



**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: Thea Selby

Contact person: Thea Selby

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

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

What City College needs most right now is new blood: trustees willing and able to fight for its accreditation, increase enrollment, and lead it to financial stability.

I have been on many task forces and boards and know how to stick to my values and build consensus in order to get things done. As the owner of a successful small business, I am well versed in budget management and accountability. As chair of the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee of San Francisco, I brought accountability and oversight to municipal bonds totaling \$7 billion.

I also taught economics at an unaccredited, newly formed college and have experienced firsthand the challenges facing students trying to get their credits accepted by four-year colleges.

Most importantly, I am the mother of two teenagers soon to be in college. I am daunted by the costs that await my family and understand why so many working class and middle class families can no longer afford four-year college without going into massive debt. City College offers a way around this long-term debt. We must fight to restore accreditation on behalf of the tens of

thousands of students who attend each year.

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

Carefully navigating the restoration process. This is a 2-year process and requires the full attention of the Board. That means the Board has to be present, and willing to work hard to make sure that we get through it successfully. I will dedicate myself to ensuring that this occurs.

Financial stability. We must get City College on firm financial footing. We may have to make some hard decisions and to do this effectively, the Board needs to have a full understanding of what is required. I will push for financial transparency and advocate for whatever tools the Board might need (training in public sector finance review, for example) to make this happen.

Getting the Students Back: City has seen a significant decrease in enrollment due to the threatened loss of accreditation. Fewer students translates into reduced revenue. We need to reach out to everyone, from high school students to veterans to Jeff Adachi's Second Chance program. We can start building mutually beneficial partnerships that can boost enrollment. I have lots of ideas on how to achieve this and I believe my background in audience marketing experience will be beneficial to this effort.

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

With all due respect, the Board must meet and to not do so is not only an abdication of responsibility, but a violation of the board's charter. This is a seven-person board, which is a manageable size for meeting and decision-making. I am a consensus builder and have collegial relationships with two of the current trustees—Rafael Mandelman and Steven Ngo. My election to the Board, along with my colleague Amy Bacharach, with whom I have worked extensively, will ensure a majority of trustees dedicated to making this a functional and effective board.

There is a "plan" now by the Chancellor and the Special Trustee to transition back to the elected Trustees over the course of this year. I support this plan, as well as the plan to get board members training so they can learn how to act more effectively as a board.

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

My decision was based, quite simply, on not competing with Amy Bacharach, who is running for a 2-year term. While Amy and I do not have identical political beliefs, we respect each other and know we can work together for the benefit of the students. I believe that if we are both elected to the board, in conjunction with the working relationships we already enjoy with Rafael Mandelman and Steven Ngo, we will be able to turn this into a fully functional and responsible board. City College needs and deserves this.

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.