



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Emily Kinner • Stephanie McGee

Board meeting of March 5, 2012

SOME HEADLINES

Trustees approved or reviewed:

- Elimination of positions
- Refinancing of general obligation bonds
- Proposed changes to the non-smoking policy
- New hires, promotions and retirements
- Professional growth awards

INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

New associate degree proposed: Trustees approved Foothill's request to apply to the state Chancellor's Office to offer an associate of science degree in sheet metal building trades apprentice. Completion of the degree would lead to journeyman status as a sheet metal worker.

Non-smoking areas: The board reviewed proposed changes to Board Policy 3217, Non-Smoking Areas. Among the recommended changes are allowing district police to cite violators and prohibiting the sale of tobacco products on campus. Chief **Ron Levine** said the fines would be \$25 for the first violation, \$50 for the second and \$75 for the third and any subsequent violations. The policy comes back for adoption March 12.

Support for tax initiative: Trustees approved a resolution supporting the governor's "Temporary Taxes to Fund Education" initiative and the budget priorities of the California Community Colleges. Voters' passage of the initiative would limit cuts to community colleges and K-12 schools in the coming years.

Bond refunding: Trustees authorized the refinancing of a portion of Measure E and Measure C general obligation bonds to reduce bond costs for district taxpayers. Likening the process to refinancing a home, Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** said the refunding would reduce existing debt service on previously issued outstanding bonds, thus decreasing the annual tax rate for property owners in the Foothill-De Anza district. The district currently plans to refinance approximately \$77.6 million of the bonds, which would save taxpayers about \$690,000 in estimated debt service costs every year through 2030, or about \$13 million in total savings. The transaction should be completed in May. Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** noted that the district's advisory Audit & Finance Committee unanimously supported the refunding.

Second quarter report: Vice Chancellor McElroy reviewed the second quarter financial report with the board. He said the current estimate is that the district would end the year with about \$17 million in the stability fund to apply against the 2012-13 budget deficit if the colleges can recapture lost enrollment. How large the deficit will be depends on such

factors as whether a tax initiative that benefits higher education passes in November and whether enrollment grows. He noted that the colleges are working to increase enrollment and that Foothill will offer an extra summer session. He said the hope is that there will be enough one-time money in the stability fund to make it through 2012-13 before the district has to fully implement solutions to close the structural deficit.

HUMAN RESOURCES & PERSONNEL

Correction: Board Highlights from the meeting of Feb. 6, 2012, incorrectly listed five individuals as among those granted professional development leaves. Instead, De Anza instructor **Loraine Moen** is taking a quarter's leave and the following individuals are retiring at the end of June: De Anza instructor **William Nagel**, Foothill instructor **Gene Scattini** and Foothill counselors **Vivian Cohen** and **Davida Vance-Lee**.

Position eliminations: The board reluctantly approved recommendations to eliminate more than 50 positions as of June 30 to help reduce the district's structural budget deficit. The eliminated positions include 32.5 classified positions, 19 full-time faculty positions and two administrative positions. Most are currently vacant or will become vacant due to retirement by the effective date.

The positions are listed in items 17, 18 and 19 on the March 5 agenda, available at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/ArchivedAgendas

Board members spoke about the difficulty of having to make these decisions. President **Joan Barram** commented that reductions in service are among the most difficult actions that trustees face. It is disheartening, she said, knowing that valuable services will be lost. Both trustees and the chancellor expressed appreciation to those employees at the campuses who have taken part in the extensive deliberations about budget reductions. "These are not recommendations we are happy to make," said Chancellor **Linda Thor**, "but we have fewer and fewer choices these days." Despite reducing the number of positions, "we still have millions and millions to go."

ACE President **Blanche Monary** said she is working with the district to find positions for displaced employees who wish to remain with the district. Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** pointed out the difficulties of carrying out recommendations of the Student Success Task Force when positions that contribute to student success are being eliminated. Foothill President **Judy Miner** expressed appreciation for the efforts of counselors in taking on more group work in order to serve more students. She said technology such as the DegreeWorks in Banner, Ask Foothill and a new online orientation class help fill some of the gaps to a degree. While both Foothill and De Anza are committed to doing their best to meet students' needs, it must be said that "these institutions can't provide the services they used to," said De Anza President **Brian Murphy**. "We are past the low-hanging fruit and are onto the meat and bones of our organization."

Offering counseling to help students find their way has always been a core part of the community college mission, said Trustee **Bruce Swenson**. He said the colleges must find new ways to allocate resources to meet those needs.

Foothill Student Trustee **Stephanie McGee** spoke about the importance of the support system that counselors provide. Electronic tools cannot provide the same level of service and support as a counselor who knows you, she said. "It really makes me sad to see all these positions disappear," she said, "but especially counseling."

New hires: Trustees ratified hiring the following new employees – for Foothill, financial aid outreach assistant **Kerry Bahadur**; for De Anza, **Joseph Lipsig**, computer lab instructional coordinator for Bio/Health & Environmental Sciences; and for Central Services, **Miguel Valencia**, constructional and maintenance worker.

Promotions: The board ratified the following promotions – for Foothill, **Red Lucas** to budget analyst and for Central Services, **Miguel Capristo** to construction & maintenance worker and **Matelund Dunlap** to pool maintenance worker.

Administrator & faculty retirements: The board approved the retirements of the following employees, effective at the end of June: At Foothill, CTIS instructors **John Barry** and **John Farber** and Language Arts instructor **Ali Kheijjou**; and at De Anza, **Rich Schroeder**, dean of physical education and athletics, and Social Sciences & Humanities instructor **Wendell Goesling**.

Professional growth awards: Trustees approved professional growth awards for the following employees – at Foothill, **Lily Luu**, **Christine Mangiameli** and **Julie Riggins**; at De Anza, **Olga Evert**, **Marilyn Booye**, **Karen Hunter** and **Margaret Sainten**; and in Central Services, **Dawn Allshouse**, **Linda Mahi** and **Katherina Nguyen**.

REPORTS & HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Staff comments: Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** reported on the March in March. He said the halls of the Capitol were jammed with students from UC, CSU and community colleges. A small group of individuals from the Occupy movement had taken over the Capitol Rotunda, but he said he didn't think any Foothill-De Anza students were involved in the occupation.

Chancellor's comments: Chancellor Thor commented on a March 2 news story in the Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal describing Foothill-De Anza's desire to work with the West Valley-Mission and San Jose-Evergreen community college districts to make the Onizuka education center into a regional center for workforce training. She commented on the success of a recent breakfast hosted by the Foothill-De Anza Foundation for former district trustees, and thanked President Barram and Vice President Casas Frier for attending.

Presidents' comments: Back from the Capitol, De Anza President Murphy reported that about 300 De Anza students took part in the March in March. He said the showing by Foothill and De Anza was among the most significant in the state. This year students focused more on revenue than in past years, he said, and many students carried signs supporting tax initiatives to fund education and calling for tax reform. He noted that Assembly member **Jim Beall** hosted De Anza students at an off-site reception. President Murphy congratulated organizers of the seventh annual De Anza Partners in Learning Conference and said the student-moderated event attracted about 125 faculty and staff members. He also gave a shout out to De Anza researcher **Mallory Newell**, whose doctoral dissertation recently won the Dissertation Excellence Award from the California Community Colleges Research & Planning Group.

Foothill President **Miner** commented on two achievements: She said the annual Foothill Physics Show had sold out all six shows and the women's basketball team had advanced to the State Final Four.

Trustee comments: Fresh from the March in March, Foothill Student Trustee McGee commented on the day's events, noting that students were enthusiastic and legislators were supportive of the students' message about how budget cuts have affected faculty and staff and resulted in reductions of programs and services. She said the group occupying the Rotunda came in after the students. De Anza Student Trustee **Emily Kinner**, who'd planned to join the meeting by telephone from Sacramento, was unable to participate because she had been stranded in the Capitol building as a result of the Occupy protest.

Trustee Swenson congratulated foundation Executive Director **Sheryl Alexander** for a well-organized and successful foundation board retreat and spoke about efforts to strengthen and diversify the board. A former dean of Foothill's Division of Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering, Trustee Swenson expressed his delight with the organization and presentation of the Foothill Physics Show and joked, "I was stunned at a bunch of scientists coordinating a presentation like that."

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, March 12 at 6:15 p.m. in the district Board Room. Agendas generally are posted 72 hours in advance at: http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/agenda/. Please check the agenda to verify time and location of the meeting.

Board Highlights is designed to communicate board meeting news to faculty and staff across the district. This publication is not the official minutes. The official minutes are available at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes after their approval at a subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at bartindalebecky@fhda.edu or (650) 949-6107 with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.