



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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Board meeting of March 1, 2010

REPORTS AND HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT THE AGENDA

Staff comments: **Cynthia Kaufman**, president of the Multicultural Staff Association, read a statement expressing the MSA's values of supporting student and staff equity while moving through the budget crisis. **Blanche Monary**, president of the Association of Classified Employees (ACE), urged the board to consider any alternatives that could delay layoffs to 2011. Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** reported that he and De Anza faculty members **Anne Argyriou**, **Robert Stockwell** and **Alex Giardino** met with legislators earlier in the day as part of a Faculty Association of California Community Colleges' conference in Sacramento.

De Anza President **Brian Murphy** reported on students' plans to take part in a March 4 statewide day of action to protest budget cuts to education. There will be events on campus throughout the week culminating in marches to Cupertino City Hall and, for students who ride buses into San Francisco, the San Francisco Civic Center. (Foothill students will march in Sacramento with other community colleges on March 22.) Foothill President **Judy Miner** said she had received good news about two career-technical education grants for the college. Chancellor **Linda Thor** expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome she has received from faculty and staff. "I am very excited about what I am seeing and hearing and the people I am meeting," she said.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Faculty members granted tenure: The board approved the re-employment of the following individuals for 2010 as tenured faculty members: At Foothill, **Anabel Arreola-Trigonis**, counseling; **Jeffrey Bissell**, physical education; **Samuel Connell**, anthropology; **Kay Jones**, librarian; **Bruce McLeod**, theater arts; **Simon Pennington**, art history; **Andrew Ruble**, art/ceramics; **Brian Tapia**, philosophy; **Glenn Violett**, business; and **Russell Wong**, learning disabilities. At De Anza, **Michael Appio**, manufacturing and CNC technology; **Jason Damjanovic**, physical education; **Maria Delas**, disability support services; **Harman Dhaliwal**, mathematics; **Olga Libova**, nursing; **Bertrand Lo**, mathematics; **Mary Sullivan**, health services; and **Deborah Wagner**, medical laboratory technology. (Libova could not attend the tenure recognition ceremony because she was helping deliver a baby.)

Local school district briefing: Superintendent **Barry Groves** and several board members of the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District reported on the district's general obligation bond measure on the June ballot. The bonds would enable construction of enough classrooms to accommodate the 900 additional students the district expects over the next decade. Groves said the measure would extend the current tax rate for six years so it would not result in higher taxes for district residents.

He thanked Foothill-De Anza for collaborating with his district on efforts such as dual enrollment, Middle College and professional development in mathematics.

Physical Sciences and Engineering Center: Ratcliff architects principal **Bill Blessing** presented a “fly-through” of the final design drawings for Foothill’s Physical Sciences and Engineering Center. The award-winning project consists of three buildings constructed around a large courtyard on the hillside that formerly housed horticulture and vet tech programs. Much of the discussion focused on steps being taken for pedestrian safety when crossing the Loop Road. A decision on whether to build a bridge crossing is still pending. On behalf of the board, President **Bruce Swenson** called it a “fantastic project” and thanked the campus participants for their leadership.

New travel policies: The board approved two new policies. BP 2620, Board Travel, requires members of the Board of Trustees to report on the board agenda any overnight travel outside the district that occurs at district expense. BP 4166, International Travel, governs international travel by staff members and trustees. It requires advance approval by trustees for any international travel, with an exception made for staff employed within the Office of International Students and approved academic programs.

Categorical flexibility: The board authorized \$1,000 cash transfers from matriculation at De Anza and non-credit matriculation at Foothill into the respective campus EOPS programs. These transfers will enable the colleges to take advantage of new state “flexibility” provisions that allow the transfer of state funding among categorical programs. Foothill EOPS Director **Matais Pouncil**, speaking on behalf of EOPS directors statewide, and Faculty Association President Hansen said there is widespread concern that providing relief from state mandates could be used in ways that hurt students in some districts. Campus Presidents Miner and Murphy said the intent at Foothill and De Anza is to provide as much support as possible for programs that serve the most vulnerable students. Any exercise of the “flexibility” provisions would come to the board for further discussion.

Nomination of classified employee: Trustees approved the nomination of **Art Hand**, senior library technician at Foothill College, for a California Community Colleges employee of the year award. Hand joined the district about 24 years ago after stints as a firefighter, telephone lineman, executive headhunter and manager at Cost Plus. As a district employee, the nomination states, Hand “exemplifies the dedication and work ethic that is essential for our district to deliver on the promise of outstanding education for a diverse student body.” In addition to excellent professional skills as a library technician, it states, Hand has outstanding interpersonal skills. Foothill President Miner described him as having “the utmost integrity” and someone “who has built bridges rather than creating polarization.” He has served as chief steward for SEIU and now ACE for 18 years.

For his part, Hand spoke of the impending departures June 30 of friends and colleagues and said he hopes something can be done to prevent more layoffs in June 2011. Hand also expressed his appreciation for the compassionate leadership of former interim chancellor **Mike Brandy**, who worked to protect jobs for as many people as possible for as long as possible. Brandy, he said, “served with apparent nobility of purpose that was inspiring.”

Resolution in support of adequate funding: At the request of De Anza Student Trustee **Isabelle Barrientos Vargas**, the board approved a resolution supporting adequate funding for California Community Colleges. The resolution highlights the resulting sharp decline in educational opportunity for California students caused by more \$840 million in state funding cuts to community colleges over the past 18 months.

New solar installations: The board authorized **Charles Allen**, executive director of facilities, operations and construction management, to negotiate an agreement with **Chevron Energy Solutions** to design and install photovoltaic arrays on Parking Lots 2 and 3 at Foothill College. With this installation, the campus will be able to generate about 25 percent of its electricity needs from the sun. This installation is part of a larger solar expansion, funded with Measure C bonds, to increase green power production at both campuses. Allen has estimated that the solar expansion would save the district more than \$1 million a year for the next five years between rebates and energy-cost savings, freeing up dollars that could help cover personnel costs.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

Interim assignment: Trustees approved the interim assignment, through June 30, 2010, of **Phyllis Spragge** as interim dean of biology and health sciences at Foothill College.

Faculty and staff development leaves: The board approved staff development leaves for 2010-11 for **Gina Bailey** and **Patti Conens** in Central Services, **Erin Ortiz** at Foothill, and **Araceli Kaliangara** at De Anza. The board also approved professional development leaves for Foothill faculty members **Nicole Gray** and **Rachel Mudge**, following approval at the Feb. 1 meeting of 21 professional development leaves for faculty. During their leaves, Gray and Mudge will work with the **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** on a national community college mathematics initiative.

Board President Swenson said it is painful for the board to be granting leaves when the district is preparing to layoff employees. He suggested that awarding leaves during difficult economic times be re-visited during negotiations. Faculty Association President Hansen said that only a small number of faculty and staff are granted leaves each year, so only a tiny percentage of employees would bear the brunt of trying to save the district money if leaves were eliminated in bad budget years.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, March 8, 2010, at 6 p.m. in Conference Room A at Hinson Campus Center at De Anza College. Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance at: http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/agenda/.

Board Highlights is designed to communicate board meeting news to faculty and staff across the district. This publication is not the official minutes. For more comprehensive information, you may consult the official minutes, which generally are available at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes after their approval at the subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at bartindalebecky@fhda.edu or extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.