

# LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

**LOCATION:** LACC Foundation Conference Room  
Student Union Building  
855 N Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90029

### CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION

**Dial:** 1 (669) 900-6833

**Meeting ID:** 870 9665 6553 **Passcode:** 221991

**Link:** <https://laccd.zoom.us/j/87096656553?pwd=e0ewEGueRTFVxcIDuDaUy1gUEbInxs.1>

### Participants via ZOOM:

**NAME:**

Mavin Hoffman  
Julie Stromberg

**LOCATION:**

128 Ketch Mall, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292  
801 S Longwood Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90005

**TIME:** 12:00 P.M.

## MINUTES

### Attendance:

**Members Present:** Robert Schwartz (Chairman); Jeff Zarrinam (Member-at-Large); Amanuel Gebru (LACC President) and Martha Esparza (Associate Executive Director)

**Members Via Zoom:** Marvin Hoffman (Immediate Past Chairman) and Julie Stromberg (Vice Chair)

**Members Absent:** Danny Chan (Treasurer) and Gregory Goeckner (Secretary) and

**Guests:** Daren Lynne, Kimik Nicholas (Student); Helen Khachatryan and Silvia Martinez

### I. CALL TO ORDER

**R. SCHWARTZ**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 12:03 P.M. A roll call was conducted, and quorum was confirmed.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**R. SCHWARTZ**

- a. Action Item: Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from January 20, 2026.
  - i. Discussion: Julie Stromberg raised a correction regarding Item VIII. a. ii. 1. on January 20, 2026, minutes.
    1. Consensus reached to revise language to reflect that Ms. Esparza was promoted, not “voted in” or “appointed.”
    - ii. Motion: Jeff Zarrinam moved to approve the minutes as amended to reflect the corrected language.
      1. Second: Marvin Hoffman.
      2. Vote: Approved unanimously.
      3. Motion carried (**MSP – Motion, Second, Passed**).

### III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**M. ESPARZA**

- a. Martha presented her report
  - i. SWAP MEET - UPDATE

1. This month, swap meet revenue is down \$8,155.15 compared to last year, primarily due to the heavy rain experienced last month.
  - a) The commission for January 2026 was \$6,697.85 for both Saturday and Sunday.
  - b) The year-to-date total is \$6,697.85
- ii. 2025 AUDIT – FEBRUARY 23, 2026
  1. Martha mentioned that the audit process has officially started and coordination is underway with Eide Bailly auditors.
  2. She also confirmed that the Audit Committee has been updated
- iii. DEVELOPMENT UPDATES
  1. Martha reported on some development activities:
    - a) Gala Planning: She reported that the 2026 Gala is scheduled for October 14. The contract has been executed, and the deposit has been submitted to the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.
      - 1) Planning is currently underway, with marketing coordination to follow.
    - b) Upcoming Events: The Estate Planned Giving Seminar is scheduled for March 24, 2026.
      - 1) The Dr. Ronald Levant Psychology Lecture Series, featuring Dr. Janet Shibley Hyde, is scheduled for March 24, 2026. The lecture will address the psychology of gun violence, with an emphasis on community engagement and collaboration with partner organizations.
      - 2) Martha announced a payroll deduction donor appreciation event scheduled for tomorrow, featuring coffee and donuts for campus participants as a thank-you for their support.
    - c) Eddie Hernandez, Development Director, continues active outreach and relationship-building efforts with prospective donors and partners. She noted the successful securing of a \$70,000 gift from Sterling Franklin in support of the Journalism Department. Ongoing engagement efforts include invitations to events and sharing meeting calendars to maintain donor involvement
    - d) Martha shared that planning is underway for the Nick Beck Journalism Speaker Series to engage additional target demographics, with a potential initiative anticipated for late April or May. The committee also discussed identifying a high-profile speaker or guest to enhance visibility and engagement, including the possibility of reaching out to nationally recognized journalists.
    - e) Martha announced that Tom Burley is no longer with the Foundation, with his last day being last Friday. The position will be posted soon.
    - f) Grants: Martha reported on several significant funding and partnership initiatives led in collaboration with Director of Strategic Initiatives, Daren Lynne.
      - 1) A \$3.1 million appropriation request (approximately \$3 million over three years) was submitted to support the City Cares Network following engagement with Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez's office; the proposal is currently under consideration. Plans are underway to further strengthen this effort through a potential roundtable with community stakeholders and students.
      - 2) Additional appropriation requests are in progress, including proposals to Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla. These include funding for CTE programs and a student parent cohort initiative.
      - 3) Martha also noted receipt of a \$125,000 grant (via Ed Trust West and the Foundation for LA Community Colleges) to support student parents, including a childcare subsidy platform launching soon with a three-year implementation period. HUD-funded program disbursements are entering a new cycle, with positive outcomes reported, including strong student engagement.
    - g) Donor Relations: In addition, efforts continue to cultivate donor and partner relationships. Discussions are ongoing with Milt Valera regarding support for the Guardian Scholars Program,

along with outreach to Jarl Mohn and other potential supporters. A meeting is also being planned with Rich and Marji Fond in the coming months to explore further collaboration.

#### IV. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

#### A. GEBRU

- a. Dr. Gebru provided an update on campus housing and institutional developments.
  - i. A housing town hall is being held to review progress and outline next steps, including plans to purchase an existing building for student housing, with consideration of acquiring an additional property due to the lengthy timeline associated with new construction.
  - ii. He also reported on key leadership updates, including the appointment of an Acting Dean of Institutional Research and the hiring of two new deans—one for Outreach and Dual Enrollment, and another for the Arts (Cinema, Film, and Music), with start dates in March and April. Leadership is currently engaged in strategic planning focused on improving student outcomes, including retention, persistence, completion, and transfer.
  - iii. Regarding facilities, Dr. Gebru discussed ongoing challenges related to a proposed \$56 million cinema building funded through bond resources. Faculty have expressed strong concerns about replacing the existing facility, citing the loss of specialized infrastructure (e.g., sound stages, editing bays, and theater space), potential reduced capacity, and location issues. An alternative option to renovate the current building is under consideration; however, this presents logistical challenges, including higher costs and lack of temporary space during construction. The district is conducting further assessments, including seismic and structural evaluations, to determine the most feasible path forward.

#### V. TREASURE REPORT

#### R. SCHWARTZ

- a. The Foundation Financials were presented by Robert Schwartz in absence of Danny Chan, Treasurer.
  - i. January 2026 Financials and Credit Card Statements
    - 1. Action Item: Motion to approve January 2026 Financials including bank & credit card statements.
      - a) Motion: Marvin Hoffman - moved to approve the January 2026 financials and credit card statements as submitted.
      - b) Second: Julie Stromberg
      - c) Discussion: Questions addressed regarding NBJ account consolidation and accounts receivable variance.
      - d) Vote: Approved unanimously.
      - e) Motion carried (**MSP – Motion, Second, Passed**).

#### VI. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

#### R. SCHWARTZ

- a. LACC BRANDING AND MARKETING
  - i. Robert asked Dr. Gebru to follow up on the issue related to district vendor approval for bench requirements. He expressed concern about the inability to deploy previously developed campaign assets for LACC marketing and branding, as well as the risk of prior investments exceeding \$60,000 being underutilized.
    - 1. Dr. Gebru to clarify vendor policy and deployment pathway.
- b. Robert requested an update from Dr. Gebru on the long-discussed sculpture garden project. Three sculptures (valued at approximately \$1 million) have already been acquired, and installation pads have been constructed; however, design and coordination issues remain. Now, they need to coordinate a follow-up meeting to clarify next steps.
  - i. He also highlighted a broader opportunity involving a potential long-term loan (up to 20 years) of additional major art pieces, which could significantly enhance the campus collection.

- ii. Additionally, Robert shared a new opportunity to acquire a large-scale mural from UCLA, created by a noted Los Angeles muralist. The mural would be donated at no cost, with installation expenses covered by Steve Lebowitz, and could generate positive publicity for the college.
- c. Robert briefly spoke on gala strategy for a more relatable fundraising messaging, broader storytelling, emphasizing student impact narratives and a professional live appeal strategy.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a. No public comments received.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 PM
- b. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 11:00 AM

NOTE: MSP=Moved Second Passed

Approved by Gregory Goeckner, Secretary