



Questionnaire for candidates for the office of  
**Trustee, San Francisco Community College Board**  
**General Election, November 6, 2012**

*Please return this questionnaire electronically to [contact\\_us@phdemclub.org](mailto:contact_us@phdemclub.org) no later than **Tuesday, September 4**, to confirm your speaking slot at the September 11 endorsement meeting.*

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Please write a brief response (≤150 words) to each question, unless otherwise specified. We will make these questionnaires available to the public before the endorsement meeting.

1. Why are you running for office?

*I am a walking example of the opportunities that higher education provides to people. Having gone from high school drop out to Ph.D. in less than 20 years, I feel strongly about the importance of higher education and the opportunities that it can bring. Community College is often the entryway to higher education, and we have to work to keep it available, accessible, and affordable for the entire community.*

*My own experiences in community college and higher education sparked my passion for education policy and civic involvement. This passion ultimately led me to obtain my Ph.D., to tutor and mentor students, to teach at a university level, and to develop high-*

*standard curricula. It also led me to conduct policy research and to serve on several boards and task forces.*

2. What are your qualifications for this position? If you are an incumbent, describe your major accomplishments while in office.

*San Francisco City College is ripe for new perspectives, and I bring a fresh, pragmatic approach to decision making. With accreditation at stake, it's critical that we have an informed, accountable leader involved in the process. I am that leader. WASC (the accrediting agency) has emphasized that the key weaknesses of the college involve issues related to governance and data, such as using outcome measures to determine the college's needs and to drive decision making. For nearly a decade I have worked as a researcher and evaluator, determining what the most appropriate outcome measures are for a particular situation and how best to measure data elements, conducting evaluations and assessments to see what's working and what's not working, and implementing evidence-based practices. As an adjunct professor, I also bring to the Board a faculty perspective. I also have experience working with WASC as a graduate student, when my school went through a similar process and I was a student government representative for 7 campuses while coordinating with the Board and university president.*

3. The Accrediting Commission has detailed the following concerns for San Francisco City College: deficit spending; too much of budget going to salaries and benefits; too few administrators for size of school; failure to conduct financial audits. If elected, what solutions to these problems would you as Trustee pursue? (Please answer in ≤300 words)

*The seriousness of the accreditation situation should take precedence for all decisionmaking regarding City College. Part of the problem is that 8 recommendations from the 2006 review were either ignored or not sufficiently addressed. WASC has emphasized that the Board's role in fiscal oversight is to "preserve quality while resources decline" while avoiding relying on future revenue increases that may not materialize. A major challenge will be adjusting to our new budgetary reality while maximizing our resources to serve the community. Another issue is how CCSF uses shared governance. This is not a popular subject but is important to discuss as having a role in accountability. I believe in participatory governance, in which all stakeholders have a voice in a democratic process. However, the shared governance structure that was put into place places decision-making power into many hands with no accountability.*

*My goal is to keep City College available, accessible, and affordable. To do this, I have three priorities:*

*1. Lobby at the state level for discretion about tuition levels for certain types of classes. Many professionals are willing and able to pay more for enrichment classes. Since tuition levels are set by the state, we must work with our state policy makers to address local concerns and issues.*

2. *Create a strong alumni group. So many San Franciscans have been impacted by City College. These people WANT to share their successes and give back to a system that facilitated their achievements. In addition to much-needed funding, an alumni network will provide mentorships, internships, and scholarships.*

3. *Engage the entire community. We should be actively engaging the business and nonprofit communities and government agencies to invest in CCSF students. Who better to inform students about job trends than those who will be hiring them? The entire community must play a part in ensuring that our city's future workforce is properly resourced.*

4. Do you support or oppose the following Propositions on the November ballot? Please give your reason (≤50 words) for each position.

Proposition 30     support     oppose

Reason: I support Proposition 30 since the devaluing of our public education system has been devastating to our state and our country both economically and socially.

Proposition 31     support     oppose

Reason: It makes sense to plan and budget for two years.

Proposition 32     support     oppose

Reason: This is the next step after Citizens United to ensure that only private, anonymous corporations fund political campaigns. This is bad for democracy.

Thank you for your time, and your commitment to education. We look forward to seeing you on September 11<sup>th</sup>.