

3

Key Takeaways from the March 28, 2025 Economic Development Merger Committee meeting

Next Meeting
Friday, April 11
7:30am to 9:00am

Board Member and Stakeholder Forum Feedback

The merger committee hosted a Board Member and Stakeholder Forum on **Thursday, March 27, 2025 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm** at the SDSU Alumni Association. The event gave the committee an opportunity to share draft versions of the organizational structure and to gather feedback from participants.

More than 60 attendees participated in breakout discussions led by merger committee members on a variety of topics, including:

- Role of the Board of Directors
- Role of the President/CEO
- Developing a Membership Model
- Importance of Advocacy
- The Business Services Team
- The Experiences Team
- Role of the Advisory Councils

The committee is currently compiling feedback, but did debrief overall themes that emerged during the forum. Some consistent themes include the make-up of the board, the importance of the president/CEO, questions related to the membership model, and potential modifications to the proposed organizational structure.

Thank you to all who attended and shared thoughtful perspectives. **A follow-up survey will be sent via email to attendees in the coming days.**

Additional Work Groups Identified

As the work of the merger committee matures, additional subgroups to make progress on specific topics have been identified. Some of those topics/subgroups include:

- Board of Directors and Advisory Councils (selection process, purpose, etc.)
- Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures
- Staff Compensation and Initial Staffing Structure
- President/CEO Search Process

The groups will be meeting to understand current state, consider feedback, and develop recommendations to bring back to the full committee at the April 11th meeting.

More Opportunities for Information Sharing

The value of continuing to share information with a broader audience was discussed. The committee agreed to host an open house style event in April and to create a video to be sent electronically. As the organizational structure and implementation plan are further developed, it will be important to update those who attended one of the forums and to engage those who did not. More information on both items will be confirmed and shared.

Meeting Attendance

Committee members in attendance at this meeting were Wayne Avery, Angela Boersma, Tom Fishback, Andi Foubert, Paul Gilk, Marcus Heemstra, Shawn Hostler, Jamison Lamp, Jacob Meshke, Daniel Scholl, Michael Schulte, Laci Thompson, Holly Tilton Byrne, Mike Turnwall, and Nick Wendell.