SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 4, 2016
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Elliot Hirshman at 9:01 a.m. in the James W. Cobble Boardroom of the Gateway Center.

Present: Dr. Elliot Hirshman, presiding; Dr. Guadalupe Ayala; Mr. Bill Brack; Ms. Paula Brock; Dr. Karen Emmorey; Dr. Craig Hauser; Dr. Samuel Kassegne; Dr. Mary Ann Lyman-Hager; Mr. Tom McCarron; Dr. Randolph Philipp; Dr. Ming-Hsiang Tsou; Ms. Blaire Ward; Dr. Steve Welter; Dr. Robert Zeller; and Ms. Michèle Goetz.

Absent: Dr. Kim Barrett, Ms. Vickie Capps, and Dr. Chukuka Enwemeka.

Also attending: Dr. Christal Sohl and Ms. Agnes Wong Nickerson from SDSU; and Mr. Bob Blizinski, Ms. Debbie Brighton, Ms. Norma Clark, Mr. Timothy Hushen, Ms. Rachel Raynoha and Ms. Renée Daniels from SDSU Research Foundation.

CALL TO ORDER

President Hirshman began by inviting board members to join him in observing a moment of silence in honor of Executive Director Bob Wolfson, who sadly lost his battle with cancer on December 30. The following resolution was prepared in Mr. Wolfson's memory:

Resolution—In Memory of Bob Wolfson

> **BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors of San Diego State University Research Foundation honors the memory of Bob E. Wolfson, who served as Executive Director from July 2011 to December 2015. During his more than four-year tenure, Mr. Wolfson was a team player who provided steady leadership in a dynamic and challenging research environment. He was a valued member of the university leadership team who supported the university's research mission, facilitated the work of SDSU researchers and provided a positive work environment. Mr. Wolfson's financial and management expertise came during a critical period when SDSU and the State of California were facing a financial downturn. With his good stewardship and savvy planning, he guided the Research Foundation through this challenging time employing a combined strategy of cost reductions, judicious use of reserves, and strategic investments in streamlining initiatives that resulted in greater efficiency and enhanced services. Through this resolution, the Board endeavors to record for posterity its sincere appreciation and respect for Mr. Wolfson and his numerous and lasting contributions to the Research Foundation.**

President Hirshman then welcomed Dr. Christal Sohl, SDSU Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, who would give a presentation on her research later in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda contained two items: 1. approval of the December 4, 2015 meeting minutes, and 2. a resolution updated annually designating certain board members with access to classified information and board members who are excluded from access. President Hirshman asked if there were any questions or discussion needed. Hearing none, President Hirshman called for a vote on the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Welter said he would not report on award numbers because they were already covered in detail within the midyear budget document. Instead, he showcased the GREW (Grants and Research Enterprise Writing) program—a collaborative initiative designed for early-career researchers that offers hands-on, practical advice for securing grants and connecting with funding agencies. He distributed a handout depicting GREW program metrics and reviewed the success rates of program participants. Dr. Welter also recognized Dr. Ayala's $10 million NIH research endowment grant—an interdisciplinary collaborative among the colleges of Health and Human Services, Engineering, and Sciences—that will focus on building capacity and infrastructure for population health and health disparities research at SDSU. PIs involved include Deans Newhoff, Mehrabadi and Maloy, and Drs. Ayala, Castillo and Moon.

REVIEW AND ADOPT: FY 2015-16 MID-YEAR BUDGET

Mr. McCarron reported that the Finance and Investment Committee met on February 22nd to review the mid-year budget. Following its review, the committee recommended that the board adopt the FY 2015-16 mid-year budget. Mr. McCarron noted that while there was no material change to the bottom line budget, significant work went into the analysis of expenditures and revenues. He recognized the substantial efforts of Ms. Goetz and finance staff in preparing the midyear budget—especially given the absence of both a chief financial officer and director of finance. He reported that indicators were starting to look up and cited the importance of the GREW program and the Areas of Excellence faculty in generating F&A.

Ms. Goetz also acknowledged the staff who stepped in and worked together to help produce the mid-year budget. She then provided an overview of the detailed information on the budget that was included in the agenda materials as Tab B. Dr. Philipp proposed that the board adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
APPROVAL OF SDSU RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S
FY 2015-16 MID-YEAR GENERAL FUND BUDGET

RESOLVED, That the mid-year General Fund Budget, as submitted to the Board of Directors at its meeting on March 4, 2016, at a level of $29,670,000, be adopted as SDSU Research Foundation's budget for the remainder of the fiscal year, and forwarded to the President for his approval.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brack and adopted unanimously.

UPDATE ON EL NIÑO FLOOD MITIGATION EFFORTS AT ALVARADO

Ms. Clark presented a comprehensive review of the mitigation efforts to alleviate flood damage impacting SDSU researchers and commercial tenants housed in SDSURF-owned properties at Alvarado. Her presentation included images of the areas impacted by the recent flooding and the recently installed flood gate at 6363 Alvarado Court.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee Report: Audit Committee chair Brock reported on its February 22nd meeting. In addition to an update on the CFO search, the committee was apprised of audit activity for the fiscal year and the timeline for the financial and compliance audits to be performed by Grant Thornton. The committee also discussed conducting a review of the audit committee charter, creating a calendar grid to track charter tasks, and having an IT manager report to the committee on cyber security—all with the concurrence of the new CFO.

Investment Committee Report: Investment Committee chair McCarron reported on its February 22nd meeting. In addition to recommending approval of the mid-year budget, the committee reviewed the quarterly report of investments, discussed the line of credit extension, and received an update on the CFO search.

Mr. McCarron then provided an update on the Executive Director search.

Report of the Acting Executive Director: Ms. Goetz's reported included:

- An update on the CFO search
- An update on the proposed Capstone ground lease
- A review of recent emergency situations
- Initiation of the FY 2016-17 general fund budget process
- The recent visit by the SDSU Children's Center to SDSU Research Foundation

PI PRESENTATION: PROFESSOR CHRISTAL SOHL

Assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry Dr. Christal Sohl provided a presentation entitled "(Adjusting to) Living the Dream—Notes from a First-year Assistant Professor." Her presentation included information about the research conducted at the Sohl lab that focuses on mechanistic studies to conquer human disease; and lessons learned as a GREW participant. Dr. Sohl widely praised the GREW program and acknowledged the support she received from the research foundation in transferring her grant from Yale University.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Welter highlighted the upcoming discovery slam on March 9th featuring board member Dr. Randy Philipp as one of the three speakers. Also distributed was a list of the Spring 2016 PI Lecture Series. Dr. Ayala briefly described the $10 million NIH collaborative research endowment grant.

ADJOURNMENT

President Hirshman called for any additional items of new business.

Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michèle G. Goetz
Acting Associate Secretary-Treasurer