

LPoV Candidate Questionnaire Nov 2022

General Questions

*Candidate Name **

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Candidate Website

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Candidate Phone Number / Contact Person

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Why are you running for this office?

I have over 40 years experience at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) as a teacher, Department Chair and Academic Dean. I was also a former student and know how CCSF can give someone a new life and provides a springboard for success that extends across generations. I am running because CCSF is in a transition and needs to learn to live within its means, stop deficit spending and get out from under heightened fiscal monitoring from the State or risk losing their accreditation. I have a deep commitment to the college and have extensive institutional knowledge that will ground my decisions on the Board.

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If elected, do you commit to completing your entire term?

Yes

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What are your values, and how did you get them?

I value being inclusive, protecting human rights and fighting for those who have historically been marginalized. My parents were immigrants, and my mother was monolingual, so at an early age, I learned to speak for her. She had to support 6 children, worked in our family's dry cleaning/laundry business with my father and worked at the sweatshops in Chinatown, so she never had the chance to learn English. I saw how she was treated as if she was invisible or a second class citizen. I myself have experience racism where people assume I'm not American or they assume I'm super smart and well off, even though my parents were never able to buy their own home and I grew up in the 3 rooms behind the laundry with my 6 siblings.

What communities do you represent, and how do they hold you accountable?

I believe I represent the Asian community, students and the educational community. I am held accountable by my openness to the feedback I receive from my peers, community leaders and colleagues. Ultimately, I am guided by what I believe is in the best interest of the college and students.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

Mayor London Breed, Anna Chung, CEO of Self-Help for the Elderly and Frances Lee, former Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at CCSF.

What are the top three issues you will work on, and how will you implement solutions in a timely manner?

1. Fiscal solvency and sustainability--end deficit spending and confront the declining enrollment by building an infrastructure based on actual funding.
2. Increase student success and completion by aligning academic goals with career pathways. 75% of 1st generation college students do not end up in jobs in their majors, CCSF needs to provide all students intensive academic and career counseling, making sure students match their aspirations, interests, aptitude and competencies with a career pathways.
3. Build stronger partnerships within the communities. CCSF has isolated itself from the communities it serves. It needs to partner with the private sector, non-profits and government agencies to meet the needs of students. A model program I supervised is the new Social Work program in Behavioral Sciences which partnered with the Episcopal Church and UCSF. The Episcopal Church uses one of their grants to help fund the Social Work classes, provides paid student internship and training for faculty. There is a shortage of Social Workers, so UCSF has created a pipeline for the graduates to get jobs.

What for-profit or non-profit boards do you serve on, including political organizations?

n/a

What local and state commissions or policy bodies do you serve on?

n/a

Please describe specific accomplishments in your activism. What did you get done, and what was your role?

As a Dean, I brought classes to SF County Jails and secured grants to fund a new student service program for formerly incarcerated students, New Directions.

I brought SF Citizenship Pathways Workshops to CCSF in partnership with non-profit agencies throughout SF to provide free legal, translation services and financial waivers for immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship.

I consulted on the Chosen Name Task Force and the Neutral Gender bathroom issues at CCSF.

I shepherded the curriculum approval process to establish Cannabis Studies at CCSF.

As Dept. Chair of Behavioral Sciences I wrote the proposal and won Board approval to create the Asian American Studies Department in late 1980's.

Please list specific ways you have shown up for immigrants at risk of deportation.

I supported making SF a sanctuary city and CCSF a sanctuary campus.

After Trump signed the discriminatory executive order banning Muslim immigration on Jan. 27, 2017, and it became effective that day I organized a forum for students and faculty to process their reactions and invited immigration lawyers and representatives from non-profit legal services to provide information and support to the CCSF community.

During the Trump presidency, there was an effort to ramp up the Citizenship Pathways Workshops in hopes of increasing the number of applications for citizenship.

Please list specific ways you have fought against racism and white supremacy.

I have taught Minority Psychology and Racism classes at CCSF and address white privilege in all of my Psychology classes. White supremacy is based on the sense of privilege whites have and that because of their skin color are they more entitled, more deserving and superior to others.

I am outspoken and willing to publicly call to white privilege when I see it. One time, we had a new Interim Chancellor who was a person of color. Some white faculty attacked him based on an inaccurate and outdated new article which criticized him on his alleged failure to hire people of color in his former position. Turns out the article was inaccurate, but the white faculty were trying to smear him before he even arrived on our campus. I publicly called them out at a Board meeting to defend the new Chancellor's record of hiring and challenge their presumption that some how they were qualified to defend diversity by smearing the reputation of an Asian Chancellor.

Equity should be the overarching goal in every activity at the college. I have pushed for the college to examine the institutional performance gap and constantly ask if services are being provided equitably. Because of that, I am perceived as a threat by the Unions because I believe they have institutionalize and perpetuated many of the inequities that exist at the college and their value of diversity is largely for optics and is nothing more than lip service.

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Please give us some examples of situations you've encountered where gender and LGBTQ inequity was evident and what you did or would do to address it.

I was involved in the gender neutral bathroom issue and chosen name issues at CCSF. It was apparent there was institutional resistance and there was a lot of stalling and passivity on the part of some leaders, particularly in HR. We had to just keep pushing and got Board members and community leaders to get involved and get it done.

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Amid a homelessness crisis, how can the City and County of San Francisco improve the effectiveness of our city's homelessness and supportive housing services?

As a Trustee of the college I would advocate that CCSF review its underutilized property and develop a strategic plan to examine converting some property to housing for students and faculty.

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What is your favorite park, and why?

Golden Gate Park because it's a half block from my house and it offers me an opportunity to regularly walk 3-5 miles a day.

Why do you want the League of Pissed Off Voters' endorsement?

I want your endorsement because I have a very modest campaign, this is my first time running for public office and I need all the help I can get. I also see myself as thinking outside the box and willing to speak truth to power and stand up to the status quo.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

I feel I am more qualified to be a steward of CCSF because of my extensive community and educational experiences. I am not interested in using this position as a springboard for a political career. I recently retired from CCSF and I see this as literally my last stop. I am an independent thinker guided by what's best for students and the college, not what I need to get re-elected. I think CCSF needs an educator not a politician who owes allegiance to those who elected them.

College Board

What experience do you have with City College or Community Colleges in general?

I was a student, Psychology faculty, and Department Chair of Behavioral Sciences and Dean of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Ethnic Studies and Social Justice. I have over 40+ years experience at every level of the college and know it inside out.

What do you see as City College's greatest strengths and challenges?

Challenges: Declining enrollment, fiscal sustainability

Strengths: The fact that it can transform student lives, it serves 1st generational college students and historically marginalized, low-income students, and the quality instruction and the fact it's free tuition.

Do you support the City College Parcel Tax slated for the November 2022 ballot?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Given that many of the policy and funding decisions for SFUSD are made by other entities, what is your vision for fully funding City College, and what actions can the Board of Trustees take to that end?

I challenge the perception that CCSF is not fully funded. In 2021-22, CCSF received \$45 million from local taxes and Free City, more than any other community college district, and \$145 million from the State. Also in 2020 SF voters approved a \$435 million Bond measure for CCSF.

All community college districts are currently receiving "Hold Harmless" funding, which means even though our enrollment is declining, we are receiving funding at a higher enrollment level than the actual enrollment. This will end in 2024-25 to give time for districts to adjust their budgets for the the New Student Funding formula.

The focus should be on redistribution actual funding in areas that reflect student demand, in order to be sustainable. I'm oppose to just throwing more money at at problem when there is no accountability that the funds are used responsibly.

CCSF needs to appeal to the private sector and other sources of funding before going to tax payers again. SF WERCS needs to be more transparent about what funding CCSF is already receiving from local taxes.

How do you plan to close the opportunity gap for students of color?

Align the academic goals with career goals so there is a clear pathway for students to complete their programs and degrees. Align academic goals with living wage jobs.

What specific qualities would you look for in a new chancellor?

If they understand the budget, and can hold all sectors of the college accountable. I would like a Chancellor to understand equity issues and the opportunity gap. I would like a Chancellor to stand up to the Unions and take back control of the college.

What metrics would you use to determine your success as Board Trustee?

I would evaluate improvement in closing the opportunity gap, changes in policies which address equity, i.e. can we finally require all employees to go through anti-bias training? , which the Unions have fought, and are we able to balance the budget and be fiscally sustainable without milking public monies?

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