



Questionnaire for candidates for the office of
Trustee, SF Community College Board
General Election, November 2, 2010

*Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org no later than **Monday, August 30**, to confirm your speaking slot.*

Candidate name: Anita Grier
Office sought: Trustee, San Francisco Community College Board
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Please write a brief response (≤ 150 words) to each question. We will make these questionnaires available to our members before the endorsement meeting.

1. Why are you running for office?

I wish to spend my energy in the cause to which I have devoted my life. As an educator, I advocate quality education for those who can least afford it, and have seen education work to level the playing field innumerable times. It is my aspiration but it requires a practical foundation in funding. It is easy to talk about progressive goals, but paying for them is the difficult part. I have devoted most of my time to that mundane—but necessary— problem. I consider myself progressive, but it is the starting point, not an end in itself.

2. What are your qualifications for this position?

Since my election to Community College, I have focused on keeping higher education affordable and available to everyone. I have chaired the Diversity, Outreach, Personnel, Legislative, and Education Committees. I was instrumental in the passage of the 2001 Bond campaign for the college, traveling around the city to speak before groups about the need for more and better facilities. I also worked for the National Articulation and Transfer Network Initiative that increased the participation of underrepresented groups and increased transferability, and other opportunities, from community colleges to four-year colleges and universities, meaning credits earned at SF Community College will be transferable to all four-year colleges and universities. I previously served as a delegate to the Labor Council from UASF. Currently, I work very closely with AFT 2121 and SEIU 1021 at CCSF. I am also working with the San Francisco Sunshine Task Force to adapt the Sunshine Ordinance to the Community College, and I spend considerable effort negotiating the PLA contract for City College to ensure equity for all workers.

I was elected to CCCL, California Community College League.

I serve on ACCT, Association of Community College Trustees.

4. What are the top three challenges facing San Francisco City College?

Besides funding (obviously), my priorities are:

1. San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance implementation, specifically the documents element
2. Better program integration with high schools to prepare students for college
3. Tuition Free College Classes

5. What have you done during your term in office to address these challenges?

See question #2

6. If reelected, how do you plan to continue and expand these efforts?

As the college lays plans to go to the voters for another Bond, I'm concerned that the general public has lost faith in the leadership of the Administration and the Board of Trustees. We need to demonstrate that we are willing to change the way we do business, and the best way to do that is through adopting the voter initiated Sunshine laws that drive the City's meeting and records procedures. I commend Trustees Marks and Rizzo for their consistent support on this issue, and seek to change the attitude of my other colleagues.

I'll continue to focus on keeping higher education affordable and available to everyone. I have always worked to increase funding and lower tuition. I support remedial programs but believe students spend more time in those courses than is necessary, and we need to do a better job in raising their basic academic skills before they come to college level classes.

I'll continue the cooperative groundwork I've laid within the educator communities of the State and on a federal level to accomplish a seamless student matriculation and shared classrooms and faculty.

7. Please describe your other major accomplishments while in office.

I have a strong bias toward education as a global solution, because I've seen it

make such a big difference in the lives of so many. I applaud Sheriff Hennessey's Five Keys Charter School as a step in the right direction. SFUSD has to do its part and I continue to recommend that we restore John O'Connell to the kind of vocational training school that it used to be. It was once one of the best in the west. City College is doing its part, and I'm working on expansion of the "Second Chance" program. I'd like to see City College going into jails and prisons with programs and classes that will prepare parolees for the real world with a skill. Too many are let out in a hopeless condition to fend for themselves, and we can do so much more.

Do you support or oppose the following Propositions on the November ballot?

Proposition 19 support oppose

Proposition 23 support oppose

Proposition 26 support oppose

Thank you for your time, and your commitment to education. We look forward to seeing you on September 7th.