

Questionnaire for Community College Board candidates

General Election, November 4, 2008

Candidate/Campaign Information:

Candidate name:	Roberto Figueroa
Office sought:	Board of Trustees CCSF
Contact person:	Roberto Figueroa
Mail address:	438 Arguello Blvd. San Francisco, CA 94118
Telephone:	(415) 298-1381
Email address:	rjf00077@yahoo.com
Web address:	N/A
Anticipated Budget:	Hopefully, less than \$1,000.00
Funds raised to date:	To date, volunteer participation.
Percentage of donations under \$50	N/A at this time.

General Questions: Please write a brief response (less than 150 words) to each question. Please return this questionnaire electronically to contactus@phdemclub.org We will make these questionnaires available to our members before the endorsement meeting.

1. Why are you running? Why should we vote for you?

I am running due to the fact that SF, California, and the nation in general, is facing an acute nursing shortage amongst other healthcare difficulties. Many students are unable to enroll in nursing programs due to set limits and lottery systems at practically all institutions of higher learning. I entreat your vote as it would enable me to direct focused and non-politicized efforts to open the nursing door wider for students who feel nursing to be their calling and vocation.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I am not and would not conduct myself as a novice politician of sorts.

Therefore, my focus would be not to make a career out of public office, but to make my mark quickly for the general benefit of many (present and future) who will not be able to secure the dignified and quality healthcare attention that all are entitled to and then consider other broad community oriented issues.

3. What are the top three issues facing San Francisco's community college? What will you do about those issues?

- 1) Insufficient resources**
- 2) Cost of education**
- 3) Quality of instruction**

These issues need to be aired, discussed, and blueprinted publicly. The responsibility rests with the general administrative body, the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, Department Chairs, and the professorial ranks. Long term planning and networking within the academic community and with the corporate environment must be re-examined and raised to higher, performance based levels.

4. Would you describe yourself as fiscally responsible? Please give an example to support your answer.

Having worked for the U.S. General Accountability Office, the Internal Revenue Service, and Bank of America in bi-lingual capacities, has given me much exposure to financial environments and a broad fiscal dynamic in both the public and private sectors. I am familiar with the format of fiscal traps and trappings that give rise or may lead to unethical fiscal irresponsibility. Being a current member of the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee at CCSF has added a more narrow and focused exposure to some of the fiscal activity that directly concerns CCSF.

5. Would you describe yourself as socially progressive? Please give an example to support your answer.

I would describe myself as more than socially progressive because I add the dimensions of caution, moderation, and collaboration. Unbridled progressivism may be likened to the athlete who exercises little caution and/or restraint and dives into a pool not realizing that there may be little or no water at all in the pool. A harsh and painful reality is not what I wish to bring me to my sober senses. Thus, I would engage the

nursing shortage crisis in an intensely aggressive but judiciously equitable manner.

Issue Questions:

1. Given the very real probability of reduced state funding for CCSF in the coming years, what combination of budget cuts and tax increases would you suggest to address budgetary shortfalls?

My personal and professional impression is that budget cuts and tax increases are an admittance of financial defeat that by and large has a nexus to poor planning or outright mismanagement. Instead of “cutting”, greater effort should be employed in “adding” from corporate, industry, and federal resources.

2. While eleven community colleges in California offer student housing, CCSF does not. Given that housing in San Francisco is in high demand and hugely expensive, what would you propose to solve the problem for CCSF students who need housing?

Some issues, given question 1, may be untimely as far as searching for a concrete and early resolution. Nonetheless, I would propose approaching and reviewing the processes that other colleges and universities have developed and implemented in establishing on or off campus housing and then blueprint a time-limited feasibility study.

3. How can CCSF address the needs of disadvantaged students – those with lower grades and educational inadequacies? How would you propose to increase opportunities for them to catch up to the other students?

It is my personal belief that colleges and universities do have limits, academic and otherwise, concerning disadvantaged students in general. Any type of remedial academic involvement necessarily invokes costs. There should be a more precise or narrow examination of the academic and social past of this group of students to ascertain and/or determine what processes are available, which need to be developed from scratch, and what level of commitment these students would require in order “catch up” to the rest of the student body.

4. What measures should CCSF take to improve its fiscal responsibility and public financial accountability, especially with its spending of bond money?

The members of the Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee should have longer terms, wider latitude, and greater auditing involvement vis-à-vis the different entities that are connected with CCSF. The members should have a partial work history in financial environments and perhaps these should be paid positions.

5. Do you support a voluntary system of Clean Elections – full public financing – of candidates for citywide offices? Would you participate in such a system if it were available?

I would be inclined to consider this positively if I could see a coherent and viable structure or mechanism to support it. Full public financing would require a very complete and clear definition and all possible scenarios (positive and negative) should be carefully examined in order to anticipate deliberate or accidental fiscal abuse. Depending on the final structure of this system, I might consider being participatory to it.

6. Do you support or oppose the following propositions on the November ballot? Please explain why or why not.

- Declaration of Policy of the people of San Francisco that its elected representatives in the US Senate and House should vote against any further funding for deployment of US Armed Forces in Iraq, except funds specifically earmarked for their safe withdrawal

Support _____ **Oppose** _____ Reason:

It is safe to say that bellic conflicts of any kind rarely produce coherent and viable societies. On the other hand, my father who worked in the intelligence community and both sides of my family that have had military involvement, have afforded me a limited view of what militarism is, can be, and/or what it stands for. It is easy to be reckless and leave something undone. No one can argue that the sooner a military corps withdraws from any geographical area, the sooner the door to peace, stability, and fluid societal activity follows. Nonetheless, the enemies to this effort are longing for an injudicious withdrawal of the very forces that will decide how and when that door opens. The extraction of the U.S. military presence will require superhuman assessment, calculation, and patience.

- CA Proposition 4: Amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for an unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian or, if parental abuse reported, an adult family member

Support _____ **Oppose** _____ Reason:

The word “minor” is very clearly defined in any dictionary. ‘Minors’ are restricted and/or prohibited from undertaking certain activities: life and death issues and otherwise. If a ‘minor’ cannot drive a car, truck, train, or plain, if a minor cannot be prescribed any medication in any hospital without parental consent, I find it impossible for a minor to make unilaterally and/or with an accomplice that is neither a guardian, family member, or parent, a decision of this magnitude. Should that ‘minor’ die, what would the powers that be tell the parents: “Oh, you

may now come, claim, and remove the body of YOUR child”?

- CA Proposition 5: Provides rehabilitation as an alternative to prison for nonviolent drug offenders

Support ____ **Oppose** ____ Reason:

Rehabilitation should be one of several tools in the arsenal of correction and societal reintegration; it should not be the sole alternative to criminal drug offenses. It would send a strong and incorrect message to those who may be deciding whether to risk entering the world of drug dealing and perhaps selling deadly narcotics to decent, law abiding people which you, your family members as well as mine are, and thus would be potential targets and/or victims. I feel secure in the knowledge that none of us would like the additional, costly, and emotionally destructive burden of having to deal with a drug addicted family member.

Roberto Figueroa / ..

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.