

LPoV Candidate Questionnaire Nov 2022

General Questions

Candidate Name *

Vick Chung

Candidate Website

In construction; will send URL soon.

Why are you running for *this* office?

When I served as the Student Trustee at City College, I was fully prepared for every Board meeting and consistently praised for the thoughtful and incisive questions I posed to the Chancellor and his staff, but I was frustrated because I only had an advisory vote. I am running for this office because I am committed to fight against the systematic downsizing of City College, and I want my vote to count.

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

Absolutely!

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

My values of honesty, integrity, and hard work come from my experience of growing up in a refugee family (Chinese-Vietnamese). My father instilled in me the idea that girls could do anything they set their sights on, and my mother taught me compassion. That combination led me to my commitment to fight against social and political oppression of all kinds with a large and forgiving heart. It has strengthened and emboldened my community organizing work.

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

I represent the diverse student community at City College. I was an active member and leader of the CCSF Collective, a student run activist organization. My comrades there who represent the diverse communities at the college—BIPOC, queer, and working class—hold me accountable. I also represent the multi-lingual Chinese-Vietnamese community where my interpreting skills in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Vietnamese give me access to that community, which, in turn, checks my work.

What three endorsements are you most proud of?

AFT 2121; UESF; The SF Labor Council

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

The three top issues I will work on with the solutions I will implement are as follows:

1) Balancing the budget for the good of students, faculty, and staff (not at the expense of those constituencies). Solution: In the short-term, use the well-built, credible, and responsible AFT 2121 alternative budget, which demonstrates that the positions of laid off tenured and tenure track faculty can be restored. In the longer-term, work in Sacramento to reform the Student Success Funding Formula that harms large urban districts in higher cost- of-living areas, such as San Francisco and San Diego.

2)Increasing the revenue stream for City College (the College's main source of revenue is enrollment). Solution: Hire a marketing director who can implement the powerful marketing plan the most recent director built based on funds coming into the College from the State for enrollment growth. That director left City College for another school because she did not receive the support she needed from the Administration. As one of the Chancellor's bosses, I will prioritize this hire with the support the position needs to succeed. In addition to proper marketing, the College must fix its long-time broken registration system. One of my colleagues has researched the much better working San Mateo Community College District registration system and can advise me.

3)Restoring classes and programs that have been cut over the last three years. Solution: Pass WERCS, the parcel tax which will fund ESL and Basic Skills classes, workforce recovery programs, wrap around student services, and equity programs.

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

I served as a lead member of the CCSF Collective. As a collective, we operate collaboratively and do not have a board.

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

As CCSF student trustee, I worked with student leaders and labor unions across the state to fight corporate interests and protect access to public education.

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

Project SURVIVE is City College of San Francisco's award-winning, nationally recognized sexual violence prevention education program committed to transformative justice. As a Project SURVIVE peer educator, I led sex-positive, gender-inclusive, culturally-sensitive, college classroom presentations on healthy relationship, rape prevention, and domestic abuse prevention. With other peer educators I worked at disrupting rape culture by educating and empowering young adults with statistics and tools to heal from and resist patriarchal, hegemonic oppression. As a Project SURVIVE peer mentor, I provided targeted peer social support to a community of survivors of sexual assaults and their allies. I also held one-on-one one-hour weekly check-ins with three to six student peers.

CCSF Collective is a student-led activism organization and proponent of social equity and transformative justice through advocating for free, inclusive, and accessible public education. I served as an active leader in the Collective, and we advocated for restoration of canceled classes and support for WERCS.

SF Rising is an alliance of grassroots organizations led by people of color, and a political home for San Franciscans who care about justice and sustainability. It builds power through deepening multiracial solidarity, educating and mobilizing voters, working closely with policymakers, organizing, and developing leaders of color. As an intern at SF Rising, I applied community organizing outreach and mutual aid strategies to educate and mobilize Bay Area residents to support and campaign for "Schools and Communities First" via signature gathering, phone-banking, and hosting zoom teach-ins. Though we were not successful in passing that state-wide initiative, we can build on our education and mobilization efforts the next time a "split the rolls property tax" initiative is launched. We will not give up on this necessary reform of Jarvis-Gann.

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

When I was student trustee, I advocated for noncredit students at Mission Campus, many of whom are undocumented immigrants.

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

My education in public health has helped me understand that communities of color have lived in a pandemic of health disparities that preceded COVID-19. City College provides intersectional access to community, social services, and socio-economic opportunities. City College helped my parents learn English, obtain citizenship and employment, and it helped me-a queer, Asian-American-heal from transgenerational violence, sexual trauma and emerge with a passion for expanding access to public education. I am running because I know education is medicine.

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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 co-wrote a board resolution and garnered the unanimous sponsorship of the Board to support a state measure that would provide proper legal change and recognition of an individual's chosen name across higher educational institutions. If elected, I will continue to advocate for the advancement of our LGBTQ rights.

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?

I am inspired by the work of Houston that you can read about here. ("Collaboration has been integral to the Houston area's success, experts say. A homeless governing structure made up of representatives from local government, nonprofits and other constituencies was created to try to ensure funding was invested according to Housing First principles.") I would like to see how these measures could be adapted to San Francisco's homeless emergency. Collaboration among agencies and non-punitive measures are key to ending homelessness. We must also advocate at the federal level for funds for social housing to roll back the "Reagan Revolution," which instigated the homelessness problem in the United States 40 years ago.

What is your favorite park, and why?

McClaren Park because my dog loves it and I can walk to it.

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

I have deep respect for the League of Pissed Off Voters analysis. I use its pamphlet as my first go-to and usually only go-to voter guide. When students ask me how to vote, I recommend the League's guide for its clear explanations and point of view. I would be honored and thrilled to receive your endorsement.

Is there anything else you want to tell us?

Please note a possible tech glitch. In a few of my answers, you will need to scroll sideways to read the complete response. An example is the question "Why do you want the League of Pissed Off Voters' endorsement?"

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

I served as student trustee. Please also see my answers about Project SURVIVE and the CCSF Collective.

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

City College serves a diverse community: youth, immigrants, returning workers, older adults, trauma survivors, and social justice advocates as well as students looking for AA or AS degrees and/or transfer to four year universities. There are countless stories throughout the City which are a version of "City College saved my life." City College is the working class jewel of an institution in SF, one that must be protected during times of right wing attacks on public education.

Said attacks and lack of sufficient funding from the State are two of the challenges. Bankers benefit from loans taken out by students who are pressured into going full-time by the Student Success Funding Formula, which must be reformed. I am also concerned about developers looking to buy up City College property at fire sale prices if the systematic suppression of student demand continues (lack of marketing; broken registration system; diminished services, such as counseling).

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?

The best action we can take is to increase enrollment through supported marketing and a user friendly registration system. Admin must stop canceling classes that students need and want, which is sending the College into a downward spiral. Recently, an ESL instructor told me there are 112 students enrolled in her fall class, and Admin refused to open new sections. This affects the quality of education students receive, which can cause them to drop out. It also produces teacher burn out. We must end austerity and invest in the future of the College.

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

Keep English and math classes smaller. Expand--do not diminish--Ethnic Studies programs and departments. There is a statistics class specifically for African American students taught by a remarkable African American instructor. Make this instructor full-time, so she can serve more students. Her success stories are remarkable.

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

Financial planning skills (bean counters without vision are killing City College);
A willingness to stand up to ACCJC and FCMAT whenever they try to bully the College into austerity;
Respect for all constituencies starting with students.

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

--Enrollment increases by 10% every year for the next five years
--Laid off tenured and tenure track faculty are returned to their positions within the first year of my tenure
--Nursing is back to two cohorts every year, instead of one, in the next academic year
--The Older Adults Program, which was diminished by 90% in 2019 is restored. Those classes were fully enrolled and paid for themselves. They were cut simply because Administration has been committed to a narrowly defined junior college as opposed to a comprehensive community college.

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