



Questionnaire for Community College Board Candidates

California General Election, November 4, 2008

Candidate/Campaign Information:

Candidate name:	Bruce Wolfe, M.S.W.
Office sought:	SF Community College Board of Trustees
Contact person:	Bruce Wolfe
Mail address:	1951 Page St.; S.F., CA 94117-1803
Telephone:	415-287-3431
Email address:	info@brucewolfe.net
Web address:	Http://www.brucewolfe.net
Anticipated Budget:	\$15,000
Funds raised to date:	\$1,000
Percentage of donations under \$50	15%

General Questions: *Please write a brief response (less than 150 words) to each question. You will have additional opportunities to address these issues.*

1. Why are you running? Why should we vote for you?

Thank you for the opportunity to obtain your endorsement once again for this second run to the SF Community College Board. Your support made a difference in 2006.



I am running for SF Community College Board because it is truly the city's best asset. I want to preserve it. With pending budget cuts, anomalies in spending, concerning campus building development, I feel it is time that some new ideas and fresh perspective is in order.

I was a student at City College from 1995-98 and was heavily involved in college activities that affected all students. Since then I have kept tabs on what and how the Trustees were doing in addition to what the administration was doing. I am very concerned about their continued trends of decision-making.

I feel compelled to participate on the Board of Trustees now as an official to insure a future for this great institution and for the students.

2. What sets you apart from your opponents?

I am a good listener. I am also a reasonable person. My principle and values are based on social and education justice. I have always been a people-person and take life's experiences very seriously, not seeking opportunities just to get ahead of someone else. I am truly interested and care about that all people get their needs met. Most of all, it is the 'consumer', the students that ultimately is the reason we are all in this but without the support for all the elements that contribute and drive the education there cannot be success.

I know the "business" of institutions. I know how to read a budget and how to budget. I was appointed by BOE Commissioner Eric Mar and now starting my fourth year on the SFUSD Public Education Enrichment Fund (Prop H) Advisory Committee. My participation has been supported by Commissioners Jane Kim, Kim-shree Maufus and President Mark Sanchez whom also seek my advice on committee activities. This experience has increased my understanding beyond those at CCSF and seven years in the CSU dealing with similar issues that CCSF has. I get it.

I come to this election a second time having garnered over 51,000 votes in a modest campaign in 2006. I am the only returning candidate.

Besides the incumbents, there is maybe one or two others that have education experience. My perspective is specifically from the experience of a City College and public education student and of the people who helped me achieve that education.



I am not a young man. At 48, I have had considerable business experience both for- and non-profit, in addition to community organizing and political advocacy.

Having past experience and served on several boards and president of Associated Students at SF State, a nineteen-member board, I have extensive parliamentary experience. This means that I can keep up with a lively board meeting and cull the actions, good or sneaky.

I also have keen policy and legislative experience having analyzed and written several pieces of legislation including one as a contingent to make state student fee increases as gradual as possible. I also spent nearly two years at then-Assemblywoman Carole Migden's SF office where I advocated for education budgets.

I am keenly familiar with AB 1825 and the formation of Shared Governance. While on CCSF Associated Students Council, I helped create a program to make sure that students were deeply involved and were also paid for their time in doing so. Shared Governance for students, faculty and staff is the life blood of the college. Without it, there would be no sunshine.

Speaking of which, I just finished two terms on the SF Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I cut my teeth on Sunshine in my years at City College. In my last run for College Board, one of my main platform pieces was to increase Sunshine on the Board. This forced those who did get (re)elected to promise a newly enhanced Sunshine policy. It still has not materialize and I stand to make it so.

I am also a very strong housing advocate. I believe that without a stable shelter and education, one will have a very difficult time surviving. My work over four years on the SF Community Land Trust Board of Directors has helped many families preserve their tenancy. I am very interested in creating housing opportunities for the CCSF family and students.

I support the working-class people, the faculty and staff, that help bring the success to all students. Teaching is a tough job and many do not get paid enough for it especially in these budgetary difficult times. I will do my best to continue my advocacy in Sacramento on this struggle. Adequate funding is essential for students' success.

Having served on the Sierra Club-SF Executive Committee and an active environmentalist, I have excellent knowledge of the facilities and capacities of



CCSF that would be able to expand into emerging fields and industries as we move into the larger discussion of Global Warming and Climate Change. Having been a core team member and legislative organizer of Community Choice Energy Alliance helped bring Community Choice Aggregation to the fore. Currently, I am also working on the SF Clean Energy Act also on the November ballot.

Creating new educational programs combined with current programs will provide for new opportunities for many San Franciscans who need jobs. I want to work with AFT to help formulate these ideas. We have many, many opportunities at CCSF to be very participatory and partner in the global effort.

Plus, my years and experience at SF State from 1997-2004, as a student of Social Work (B.A.S.W./M.S.W.) and student leader on campus, state and federal levels have continued to help maintain connections with all the public school systems plus with colleagues who are also employed there or are elected officials.

I have found that my education and experience in Social Work has been fruitful in enhancing my information gathering, interviewing and decision-making. I feel it is essential that some of these enhancements be learned by all officials. I hope to bring some of these values to my new colleagues on the board.

I have many more experiences to share of my tenure at CCSF and will leave that to the interview.

I feel after more than ten years of relationship, attention and knowledge of CCSF, I have the understanding of its needs and am ready to help progress it through the 21st century.

3. What are the top three issues facing CCSF? What will you do about those issues?

Not necessarily in any particular order; They are all important:

1. Part-time faculty equity
2. Outreach to community on campus building expansion
3. Affordability



4. SF4D PAC is committed to grassroots involvement. Please explain how you have involved ordinary citizens in your campaign.

I have always been a community-oriented person. Much of the volunteer work I do in the city is with groups of affected populations. Much of what I do is grassroots. I am a social worker so it's pretty built-in.

In my campaign, I provide the space for people to gravitate to activities they desire and have the time to help with. I enjoy the dialog I have with folks helping out and their ideas and concerns that I may take forward with me to the Board of Trustees.

I have gone to many sectors of the city that City College serves and connected with youth, elders and people with disabilities alike. Those that have joined me, I offer praise and support for the help they are providing and try to make it as stress-less, empowering and fun experience as possible

Some of the activities have had many people come out to help collect signatures, planning events on my behalf, website development, data management.

5. SF4D PAC endorses fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates. Please give examples of why you fit these criteria.

I am solidly fiscally and socially progressive. My work supports this as a disability advocate for over 30 years on both coasts, affordable housing advocate, environmentalist, social work, T'ai Chi instructor and life coach. I support working people and organized labor. My life revolves around serving people in helping to make their live as fruitful and successful as possible.

I know how to take what little is available and make it as resourceful as possible. This is clearly seen in the work on the SFUSD Prop H/PEEF Committee that oversees cumulative funding of nearly \$460million. In addition, as President and elected leader of Associated Students at SF State, in my very first year I identified a 'leak' in their bank account that previous unscrupulous people had created in order to exploit students not experienced with budgets. I helped students understand the situation and guided them towards making corrective policy that retrieved and saved them thousands of dollars thereafter.

As board member of SF Community Land Trust, Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, Progressive Voter Project, Associated Students at CCSF and SFSU, in addition to working with the many small business I have started including GreenCampaigns.com and current employment with Marin Institute where I manage a \$25,000 budget, my experience in understanding and maintaining budgets, creating and finding resources and smart spending remains impeccable.



Issue Questions:

1. Given the very real probability of reduced state funding for CCSF in the coming years, what combination of budget cuts and tax increases would you suggest to address budgetary shortfalls?

I would like to see Prop 13 reform for business as a start. As then-Senator John Burton was leaving office, he seemed to be able to strike a deal to get this moving forward until the recall of Governor Gray Davis appeared. With this as a start will surely help bring in new revenue.

Budget cuts need to go to the prisons. This rampant creating of prison industrial complex must stop. It has been shown time and time again that education along with secured housing helps reduce recidivism and helps prevent crime.

Sacramento and advocacy analysts have stated that closing one prison can fund the rebuild of every public school in the state.

2. While eleven community colleges in California offer student housing, CCSF does not. Given that housing in San Francisco is in high demand and hugely expensive, what would you propose to solve the problem for CCSF students who need housing?

As a board member of the successful SF Community Land Trust, I know that housing cooperatives work especially when the land underneath is held in perpetuity by a very democratic membership based community organization.

As President of Associated Students at SFSU, when Verducci Hall was inappropriately imploded and then campus apartments were condemned as health hazard due to toxic black mold, I worked with students to help secure rental property around the city as student cooperatives.

When elected as Trustee, I will work with my colleagues already on the board to include housing with every campus building (re)development and be sure that as much renewable energy generation is installed.

3. How can CCSF address needs of disadvantaged students – those with lower grades and educational inadequacies? How would you propose to increase opportunities for them to catch up to the other students?

As a student with a disability at CCSF, I had opportunity to meet many disadvantaged students. Some of the programs in existence there and others I was involved in creating helped students



immensely. Programs like bookloan so students would be saved not only the expense of books; a Family Resource Center created and built by students in the Student Union for single parents needed extra help with child-care and tutoring; Homeless advocacy and services, insuring that all granting and financial supplements are maintained and available.

Upon the passage of Prop 209 that banned affirmative action, we as students created the non-profit, Education in Action, to help counsel and tutor student seeking transfer to 4-year schools find all possible ways toward being accepted. Further, on campus programs like Students Supporting Students (S³) provided additional support for students.

My personal experience as a student at CCSF leaves me with the ongoing concern about student success. While faculty for the most part understand the needs for student success, I will continue as a knowledgeable educator myself to seek new and innovative ways to help students, and be sure to make these suggestions to faculty and staff to consider implementing.

City College works the best when considered as family that takes care of its own.

As Trustee, I will insure that students are not prevented from receiving essential services and creating more programs, and will help in financial support and resources.

4. What measures should CCSF take to improve its fiscal responsibility and public financial accountability, especially with its spending of bond money?

Trustees must have this oversight to insure that others are acting appropriately. It is unacceptable for Trustees not to be informed but more so they are not also keeping a pulse on these kinds of activities.

I would strongly disallow through policy any management level staff from working on college initiatives unless they take a leave of absence.

I have seen similar bad practices at every level of public education through on up to University of California.

As Trustee, I would go so far as to hire a Board Budget Analyst like the Board of Supervisors did in hiring Harvey Rose.



5. Do you support a voluntary system of Clean Elections – full public financing – of candidates for citywide offices? Would you participate in such a system if it were available?

Yes and of course. I've been working on clean campaign financing for over ten years both at the local and state level.

6. Do you support or oppose the following propositions on the November ballot? Please explain why or why not.
- Declaration of Policy of the people of San Francisco that its elected representatives in the US Senate and House should vote against any further funding for deployment of US Armed Forces in Iraq, except funds specifically earmarked for their safe withdrawal

Support Oppose Why?

We have spent enough money and time on this effort in the Middle East. Our country is hurting because of it with regards to the economy and foreclosures of peoples' homes they worked long and hard for while the few percent of the wealthiest in the country continue to get rich.

The spending must stop and return back to supporting things like education and adequate housing for all.

- CA Proposition 4: Amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for an unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian or, if parental abuse reported, an adult family member.

Support Oppose Why?

Since before becoming a member of SF NOW and SF Women's Political Caucus over the past several years ago, I do not support this proposition. It is a reactionary and harmful initiative that does not respect the privacy, equity or the reproductive freedom of woman to make their own decisions about their bodies and lives.