

Mendocino College/Foundation  
Ad Hoc Committee Mtg. Notes

After eating our lunch, (Thank you Katie!) we began our discussion regarding the improvement of the relationships between the College and the Foundation.

- I. I suggested that we could discuss what were the activities that in the past supported a strong relationship between the College and the Foundation.
  - A.) Mark who has the longest time on the Foundation, shared that an activity he thought was helpful was a gathering of Foundation Directors and College staff to discuss the needs of the college and assist in prioritizing the allocation of funds. It seemed that this has not happened for several years.
  - B.) What has evolved instead is the College staff making requests of the Foundation when other resources have not been available and from the foundations perspective the request was the last resort. The College Promise was cited as a recent example. Funding was not provided because the future financial impact of the program was not clear.
2. We discussed the understanding/misunderstanding of the Foundation's funds.
  - A.) Mark provided a summary of the restricted and unrestricted balances. Portfolio balances for the restricted funds was approximately \$3.1 million and the unrestricted funds was \$5.5 million. Tom shared that the Foundation tries to spend 5-6% of the available funds in order to protect the principal balance. The \$300,000+ that are available have to cover salaries and projects approved by the Foundation. This past year Katie and Travis had to contact College Departments.
  - B.) We discussed that often the distribution of funds are driven by the donors. The Halliday fund was used as an example. The donors would like to support students in the marine biology field. Either programmatically or directly with scholarships.
3. How to find a solution to the struggle with hiring employees that are needed in a timely basis was also discussed. The Ed code language and board policy and collective bargaining contracts are barriers. Thinking outside of the box is needed.
4. There was agreement that inviting the Foundation Directors to join the College Trustees for a planning workshop to discuss topics of common interest would build understanding and collaboration in supporting the success of students at Mendocino College. Hopefully a workshop at the beginning of the school year would facilitate resolving the concerns about funding College priorities and employment barriers.