



**Candidate questionnaire for
San Francisco City College Board of Trustees
General Election, November 4, 2014**

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org **no later than Saturday, August 30**. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire by the due date will not be invited to participate in the September 9th forum. Questionnaires will be made available to our members online.

Candidate name: Dr. Anita Grier
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SAVE CITY COLLEGE!

Please write a brief response (≤ 200 words) to each question.

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

I won three citywide elections to the Community College Board, and was twice elected President of the Board of Trustees and Vice President twice, by my peers. I enjoy working with colleagues, staff, and students no matter how differently each of us values another's ideas.

I've been an educator and administrator all of my life. I taught Special Education for twelve years, and was Assistant Principal at Burton High School. I served the San Francisco Unified School District as a Program Manager, Program Administrator, Americans with Disabilities Act Director, and supervising facilities, including budgets. I know how to work within a budget, to collaborate with others, and I know how to stick with it when the going gets rough.

Representing the Trustees, I went to Sacramento to testify in favor of Assembly Member Tom Ammiano's Bill - AB 2087 to end the undemocratic power grab by the ACCJC and the "Extraordinary Powers" it conferred on the Special Trustee. While Education Code 70901 (b)(2) empowers the Board of Governors to "*provide assistance when districts encounter severe management difficulties,*" it does not empower the ACCJC to impose a political agenda on San Francisco's elected Trustees. I'm a CCSF alumna.

2. What are the top three issues facing CCSF, and what will you do about those issues?

A. Full Accreditation. As Trustee I've worked tirelessly to facilitate the transition to higher educational institutions for our students. It's a battle I take personally, not just because I attended City College, but for the thousands of students who've sacrificed to go to classes, completed the work, and followed all the rules. Students are the victims; they deserve better.

B. Ensuring Open Access. The current crisis emerged from an unexpected attack from the ACCJC, precipitated by the California Community College Board of Governors' *Student Success Plan*, a poorly conceived and articulated plan of action. The 'Plan' leaves out low-income and first generation college aspirants; it leaves diversity out of the equation; it marginalizes LGBT and transgender communities, and contains no special provisions for people learning English. It doesn't address disabled, seniors, or veterans issues. Neither is our Second Chance program addressed, leaving out support for incarcerated populations who study while behind bars.

C. Supporting the California Master Plan. Our Trustees fought for *Open Access* education for everyone, not limited to full-time students with the goal of getting a job. I personally went to Sacramento to testify against the *Student Success Plan*. It violates the *California Master Plan for Higher Education*.

3. How do you envision your role as Trustee if the board you serve on doesn't meet?

Those many activities include the following: lobbying my colleagues for internal reform of CCSF, meetings with legislative, community, and labor leaders, and meeting with the California Community College Board of Governors. I've traveled several times to Sacramento to be heard, and I can do it again.

Networking, and remaining vigilant about the importance of our mission can effectively reduce communication barriers. Starting every day with a positive mindset, continuing to work with and try to understand different points of view, and keeping conversations constructive, are basic to succeeding as a trustee. The role requires patience, persevering, diplomacy, negotiation, frankness, and staying power. Calm in the storm, kindness during tense times, and continually being cognizant of the reason I am there, guides my thinking, comments, and actions.

We must stand for our principles and do so with the highest ethical objectives; this is a public good project, it is for our citizens. I am here to overcome obstacles for our citizens who need us most, are disenfranchised, the disempowered, vulnerable, and at risk community members.

4. Why did you choose in particular to run for a 2-year term and not a 4-year term?

I am running for a 4-year term. Please join the fight. Start by signing up for a class! Save City College! — It's not perfect — but it's a treasure we can continue to build on.

If you or your child has special education needs, City College is here for you! If you need workforce specialization and training towards certification, City College is here for you! If you are an artist who wants to meet, and work, and share with other artists, City College is here for you! We have special programs for veterans and the Second Chance program for incarcerated prisoners who want to turn their lives around. For high school students and GED students who dream of going to college, City College is here for you!

Thank you for your time and your commitment to public service. We look forward to seeing you at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on September 9th.