry Marcil
 - John Sweeney
 - Mark Waronek
- Gratitude Award honorees are Honda (Corporate) and Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce (Community).

V. ECC STUDENT REPORT

Charlie Mitchell – Unable to attend meeting

VI. ECC PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dr. Brenda Thames – Unable to attend meeting

VII. STAFF REPORT

Heidi Wang

1) Starry Summer Night Recap – President Laurie Love presented in her report.

- 2) Save The Date! ECC State of the College, November 14, 11:30am, ECC East Dining Room. Asked Board members to put event on their calendar.
- 3) Save the Date! ECCF Distinguished Alumni & Gratitude Awards Dinner, March 6, 2026, 6:00pm, Doubletree by Hilton, Torrance. Asked Board members to put event on their calendar.

VIII. DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

Meeting Adjourned at 5:16 pm

Brooke Matson made the motion to adjourn. Mark Waronek seconded. Motion passed.