



**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: **Brigitte Davila**

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

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

My 20 years in public higher education makes me uniquely qualified for the CCSF Board of Trustees. I understand the types of students who attend CCSF because of my work in the college of Ethnic Studies mentoring and teaching thousands of immigrant, veteran, ex-offenders, LGBT, single parents or academically marginalized students, among others. I have a deep understanding of what these students need to succeed.

I was also one of these students at one time. I started working in a factory immediately after graduating from High School. If it weren't for MEChA representatives (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) outreaching in my neighborhood and discussing the possibility of obtaining a college degree, I might still be working at that factory. The community college was my first step on a journey that ultimately led me to UC Berkeley and Berkeley Law.

My work advocating for a working public higher education budget for the last ten years prepared me for the type of persuasion, negotiation and decision-making that are part of the Board of Trustees duties. I also work well as both a

leader and a team-player as evidenced by my work on the Education Budget Advocacy Committee. In that capacity I worked with all stakeholders, that are often adversarial to one another: Faculty organizations, Staff Unions, Student Associations, the CSU and the SFSU Administration. My proudest moment was organizing our participation in the statewide day of education on March 4 2010.

Last, I have been through several accreditation cycles and a program review at SFSU. I have an intimate understanding of the process and I can be of great help resolving CCSF's current accreditation debacle

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

Secure Accreditation: The number one issue for all stakeholders is to stabilize the College at this juncture and secure accreditation. There are two issues here, one is the actual accreditation problem and the other is the overreach on the part of the ACCJC. Both need to be resolved. The accreditation issue is a priority to resolve on a number of levels: The abuse of power on the part of the ACCJC; the specter of dis-accreditation driving away students; and, the consequent loss of funding all must be taken on by the BOT.

Reverse the loss of students: We also need to stem the loss of students estimated at about 25 thousand students in the last four years. As mentioned above, students are afraid their units will not count because of the accreditation debacle. One prospect is to establish the peer-to-peer outreach that worked so well in marginalized communities in the 70's and 80's. Another idea is to streamline the registration process to make it easier to enroll. The loss of students has a direct effect on the budget of City College.

Provide resources to help students succeed: Starting with basic resources like library hours and child care and moving into new territory to create a robust method for tracking alumnae and measuring success as well as giving alums the opportunity to associate.

Ultimately, I want to ensure that City College is a fiscally responsible institution with resources for student learning and a relevant curriculum for a pathway to a four-year university, specific skills training and lifelong learning.

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

The Board of Trustees still has a role to play even though the Board has been relieved of its official duties. The Board members should be the advocates for City College. After the election, the BOT needs to hit the ground running advocating for CCSF and developing greater awareness of the College for potential students. I would like to see more implementation of peer-to-peer recruitment to City College. Many potential students are not aware that CCSF is still accredited. After the worst of the accreditation debacle, the college took a hit in enrollment. Most estimates put the figure at about 35,000 students. This directly affects state funding for the college. We need to address this problem immediately and restore enrollments.

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

I chose to run for a four-year term as I feel I can make the most difference with a four-year term. We need committed, hardworking board members who will work with one another to restore City College

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.