

**College of the Siskiyous  
Foundation Board Meeting  
Minutes of  
January 27, 2016**

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**Foundation Board:**

Sue Boston	Margaret Dean	Greg Messer	Staff: Angel Fisher
Rennie Cleland	Mark Healy	Dawnie Slabaugh	
Karen Copsey	Amy Lanier	Scotty Thomason	
Dawna Cozzalio	Denise Mannion	Bob Winston	

**Excused Absence:**

Nancy Funk	Ronda Gubetta	Ron Slabbinck
Carol Cupp	Dennis Sbarbaro	

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**ACTION ITEMS**

Item 1:           **Call to Order and Attendance**  
President Dawna Cozzalio called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Dr. Todd Scott – Vice President of Instruction was introduced to the Board.

**Regular Agenda:**

Item 2:           **Siskiyou Promise Scholarship**  
Dr. Todd Scott – Vice President of Instruction, presented information and background about the Siskiyou Promise Scholarship proposed as a fundraising project for the Foundation.

According to Dr. Scott, several colleges in California as well as many other states are already offering a “Promise” scholarship. Each school’s “Promise” is operated differently, but the similar concept between them all is “free education” for students.

Dr. Scott said how the programs are funded and operate vary state to state and college by college. One community college in California that started their own Promise Award did so because they received a \$5 million bequest; others have been funded by state initiatives, grants, etc. Dr. Scott proposed the Siskiyou Promise Award fund tuition and fees for Siskiyou County High School students who graduate in June 2016 and plan to attend College of the Siskiyous in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 (also receive \$200 book voucher).

The historical data of Siskiyou County high school students shows approximately 350-400 seniors at the high schools and approximately 100 of those high school seniors attend COS the fall semester after their high school graduation. Dr. Scott would like to see as many as 150 students attend COS from the high schools. Many of these students will receive financial aid assistance (BOGW, Pell, EOPS, etc.). For those who do not qualify, the Siskiyou Promise award will help to fund their education. Dr. Scott sees this opportunity as a huge recruitment tool for the college and it will provide enrollment growth and positivity (help to restore reputation) in the community. In order for COS to be able to offer Siskiyou Promise awards in the fall of 2016, Dr. Scott is asking the

Foundation to financially support the Siskiyou Promise Award as a fundraising activity this year. He said he believes the program to be a “win / win” situation for the college and a project the community will be able to support. The timeline for the project is urgent as he wants to begin funding the scholarship in fall 2016.

In order for the College to begin promoting the Siskiyou Promise Award at local high schools, the Foundation needs to commit to funding the project. Mr. Messer said the funding for the first year is not an issue as the Foundation has adequate funding available in its investment accounts. However, to sustain the program, the Foundation will need to conduct a campaign and create a long-term endowment for the program. How the money for the project is raised and where it comes from is yet to be determined. There may also be grant opportunities (Ford Family Foundation, McConnell Foundation, private Foundations, etc.) to help with raising funds.

***Proposed Criteria*** for the scholarship is listed below.

**ELIGIBILITY:** To qualify for an initial Siskiyou Promise scholarship, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Reside within the boundaries of the College of the Siskiyous District.
- Attend, for one or more years, and graduate from a Siskiyou County Office of Education High School. The years attended will pro-rate the maximum annual amount of the Siskiyou Promise Award as follows:
  - 9th – 12th Grade: 100%
  - 10th-12th Grade: 75%
  - 11th – 12th Grades: 50%
  - 12th Grade only: 25%
- GED Completion 10%
- Maximum scholarship awards are based on full time college attendance.
- Students who enroll part time during eligible years will receive pro-rated scholarship awards.
- Apply for, and use, the Siskiyous Promise Scholarship award beginning the fall semester immediately following high school graduation.

**SISKIYOU PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:** Any Siskiyou County Office of Education High School graduate meeting Promise criteria who attends College of the Siskiyous will have their tuition, fees and required textbooks covered for two contiguous Fall/Spring semesters for two years. All students must first apply for federal and state grants, with individual scholarship awards varying according to the total cost of tuition and fees and the amount of federal and state grant awards identified prior to Siskiyou Promise Scholarship Award determination.

The Siskiyou Promise Scholarship is intended to be a “middle dollar” scholarship used to cover tuition and other mandatory fees not covered by federal or state grant sources. The scholarship will not replace federal or state grants or scholarships. The Promise Award is not designed to replace scholarship awards received from private sources. Students must apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, and accept all federal or state money prior to the Siskiyou Promise funding. Expected family contributions and subsidized loan programs do not reduce the Siskiyou Promise Scholarship.

CONTINUATION THROUGHOUT COLLEGE: Each year the student attends The College of the Siskiyous, the student must:

- Earn at least a 2.0 grade point average per semester in college.
- Apply for (FAFSA) and accept Federal and State Grants.
- Apply for the continuation of Siskiyou Promise Scholarship.
- Supply a copy of their college transcript with the application, and also supply any financial aid awards for the next year of college attendance. The Siskiyou Promise award may be adjusted each year based on any revised financial information provided.
- Declare a major and follow the developed comprehensive education plan.
- Meet with a College of the Siskiyous counselor at least once each semester.

Dr. Scott concluded his statement by sharing with the Foundation Board “colleges who have established their own “promise” opportunities have all seen an increase in enrollment. Should the COS Foundation agree to support the Siskiyou Promise, College of the Siskiyous will be the only college in the Northern California doing this and may be able to find additional funding opportunities for innovation and leadership.”

Mr. Thomason said the concept of creating a ‘promise’ award originated from the Tennessee Promise Opportunity as well as President Obamas’ wish for all community colleges to offer free tuition for its students. While the concept is not “new,” it is still not common. In California, only a small handful of community colleges are offering a ‘promise’ award of some type.

Whispers of the Siskiyou Promise are already being heard around the County. Dr. Scott believes it will be well supported. Many “high performance, non-basic skills” students may not choose to take advantage of the free education opportunity, but for those students who are middle or low-income, there will not be any barriers to continuing their education after high school graduation.

Following Dr. Scott’s presentation Mr. Messer distributed the following written statement:

*By Greg Messer, Immediate Past President and Member of COS Foundation Board*

“We were introduced to this concept and program at the November 2015 Foundation Board Retreat, these are my thoughts since then.” They are organized into three categories:

The concept and proposal – has a number of facets, they are:

- It’s a noble idea to say we are going to pay the fees for every high school student in the county and also include assistance for books next year and into the future;
- It is also (what seems to be) a good business idea for recruiting students thereby increasing our FTE funding from the state. I would like to see the business case that shows how this program will not only pay for itself in FTE funding, I would also like to see the academic constraints that will need to exist in order to work.

Practicality - I feel expecting to implement a full blown program during the first semester is out of our reach for the following reasons:

- A plan and strategy needs to be developed that will blueprint how we are going to raise the funds in a way that will sustain the program year over year. The foundation does not have the organizational structure or the resources to implement a plan that quickly without putting its entire endowment and reserves at risk. For example, the foundation is being asked to fund the new ED position and with it the supporting administrative positions.

The Strategy – I recommend a strategy that accomplishes the following:

- Builds a viable/functional foundation office that meets its immediate needs that will meet the fundraising requirements for this project, while meeting the college's administration funding requirements. E.g. funding its own ED and office.
- Create a fundraising campaign that is practical that will be embraced by the community. I personally feel that providing a Promise for all high school graduates will polarize our prospects especially if the granting of scholarships is without a demonstration of the students' motivation, merit and intent. If it is seen as a subsidy for remedial learning it will dilute the donor pool.
- The strategy will need to mitigate startup risks. This means if we bite off more than we can chew the first year, it will impact success in future years. One way to better understand how successful this will be in Siskiyou County is to limit the number of students in the first semester then ramp it up as our success grows. If our expectations are not met, then fix the problems in subsequent semesters.

A Motion – *I move that we adopt the promise concept and challenge by first resourcing our Foundation's office and then by designing and implementing a fund raising strategy that will get positive year over year results.*

According to Ms. Mannion, students in Basic Skills do much better when they move on to other schools because of the services and opportunities COS offers while they are students. Because this program is new, it is hard to know just how many of the graduating high school seniors will take advantage of a free education opportunity. Ms. Copey asked if students who receive a Promise award would be monitored for success – class attendance, review of grades, etc? It is important to track the students in order to determine if the Promise Scholarship is viable and worth sustaining as it is a lot of money to be spent on a pilot program.

Other concerns/suggestions shared by the Foundation were:

- Year one – we have the money to fund, what about year two?
- In order for the Promise to be successful, the Public Relations/Foundation Office needs more staff. One person can't do it all alone.
- Is it possible to locate a COS staff member at the high schools to work with the students who will apply for a promise scholarship?

After much discussion, the Foundation Board concluded the discussion regarding the Promise Scholarship by taking action to adopt the promise concept and challenge by first resourcing the Foundation Office and then designing and implementing a fund raising strategy that will get positive year over year results.

*Motion was made (Messer / Boston) to adopt the promise concept as a Foundation project then design and implement a fund raising strategy that will achieve positive year over year results. Motion passed.*

Item 3: **2016 Foundation Directors Handbook**

Board members were presented the 2016 Foundation Directors Handbook. The handbook has been under review and updates have been completed. Ms. Slabaugh requested the Board formally approve updates to the handbook as presented.

*Motion was made (Dean / Healy) to approve the 2016 Foundation Directors Handbook as presented. Motion passed.*

\*\* No discussion or action taken on remaining items #4 thru #11 due to lack of time remaining for meeting. These items will be discussed at the next meeting.

Item 4: **Committee Reports**

- a) ***Enterprise Operations***
- b) ***Investments & Finance***
- c) ***Gift Acceptance***
- d) ***Board Governance***
- e) ***Scholarship***
- f) ***Fundraising***

Item 5: **New and/or Unfinished Business**

No discussion.

**Consent Agenda:**

Item 6: **Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2015**

The Board was provided the Foundation meeting minutes of October 20, 2015.

Item 7: **Treasurers Report – Review of Foundation Fiscal Report**

The Board was provided the Foundation fiscal report for the period of July 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015 as well as the first and second quarter reports for the Eagle's Nest Shop (July 1 – December 31, 2015).

Item 8: **Date of Upcoming Foundation Board Meetings**

- April 19, 2016 at 8AM (Weed Campus)
- July 19, 2016 at 8AM (Yreka Campus)
- October 18, 2016 at 8AM (Weed Campus)
- Foundation Retreat – Fall 2016 (TBA)

Item 9: **Upcoming Meeting / Event Dates:**

- FDN Scholarship Committee Meeting – February 2 at 9AM (Board Room)
- FDN Executive Committee Meeting – February 9 at 8AM (Board Room)
- Campus Closed for Lincoln Day Holiday – February 12
- Campus Closed for Washington Day Holiday – February 15
- FDN Board Governance Meeting – February 26, 9AM (President's Conference Room).

*No action taken on Consent Agenda due to lack of time available for meeting.*

**Non Action Items / Reports:**

Item 11:        **College / Campus Update**  
                  No discussion due to lack of time available remaining for meeting.

Item 12:        **Adjournment**  
                  Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawnie Slabaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dawnie Slabaugh, Recording Secretary  
Director - COS Community Relations / Foundation