

# Cal Poly Humboldt FOUNDATION

## Minutes of the DONOR INTENTION & FULFILLMENT COMMITTEE

March 1, 2024  
ZOOM Teleconference Meeting

### Members Present:

Carin Kaltschmidt, Chair  
Philip Anton  
Jordan Kemme  
Jack McGurk  
Robin Smith  
Frank Whitlatch

### Members Absent:

Eden Donahue  
Kurt Fraese

**Guests:** Kevin Furtado, Arne Jacobson, Stacie Lyans, Angie Petroske, Guido Setton,  
Travis Williams, Teresa Wilmott

A meeting of the Cal Poly Humboldt Foundation Donor Intention & Fulfillment Committee was held on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 10:30 AM Pacific Time via Zoom Teleconference.

### 1. Call to order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 AM by Committee Chair Carin Kaltschmidt.

### 2. Public comments

There were no public comments.

### 3. Acceptance of Minutes from September 29, 2023 Meeting

Upon motion duly made (Jack McGurk), seconded (Philip Anton), and unanimously carried, it was:

RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the September 29, 2023 meeting are accepted.

#### 4. Funding Impact Presentation

Dr. Arne Jacobson, Director of the Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC), provided an overview of the types of projects in which the Center is involved and the background of how the Center came to be.

The Schatz Energy Research Center conducts applied research and analysis in multiple areas of renewable energy and climate change resilience. They currently have a team of about 50 people, including faculty, professional staff, and students. The annual budget is approximately \$7 million, with a majority of that funding coming from grants and contracts as well as income from endowed funds.

Mr. L.W. Schatz provided critical early support in the creation of the Schatz Energy Research Center. Over the period from 1989 to 2001, he provided over \$12 million.

In the 1990s, much of SERC's work was in renewable street transportation and electric vehicle conversion to hydrogen fuel cells. In the early 2000s work diversified into other renewables such as clean energy, energy resilience, addressing climate change, and engineering support of these initiatives.

SERC has worked with the Blue Lake Rancheria and other partners to develop renewable energy microgrids. These systems have provided resilience during numerous outages since 2017, including after the December 20, 2022 earthquake. The Rancheria was an island of reliable power in the regional blackout, providing for emergency operations and life-saving efforts.

More recently, SERC was the project lead for a larger microgrid that serves the regional airport and Coast Guard station, leading to a multi-million dollar statewide microgrid program.

SERC is also a leader in research and analysis related to offshore wind development on the U.S. West Coast. Working with partners, the Center has published over 30 reports on offshore wind over the past four years. Offshore wind development involves four main types of infrastructure: offshore wind farms, ports, electric transmission, and component supply chains. The Schatz Center has active projects related to all four areas.

The Schatz Center provides hands-on opportunities for student involvement. Hundreds of students have worked there over the years.

#### 5. Check 5 Update

Travis Williams, Operations Specialist, guided the committee through documentation covering the randomly selected funds for September through December 2023.

This review had no significant findings. While much of this review continues to be routine we continue to find creative ways to put it to use. Partnering this review with the new current use spending report we did some proactive outreach to help ensure that departments understand the nature of their funds and their interactions with endowments. An example of this was from journalism where the department was confusing a current use fund as an endowment and not spending the balance. We helped clarify this and should see some healthy spending in the future.

## 6. Spending Plan Update

Frank Whitlatch, Executive Director, and Kevin Furtado, Foundation Business Analyst, reviewed the status of the current use funds report and spending plans initiative.

Beginning in Fall 2023, each area of campus was provided a new Current Use Funds Report on a monthly basis. In addition, leadership in each area was asked to provide written annual spending plans for each unique fund with a cash balance of \$10,000 or more. This reporting included a spending estimate for the fiscal year and a brief narrative of the activity the spending would support.

There are several benefits to this new process. It requires proactive planning on how to best spend donated funds. It also provides more accurate information on anticipated unused cash balances, which has allowed increased short-term investment gains. Oversight of spending is also greatly improved, and donor impact information is more readily available.

All of these improvements result in better use of Foundation funds, better stewardship of donors, and better on-campus awareness of the impact of philanthropy.

## 7. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

## 8. Adjournment

In the absence of objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.