

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club  
City College Board of Trustees Candidate Questionnaire  
for meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6:30pm  
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House  
953 De Haro St**

Candidate name: Adolfo Velasquez  
Contact person: Adolfo Velasquez  
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*Please write a brief response (up to 200 words) to each question. **Please email the completed questionnaire to [contact\\_us@phdemclub.org](mailto:contact_us@phdemclub.org) by Monday, September 5.** The questionnaires will be made available online to club members.*

**Please describe your qualifications for this office.**

30 years ago I earned my first degree, in *General Studies*, at City College of San Francisco (CCSF.) A year ago, I earned my latest degree, in *Critical Middle Eastern Studies*. In between, I would earn a bachelor's and Master's degree at SF State. It was during my second year internship at CCSF, a collaboration between the Career Center and the Science department. Upon graduation I was given a part-time job in the Career Center while working full-time at SF State as an Academic Counselor, a scenario I would remain in until I was offered a full-time tenured track position in EOP&S, I would retire from EOP&S in 2021.

As a former student, counselor and chair at CCSF for 20 years, I understand the inner workings of the school from the perspective of a student to management. All my experiences at CCSF, has provided me with the required knowledge and insight required to be an effective board member to address the many issues that CCSF has faced beginning with the accreditation crisis in 2012. Additionally, I would bring an insider's perspective to the board when making decisions with policies and budget.

**If elected, what are your top 3 goals for CCSF? Specifically, how do you plan to accomplish these goals?**

1. **Increase enrollment.** Myself, the Board and the school as a whole have to actively recruit students. Working with the chancellor to work with the Outreach department to work closely with SFUSD to recruit students. For example, advertise the dual enrollment program where students from high school can take courses at City College to earn credits for high school and CCSF. Additionally, the board should inquire if CCSF would consider mailing out flyers of signing for classes. But it requires that classes are available for students to sign up for.
2. **Prevent further lay-offs and cutting of classes.** I, with other faculty and classified folks will be promoting Prop O in the hopes that the measure passes in the November elections. The measure is projected to generate \$45 million annually for 20 years to keep and increase class offerings, Job development, basic skills classes and wrap-around services (e.g. counseling). If the measure does not pass the board and school need to look at other possible means of revenue.
3. **Keep City College a Community College,** a college that once served over 100,000 students offering a variety of courses in e.g. Music, Art and Languages, classes that serve lifelong learners, degree seeking students and transfer students, students wanting to enhance or learn a new skills e.g. language, computer related courses, these courses are what helps CCSF a Community college, as a board I/we must make it point working with the chancellor to ensure that the college continues to offer these different types of classes.

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

By the time I decided to run for the board, there was a lot a talk/discussions of CCSF's unions, AFT 2121 and SEIU 1021 supporting a slate of three running for the three four yr. seats. I wasn't even aware that the 2 yr. position was available. Seeing the out of support for the slate and after a few conversations I decided to run for the 2 yr. position with the belief that I would face less competition in the 2 yr. race, currently there three candidates vying for the 2 yr. seat, while there are 10 running for the four yr. seats, including three incumbents. This being my first run for the Trustee seat, while learning everything involved with running a campaign I believe I made the correct choice.

**If you are an incumbent, please tell us what you are most proud of. If you are the challenger, describe something the incumbent(s) did that you would have done differently.**

N/A

**What allocations in the current budget are higher/lower than needed and why? Please describe your current or previous experience with budgetary oversight.**

As I continue to learn of CCSF's financial situation, it is my understanding that the school's reserve, that has been less than the State requirement of 5% of the overall school budget, is now double, meaning that that the reserve is sitting at approximately 10%, though I am not in a position to confirm. If this is true, that money could instead be used to add classes that were previously cut and rehire instructors in order for the school and enrollment to grow.

In regards to experience with budgetary oversight, although I was chair of EOP&S, the director handled the budget, though I would consult with the director on some of the expenditures.

Oversight of a budget is something I would want to be involved with especially if Prop O passes in November. I and the other board members would want to ensure that the \$45 million is allocated and used appropriately including basic skill classes, Ethnic Studies and Social Justice classes, wrap-around services and job development.

**In addition to what you might have cited in your goals, what is CCSF doing well that needs to be supported and maintained? How would you support these strengths as a trustee?**

Of all the crisis that CCSF has endured the last 10 years, the academics (i.e. instruction) and the preparation of students to either graduate never been one of the crisis, specifically by the ACCJC who threatened CCSF with losing their accreditation mainly for the financial aspect of CCSF. City has always been an excellent academically sound institution that prepares its students for terminal degrees and/or transfer to a UC, CSU and private institutions. However, the board cannot continue to approve lay-offs and cutting of classes until every possible option is looked at. With that said, I/ we must do our best to retain the remaining instructors to continue providing top-notch instruction. That includes working with the chancellor and unions to address salaries. We must rebuild the faculty and classified worker's morale and trust, two emotions that are not being addressed or discussed.

Secondly, CCSF, known for its excellency in sports most notably Football and recently Basketball. As a board member, we must ensure that that legacy continues, most importantly for the student/athletes. Per regulations, student/athletes are required to maintain a full-time schedule (12 units), however, CCSF must provide enough classes/sections for student/athletes to enroll in.

**In addition to what you might have cited in your goals, what is CCSF not doing well and how would you bring about improvement or change as a trustee?**

With the financial situation that CCSF found itself in the last few years and with the current budget many programs, departments and classes have been negatively affected by the budget e.g. the working adult program, aviation program, motorcycle, reducing the nursing program from two to

one cohort for the upcoming year, at a time that nurses are needed as a result of the pandemic and lastly English and ESL classes, which were cut significantly. As a board member, I/we need to reverse this trend not approve more lay-offs and focus on how to rebuild the school, increase enrollment, fix the buildings in need of repair, work to get the Theater Arts building constructed, rebuild peoples trust and morale to keep CCSF a Community College the great institution that it is and pathway to many who want to work their way out of poverty, improve their lives and contribute positively to our city and economy.

*Thank you for taking the time to fill this out, and thanks for running!*