

**MINUTES of the
Business Meeting of the Alumni Council
Saturday, May 18, 2024, 8:45 am - 3:30 pm (PST)
Institute of Arts and Science Gallery (100 Panetta Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA)**

Alumni Present: Sareil Brookins, Julia Dolloff, Patrick Garcia, Judith Gutierrez, Walter Joyce, Jessica Lum, John Madrid, Shelly Meron, Abel Mkulama, Juliet Musso, Diane Nguyen, Susan Tappero, Shonté Thomas, Brian Turner, Meredith Vivian Turner, April Yee, Kevin Volkan

Councilors Absent: Lakeya Cherry, Armando Flores, Annapoorna (Anna) Gururajan, Max Ortiz

Staff Present: Shayna Kent, John D. Pine, Sidne Raiyn, Nina Bindra

Staff Absent: Barbara Oden-Petree

Minutes by Jessica Lum

A quorum was confirmed and President John Madrid called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. There were no changes or additions to the agenda. He acknowledged the demonstrations taking place on campus and reviewed the Alumni Council's principles of community.

President Madrid turned the meeting over to Pat Garcia to read the UC Santa Cruz Land Acknowledgement and Jessica Lum, Vice President of Administration, to review the meeting facilitation guidelines. President Madrid continued his opening remarks, reflecting on his term as President, experience as a student at UC Santa Cruz, and his path to serving on the UCSC Alumni Council.

VOTE: President Madrid presented the consent agenda for approval, which included the Minutes of the April 15, 2024 Special Called Business meeting. Shonte Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes. Walter Joyce seconded. There was no discussion, none opposed, and no abstentions. The minutes were unanimously approved.

President Madrid turned the meeting over to Executive Director Shayna Kent for a team building activity, after which he thanked her and turned the meeting over to Jessica Lum, Vice President of Administration and Chair of the Bylaws Review Committee.

Jessica directed members to the Draft of Restated Bylaws document and the Draft of Restated Bylaws with Track Changes, both of which were previously distributed to Councilors for review. She then walked through the proposed revisions in each section of the current bylaws. Brian Turner to read the Resolution to Amend the Bylaws of the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Association into the minutes as follows.

WHEREAS, in consultation with the members of the Executive Committee, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee, and the Nominating Committee, the Bylaws Review Committee has recommended the adoption of the Amended and Restated Bylaws substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Restated Bylaws”), which, among other things, reflect the addition of a Vice President of DEIB to serve as a member of the Executive Committee; establish the DEIB Committee as a standing committee of the Alumni Council; and revise the provisions of the Association’s bylaws governing the procedures for election and appointment of the Councilors of the Association

WHEREAS, the attached Restated Bylaws have been reviewed and approved by outside legal counsel to the Association.

RESOLVED that the Alumni Council hereby approves and adopts the Restated Bylaws, effective immediately, and directs the Secretary of the Association to file the same in the records of the Association and to post them to the Association’s website.

VOTE: President Madrid asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Juliet Musso made a motion to approve the resolution. Susan Tappero seconded. There was no discussion, none opposed, and no abstentions. The resolution was unanimously approved.

President Madrid thanked Jessica for her great work as the Vice President of Administration and leading the Council in this important work of approving revised bylaws. He turned the meeting over to Executive Vice President Shelly Meron for the election of new Alumni Councilors and Executive Committee members.

Executive Vice President Meron thanked members of the Nominations Committee and reviewed the nominations process. Out of fourteen qualified applicants, eight advanced to interviews. Six applicants were selected based on specific criteria, including demographics and their skill set. The Nominations Committee’s final slate included six nominees to serve as new councilors and four current councilors to renew their terms. President Madrid asked April Yee to read the Resolution to Elect Alumni Councilors into the minutes as follows.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the then current bylaws, the Alumni Association, pursuant to an email dated January 18, 2024, and by a contemporaneous posting to its website, solicited from the Members of the Association nominations for election or reelection to the Alumni Council to fill terms expiring at the end of this fiscal year;

WHEREAS, no nominations for election or reelection to the Alumni Council were received from Members by the close of nominations on March 7, 2024;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the then current bylaws, the Nominating Committee also reviewed candidates for election or reelection to the Alumni Council to fill terms expiring at the end of this fiscal year and, pursuant to an email to the Vice President of Administration dated March 22, 2024, recommended for election or reelection the candidates set forth below;

WHEREAS, at a special meeting on April 15, 2024, the Alumni Council accepted the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and nominated the candidates set forth below to stand for election at the upcoming annual meeting of the Alumni Association or pursuant to written ballot distributed in lieu of the meeting;

WHEREAS, the number of candidates nominated for the Alumni Council is not more than the number of positions to be filled; and

WHEREAS, if after the close of nominations the number of people nominated for the Alumni Council is not more than the number of positions to be filled, Section 5.4(c) of the Restated Bylaws adopted earlier this day allows the Alumni Council to declare that those nominated and qualified to be elected have been elected.

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 5.4(c) of the Restated Bylaws, the candidates listed below are hereby elected to the Alumni Council for terms commencing July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2026;

RESOLVED FURTHER that the annual meeting previously scheduled for on or about June 15, 2024, for the purpose of electing Councilors is hereby canceled.

Nominees for Election to the Alumni Council

- **Gregory Canillas**, Cowell, Psychology and History, 1990
- **Armando Flores**, Stevenson, Politics, 2015
- **Anna Gururajan**, Oakes, Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology, 2015
- **Rhianna Hruska**, John R. Lewis, Anthropology and Environmental Studies, 2014
- **Kelsey Knox**, Porter, American Studies, 2012
- **Nicona MacDonald**, John R. Lewis, Community Studies, 2012
- **Richard Mahon**, Cowell, History & Religious Studies, 1978 & MA in History of Consciousness, Graduate Division, 1978
- **Kelvin Sterling Scott**, Rachel Carson, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology, 2017
- **Shonté Thomas**, Rachel Carson, Politics, 1999
- **Kevin Volkan**, Kresge, Biology, 1981

VOTE: President Madrid asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Susan Tappero made a motion to approve the resolution. Juliet Musso seconded. There was no discussion, none opposed, and no abstentions. The resolution was unanimously approved.

President Madrid thanked Executive Vice President Meron for her leadership with the nominations process, thanked the Alumni Councilors whose terms will end June 30, 2024 for their service, and thanked the renewing Councilors.

President Madrid continued with the elections of the recommended Executive Committee members:

- Julie Musso, Executive Vice President, serving a two year term
- April Yee, Vice President of Finance, serving a one year term
- Armando Flores, Vice President of Administration, serving a one year term

The Executive Committee Ballot and Candidate Statements were distributed prior to the meeting. President Madrid opened the floor for questions for the candidates, after which he asked each candidate to leave the room for councilors to take a positive vote on each candidate, rather than call only for objections and abstentions. Each candidate was approved without any opposition or abstention. Meredith Vivian Turner read the resolution into the minutes as follows.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alumni Council voted to elect the following officers at the May 18, 2024 business meeting to serve July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

- Vice President of Finance - April Yee
- Vice President of Administration - Armando Flores

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alumni Council voted to elect the following officer at the May 18, 2024 business meeting to serve July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026:

- Executive Vice President - Juliet Musso

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the following officers do not require election at the May 18, 2024 business meeting as they are to assume the stated offices upon completion of their current office which ends June 30, 2024:

- President - Shelly Meron
- Past President - John Madrid

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alumni Council affirms the FY 25 Executive Committee Officers to begin serving on July 1, 2024:

- President - Shelly Meron
- Past President - John Madrid
- Executive Vice President - Juliet Musso
- Vice President of Finance - April Yee
- Vice President of Administration - Armando Flores

Vote: President Madrid entertained a motion to approve the Resolution to affirm the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Association Executive Committee for FY 25, beginning July 1, 2024. Pat Garcia made a motion. Walter Joyce seconded. There was no discussion, none opposed, and no abstentions. The resolution was unanimously approved.

President Madrid thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee for their dedicated service this past year.

President Madrid explained the timeline for electing the inaugural Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (VP of DEIB) as a new officer serving on the Executive Committee. He made an official call for nominations of candidates for this officer position. He reviewed the timeline for nominations and elections of the VP of DEIB, which was included in the board packet. July 12, 2024, is the deadline for Councilors to submit their interest in serving as the VP of DEIB. A slate of candidates will be presented to the Board on July 15, 2024, after which any Councilor who is not listed on the slate may submit their names by July 21. The vote to approve the inaugural VP of DEIB will be held at the August 18, 2024 Alumni Council business meeting, after which the officer will immediately begin their term.

President Madrid presented a Resolution to Approve Sareil Brookins as the Interim Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging effective immediately, and asked Diane Nguyen to read the resolution into the minutes.

WHEREAS, UC Santa Cruz is committed to cultivating and sustaining an inclusive environment for all members of its increasingly diverse community;

WHEREAS, the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Association (Alumni Association) plays a key role in furthering this goal for the alumni of UC Santa Cruz;

WHEREAS, in order for the Alumni Association to implement best practices for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, the Alumni Council has amended the bylaws of the Alumni Association to establish the role of Vice

President of DEIB, who shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee, and to convert the existing ad hoc Committee on DEIB to a standing committee chaired by the new Vice President;

WHEREAS, the position of Vice President of DEIB holds responsibility for advancing the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for the Alumni Association;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee believes it is important to appoint an interim Vice President of DEIB to ensure continuity and leadership during the period leading up to the election of a Vice President of DEIB in accordance with its bylaws; and recommends Sareil Brookins, the current Special Advisor on DEIB to the Alumni Council, to serve as interim Vice President of DEIB;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Council hereby appoints Sareil Brookins to serve as the interim Vice President of DEIB and to sit on its Executive Committee, effective immediately and until an election pursuant to the bylaws takes place to fill the position, currently scheduled for the Alumni Council business meeting on August 18, 2024;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this interim period, Sareil Brookins shall assume all duties and responsibilities associated with the Vice President of DEIB role, collaborate with the Executive Committee to advance DEIB initiatives, and chair the DEIB Committee.

Vote: Juliet Musso made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve Sareil Brookins as the Interim Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (VP of DEIB). Pat Garcia seconded. There was no discussion, none opposed, and no abstentions. The resolution was unanimously approved.

April Yee recognized Judith Gutierrez for launching the ad-hoc DEIB Committee and the movement to the revision of the bylaws to include a standing committee and VP of DEIB role. Sareil acknowledged Judith's leadership and support, as well as the sense of accomplishment to reach this point during her council service. Judith expressed gratitude to Sareil and optimism for the future of the Council's ability to represent and serve the diverse students and alumni of UCSC.

President Madrid turned to the Committee Chairs to provide updates.

Vice President of Finance Juliet Musso presented the Alumni Association Financial Reports with a focus on the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program Fund and the legal fees set aside in the budget for the bylaws review process. April Yee provided a report on the Association's Special Projects Fund and highlighted repeat applicants for funds.

Chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee Sareil Brookins updated the council on the committee's recent work with the Bylaws Review Committee and the ongoing process of hiring a DEIB consultant to help establish the DEIB Committee.

The Volunteer Engagement Committee Chair Shonté Thomas called for Councilors to volunteer for a number of volunteer opportunities for commencement and social media, including testimonials and video highlights. Shonte also shared that Julie Dolloff will continue the Alumni Video Series that Brian Turner launched.

The Alumni Association Scholarship Fund (AASF) Committee Chair Walter Joyce provided an update on the committee's work. He shared that Corinne Keppeler resigned from the council, so he is stepping up to lead fundraising and Abel is stepping up to lead the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Walter will also lead fundraising later this year and invited councilors to refer potential donors to the committee for outreach, if they are not comfortable asking for donations.

The AASF Committee is one of the Council committees that can have non-Councilors as members, which provides an opportunity for alumni to join in the Council work without the commitment level of joining the Council. Thank you cards to AASF donors will be distributed in the meeting to Councilors to sign. These cards are for all donors who have given since Giving Day, which was November 8. The next Giving Day is November 20, 2024. A donor has given a \$1.4M planned gift to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

President Madrid then turned the meeting over to Executive Vice President Meron to discuss the proposed Strategic Work Plan and present a Resolution to Approve the Strategic Work Plan. President John Madrid asked Abel to read the resolution into the minutes as follows.

RESOLUTION to approve the UCSC Alumni Council Strategic Work Plan for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

WHEREAS, the Alumni Council's mission is: To support the educational calling of UC Santa Cruz. To provide a means by which alumni may serve the university, its colleges, its students, and each other. To help guide the university into the future.

WHEREAS, the Alumni Council seeks to have measurable objectives and tactics to achieve its mission, and therefore has created a strategic work plan.

WHEREAS, the proposed strategic work plan was created through a collaborative work process beginning at the annual retreat in October, 2023, then assigned to a Strategic Planning Work Group to prepare a draft for Council review and recommendations.

WHEREAS, the Strategic Planning Work Group provided opportunities for Councilors to provide feedback throughout the process.

WHEREAS, the strategic work plan has three focus areas, each with specific objectives and tactics. The three focus areas are:

- Scalable alumni engagement - Engage alumni purposefully, personally, and professionally in a mutually beneficial relationship that generates meaningful connections and strengthens the alumni community. The Alumni Council's engagement initiatives align with the Alumni Engagement staff driven programs and priorities.
- Organizational health - Ensure the organization is sustainable and has a strong foundation to improve the reputation of the Council, enhance campus understanding and support of our work, retain a diverse group of Councilors, and conduct the necessary business of the UCSC Alumni Association within California Corporate code and our governing documents.
- Alumni giving percentage - Incorporate a grassroots approach to encourage alumni to make annual gifts to campus, supporting the overall goal of a 3% undergraduate alumni giving rate, which helps elevate the campus rankings and reputation.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the UCSC Alumni Council hereby approves the UCSC Alumni Council Strategic Work Plan to commence July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the UCSC Alumni Council appoints an ad-hoc committee, Volunteer Opportunities and Promotion, to support tactics in the Strategic Work Plan that are not associated with the five standing committees of the Council.

Vote: Susan Tappero made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve the Strategic Work Plan. Kevin Volkan seconded. There was no discussion, none opposed, and no abstentions. The resolution was unanimously approved.

President Madrid presented new business and announcements, which included upcoming events, Alumni Awards, Return to the Redwoods, and the Alumni Council's Summer Retreat.

President Madrid thanked everyone for their time before adjourning the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

After the business meeting was adjourned, the Council continued their work together, which included: a student experience virtual panel; a team building activity led by Addi Someck, writing thank you notes to Alumni Association Scholarship Fund donors, hearing an update on the Alumni Engagement Office, and a time of recognition and gratitude for outgoing Councilors and leaders.