



**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: Rodrigo Santos

Contact person: Todd David

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

1. Please describe your qualifications for this office.

From a public service perspective, I have served as the President of the Building Inspection Commission and I currently serve on the Commission of Workforce Development. The current position makes me exceptionally qualified to serve on the SFCCD Board because I know what the college needs to do in order to make students successful in San Francisco.

Additionally, I have previously served as a SFCCD Board Member for five months, filling a vacancy created by the death of Milton Marks. In that time I earned the respect of fellow board members and the community. My previous experience and continued community involvement has led to the DCCC, Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, Asian Pacific Democratic Club, Westside Chinese Democratic Club, and the Willie B. Kennedy Democratic Club to endorse me. SEIU 1021, SEIU Local 87, Teamsters Local 350, and Firefighters Local 798 have also endorsed me.

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

The first priority must be to restore CCSF to full accreditation status. With the college being placed in "restoration status," there is once again a deadline that the college must meet in becoming fully compliant. The board must take proactive steps to ensure that CCSF meets that deadline. The board must work with the Chancellor and the administration; and solutions must be created and implemented in a timely manner.

The second priority is ensuring the long-term stability of the institution. Resorting full accreditation will work towards this goal, but the board must also make sound fiscal policy, and seek outside sources of funding. As a business owner, I understand the financial aspects that must be addressed if CCSF is going to continue to provide educational opportunities to our community.

The third priority is to involve the private sector in funding the institution. The board must work with companies who will directly benefit from having a highly skilled workforce. I employ many former CCSF students, and appreciating the service that the college provides has inspired me to make contributions to several campuses. If addressed in the correct way, private sector companies will invest in our community college system as well. This will make CCSF less dependent on the unreliable state funding.

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

If the board does not meet, I see the role of the Trustee to be that of an Ambassador. Our Trustees need to be actively engaging the community to restore confidence in the college. I tell everyone I know to take a class at City College. It helps to boost the drop in enrollment and it shows the people that I believe the college is still providing great educational opportunities. If elected, I will represent the college with integrity and confidence.

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

I believe that I have the qualification to help the college transition from a Special Trustee back to a full board. With "restoration status" possibly taking two years, it is also possible that the board will not be reinstated until after that happens. I want to make sure that when the board is reinstated, I will be there to provide the leadership that the community deserves from the CCSF Board.

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.