

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

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION

Dial: 1 (669) 900-6833

<https://laccd.zoom.us/j/85683291003?pwd=sCsPbFEiux9JtRPgrR3xWV1FxnVaxH.1>

Meeting ID: 856 8329 1003

Passcode: 358359

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Attendance:

Members Present: Robert Schwartz (Chairman); Julie Stromberg (Vice Chair); Danny Chan (Treasurer); Jeff Zarrinam (Member-at-Large), and Martha Esparza (Executive Director)

Zoom: Dr. Amanuel Gebru (LACC President); Dr. Olga Diaz (VP, Student Services); Eddie Hernandez; Helen Khachatryan and Silvia Martinez

Members Absent: Alex Swart (Vice Secretary)

Guests: Dr. Sobia Khan (VP, Academic Affairs); Anna Le (LACC Academic Senate President) and Daren Lynne

I. CALL TO ORDER

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 A.M. by Robert Schwartz after a quorum was confirmed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. Action Item: Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from August 25, 2026.
 - i. Motion: Jeff Zarrinam moved to approve the minutes as presented.
 1. Second: Danny Chan.
 2. Vote: Approved unanimously.
 3. Motion carried (**MSP – Motion, Second, Passed**).

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

M. ESPARZA

- a. Martha Esparza presented an update on Foundation activities.
 - i. DEVELOPMENT & GRANT UPDATES
 1. Martha provided an update on development and grant activities
 - a) She reported that the development team continued donor engagement, prospect identification and work to build future support through planned giving. A Planned Giving workshop is scheduled for October 22, 2026, by Zoom, with outreach intended for alumni, the broader community and college faculty/staff.
 - b) Martha also reported that the staff consolidated gala contacts into one master list to reduce duplication and establish a consistent list for future events.
 - 1) Robert Schwartz asked for a clearer report identifying donors and showing how the reported fundraising total was composed. Martha noted that some planned gifts could not yet be documented because formal paperwork or a committed amount was not available. She cited a prospective estate-plan gift discussed by Harry Manos, but clarified that it could not be recorded as a confirmed amount at this stage.

- c) Martha reported that Daren Lynne had submitted applications totaling approximately \$10.3 million through the Care First Community Investment Grant process. The proposals focused on support for system-impacted students, basic needs, workforce opportunities and student parents.
 - 1) Martha acknowledged Daren's work and noted that Dean Alvarez also helped review the proposals. Martha and Daren are also reviewing and correcting the independent-contractor process to improve compliance after issues were flagged during a grant review.
 - 2) The LA 2050 grant had launched with a short period remaining to spend \$45,000 by October 30. The grant supports system-impacted youth, including Guardian Scholars. Daren described a cohort of approximately 38 students and a coordinated set of activities with the Career Center and Student Services, including resume and LinkedIn preparation, interview skills, hygiene kits, clothing, haircuts and headshots. Students who complete the Career Center activities may receive a \$500 stipend, and the program also includes a \$250 gift card and other supports. Sara Villagran was exploring a partnership with Macy's or other community partners for "dress for success" workshops and clothing support.
 - d) Martha also reported that the Innovation Grants application period had closed with 30 applications. The available award pool was described as approximately \$22,500, while requests totaled roughly \$120,000. Individual requests could be up to \$5,000; payroll and additional faculty compensation were not eligible expenses.
 - 1) The Committee discussed how Innovation Grant applications would be reviewed and whether additional faculty input should be included. Dr. Olga Diaz explained that review by college leaders helps assess feasibility and sustainability, not just the appeal of an idea. Dr. Sobia Khan suggested delaying the review meeting so Anna Le, Academic Senate President, could review applications.
 - 2) Martha agreed to notify applicants/reviewers if the schedule changed. She also noted that about 30% of applications sought laptops, following the end of a Promise program that had provided laptops to nearly 500 students annually. The discussion highlighted the need to prioritize limited resources and identify recurring student needs that may inform future proposals.
- ii. 2026 GALA UPDATE
- 1. Martha reported that the 2026 Gala is scheduled for December 2, 2026, at the Beverly Wilshire. Sponsorship commitments totaled approximately \$71,000 as of this meeting.
 - 2. The team has been contacting prior sponsors and vendors, and the venue walkthrough was scheduled for October 14. Martha is also working on the honorary committee and has contacted the office of Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez.
 - 3. The Committee discussed possible honorees and entertainment.
 - a) Bill Maher was identified as a recipient of the Rodney Respect Award, and the team was preparing updated save-the-date communications to reflect the announcement.
 - 4. Robert Schwartz described outreach regarding possible participation by Byron Allen and Jay Leno, subject to schedules and coordination with Bill Maher.
 - 5. A conversation with Harry Kazazian was also being coordinated to discuss a possible honoree invitation.
- iii. SWAP MEET - UPDATE
- 1. Martha reported on the Foundation's efforts to secure continued support for its use arrangement with the college. She had presented information to campus groups and answered questions, including concerns about safety, facilities and bathrooms. The Work Environment Committee chair

had requested a further presentation, which was scheduled for later this week. Martha and Philip are preparing responses to anticipated questions.

- a) Robert Schwartz emphasized the importance of securing college and district support before the current extension ends November 30. He noted that the Academic Senate had not yet formally voted, although Anna Le indicated that the Senate would consider the matter and that she did not anticipate significant opposition if concerns were addressed and communication remained open.
 - b) Dr. Khan said the college administration would discuss the matter with President Gebru and consider feedback before the Foundation took further steps. Robert stressed the need to avoid a last-minute disruption and asked that the timeline and next steps remain clear.
2. The commission for August 2026 was \$5,364 for both Saturday and Sunday.
 - a) The year-to-date total is \$50,153.76

IV. COLLEGE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. GEBRU

- a. President Gebru presented his report earlier in the meeting so he could leave for another commitment.
 - i. He expressed optimism about the semester, noting that students had returned to campus and that the college continued to improve campus infrastructure and community partnerships.
 - ii. Dr. Gebru described campus safety work, including plans to secure the campus perimeter, manage access through designated entry points, and use sheriff and student ambassador presence. Temporary fencing was being used, with permanent fencing anticipated in 2027. He said the plan had been discussed with representative campus groups and that a fuller plan and handouts would be shared at a future Board meeting.
 - iii. Dr. Gebru also highlighted strengthened dual-enrollment partnerships with LAUSD. Approximately 2,500 students were expected on campus on September 29 for a regional event, and district superintendents and principals were expected to meet on campus on September 24. He noted positive enrollment and course-efficiency trends and thanked the Foundation for its scholarships, resources and work to connect faculty with external funding opportunities.
- b. Dr. Olga Diaz presented the campus safety and access plan on Dr. Gebru's behalf. The college identified key entry points to improve visibility and control access while maintaining emergency exits and ADA-accessible routes. Gate hours, signage, and campus communications are being finalized, with exceptions for special events. In response to Julie Stromberg's safety concerns regarding unhoused individuals near campus, Dr. Diaz noted that the college is increasing patrols, developing a resource information sheet for deputies, and offering escorts to staff and visitors upon request.

V. TREASURE REPORT

D. CHAN

- a. The Foundation Financials were presented by Danny Chan, Treasurer.
 - i. August 2026 Financials and Credit Card Statements
 1. Action Item: Motion to approve August 2026 Financials including bank & credit card statements.
 - a) Motion: Robert Schwartz - moved to approve the August 2026 financials and credit card statements as submitted.
 - b) Second: Julie Stromberg
 - c) Vote: Approved unanimously.
 - d) Motion carried (**MSP – Motion, Second, Passed**).
 2. Danny highlighted a one-time charge of approximately \$47,540. Daren Lynne explained that the charge related to 500 grocery gift cards with a face value of \$100 each for fall student support through City Cares Network. Albertsons provided a 5% discount, resulting in approximately \$47,500 in gift-card value, plus an expedited delivery fee.

ii. **Investment Performance and Cash Flow**

1. Danny reported that August was a strong month. Indicating a one-month gain of approximately 1.3%, quarter-to-date gain of approximately 1.1%, and year-to-date gain of approximately 9.2%. The portfolio was described as near record highs, with approximately \$57.7 million in investments and additional balances in bank and other accounts.
2. He discussed market volatility following an interest-rate increase, noting that the market recovered after an initial decline. He said lower oil prices had contributed to the short-term recovery, but uncertainty about the broader economy supported a cautious approach. He plans to continue the investment discussion at the next Finance & Investment Committee meeting.
3. Danny and Martha discussed cash-flow forecasting and anticipated expenses through year-end, including contract costs. Danny suggested reviewing whether some funds could be shifted from money-market holdings toward operating reserves or fixed income, depending on cash needs and interest rates. They also addressed restricted or grant-related funds that may need to remain available to cover future obligations.

VI. BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. Robert raised concerns about the limited number of designated parking spaces for Foundation staff and the need for convenient parking for Board members during meetings. Dr. Sobia Khan and Dr. Olga Diaz agreed to review parking assignments and noted that event parking could be arranged with cones or signage.
- b. Robert and Martha reported that emails from donors and community partners were being quarantined or routed to junk folders, potentially delaying responses and affecting relationships. The group agreed to investigate the issue with IT and recommended that staff check their junk folders in the meantime.
- c. Robert provided an update on Steve Lebowitz's donation of three sculptures to the college, noting delays related to district procedures and required architectural and DSA approvals. Dr. Sobia Khan offered to coordinate with Martha to identify outstanding needs and timelines and help communicate the urgency of moving the project forward.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Daren shared that the Aspen Institute had invited her to participate in the "Aspen Forward with Families" forum in Los Angeles, where she would discuss the Foundation's work connecting education, social supports, the NEST childcare initiative and workforce development. Dr. Sobia Khan offered to help provide data, and Dr. Olga Diaz noted that the campus Child Development Center has physical capacity for approximately 120 children but generally serves around 40 because of staffing limitations. The group discussed the potential value of making connections that could support childcare and other student-parent services.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

R. SCHWARTZ

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM
- b. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 10:00 AM

NOTE: MSP=Moved Second Passed

Approved by Alex Swart, Vice Secretary