



**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: **William Walker**

Contact person: **William Walker**

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

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

I am most qualified because of my six years of attending City College of San Francisco as a student, my previous service as student trustee, my four years of involvement of student government and outreach as student body president, student body vice president, participatory/shared governance coordinator, student senator, elections commissioner and SFUSD high school campus ambassador. Additionally, I spent eight years working in not-for-profit organizations mentoring youth in San Francisco, ten years serving on three boards: Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, KPFA Radio/Pacifica Foundation, and the American Civil Liberties Union; and working in student services at Foothill College clearing prerequisite holds, performing high school outreach, and supporting the Early Alert Student Success Retention program that intervenes when students are at risk of academic or progress probation. My goal now is to support students completing their program at community college in a more timely manner and providing the support services needed to make students successful at achieving their goals.

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

Enrollment – Challenge: *over the past two years, the college has lost 13,000 students, which is nearly 15 percent of its enrollment; Solution:* a campaign to boost enrollment from 77,000 to 90,000; market the college more effectively to residents and the San Francisco workforce; brand each campus (center) with a particular emphasis, and ensure at least one program can be completed at all centers.

Accreditation – Challenge: *the college applied for a restoration process from an accrediting commission that already does not hold the college in high regard. Solution:* tear down barriers between stakeholder groups; discuss how the college might shrink if enrollment is not increased; address facilities and maintenance deficiencies to attract more students to the largest and oldest campus in the system that serves 60 percent of all enrolled students.

Governance – Challenge: *the college governance system continues to be broken at many levels. Solution:* develop a strong governance council that discusses the issues of each stakeholder group and provides an opportunity for each group to develop policy for the college; restore the power of the Board of Trustees; continue to reform Board policies to prevent Board dysfunction; hold the accrediting commission accountable if the commission abused its authority.

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

If the Board of Governors continues to prevent the Board from holding regular meetings, my role would include continuing to attend public forums of the Board, which consists of the Special Trustee and the Chancellor. Additionally, the elected members of the Board could develop a campaign to market the college in order to boost enrollment; hold discussions with local businesses about how to partner with the college to develop curriculum that will encourage enrollment and provide internships for students who complete a certificate program; continue to address long range problems for the college, which can include the lack of a sustainability coordinator for the college district, a need to continue a transit mode shift from driving to riding transit to and from the college; and increasing pedestrian safety around the college campus and centers. There are countless other issues not mentioned that could also continue to be addressed whether or not members of the Board can meet and vote.

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

I am running for the two-year seat open on the Community College Board. This seat was previously held by Chris Jackson, a strong ally of progressive causes in San Francisco. I sat next to Chris Jackson at board meetings when I served as Student Trustee to the College Board from June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013. When Trustee Jackson vacated this seat last year, it not only left a void for the most progressive voice on the Board, it meant there was no longer an African American male elected to office in the City and County of San Francisco for the first time in decades. I seek this seat as a native San Franciscan who grew up attending public schools, living in affordable housing, and organizing with

underrepresented groups in San Francisco since 1995.

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.