



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees • Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Erica Anderson • Isabelle Barrientos Vargas

Board meeting of May 3, 2010

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Budget Update: Mike Brandy outlined a series of favorable budget developments that have added \$2 million to the projected bottom line of the 2010-11 district budget. Although this news is good, Brandy noted, the critical variable is whether community colleges will sustain another year of big cuts in the state budget. Among factors contributing to the larger-than-expected bottom line are receiving more state apportionment than projected; stabilizing of international student enrollment; and utility rate reductions. If the district does not suffer major state budget cuts in 2010-11, it may be able to bring back those essential positions slated for elimination on June 30, 2011 (Escrow 2). He said the district expects to have enough money in reserves to cover up to \$5 million to \$6 million in state budget cuts. Board President **Bruce Swenson** said resolving the district's structural budget deficit is a major accomplishment, but "we've had to go through a lot of pain to get there." Read the budget update at http://business.fhda.edu/budget/budget_update.

Classified Staff Appreciation Week: At the request of Chancellor **Linda Thor**, trustees declared May 24-28 Classified Staff Appreciation Week in recognition of the contributions of classified staff in advancing the district's goals of excellence and opportunity for all. Classified Senate representative **Bhavi Patel** reported on the retreat being held for all classified employees on Friday, May 7 at De Anza, and organized by the Foothill, De Anza and Central Services Classified Senates.

Accountability Reporting for Community Colleges (ARCC): After a thorough discussion, trustees accepted the 2010 ARCC report for Foothill and De Anza presented by Interim Director of Institutional Research **Andrew LaManque**. The report, which is given annually, is intended to encourage California community colleges to improve student outcomes. It compares each college against peers throughout the state in seven key categories, including student persistence rates, academic and vocational completion and improvement rates, and student progress and achievement in terms of degrees, certificates and transfer, providing a snapshot of student success trends over time. In most categories this year, Foothill and De Anza ranked highest or above average. Trustee **Pearl Cheng** expressed interest in seeing some of the data broken out by factors such as age, ethnic group and high school attended. View the presentation at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board_presentations under Students/Teaching and Learning.

District Strategic Plan: The board approved the district's Strategic Plan 2010-2016 following a discussion about the fine-tuning of metrics accomplished since trustees

reviewed a draft in January. Vice Chancellor **Fred Sherman**, who led the strategic planning effort, said the three commitments articulated in the plan - student access, student success and stewardship of resources - align with and support the campus strategic plans. As requested by the board during the prior review, the campuses and the district will have to stretch to achieve some of the new metrics established to measure progress toward the goals. The Strategic Plan 2010-16 will be posted shortly on the district's website.

District Sustainability Plan: After a presentation by Executive Director of Facilities, Operations and Construction Management **Charles Allen**, trustees approved a district Sustainability Plan, which is an integral part of the district's strategic plan and supports the board's policy on environmentally sustainable practices (BP 3214). Among the 11 long-term goals laid out in the plan are reducing energy consumption, increasing self-generated energy capacity, reducing water use, and initiating tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases. Read the Sustainability Plan on the district website at [http://www.fhda.edu/about us](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us).

Associated Students budgets: Student leaders from Foothill and De Anza presented their 2010-11 Associated Students budgets, which the board approved. Students from each campus gave an overview of income and expenses, and discussed how difficult it was in the current fiscal environment to decide which student and campus programs to support. At De Anza, a fundamental funding criterion in the \$1.04 million budget was student success. At Foothill, goals for the \$533,900 budget included maintaining vital student services, enrollment and satisfaction during difficult times. Responding to a question from Trustee **Betsy Bechtel**, Foothill students said the ASFC's substantial ending fund balance could be considered for future special projects such as providing students with Eco Passes to reduce mass transit costs. Each of the trustees thanked the students for their thoughtful decisions, professional presentations and financial support of important campus programs.

Whistleblower protection: Chancellor Thor presented the first reading of a whistleblower protection policy in keeping with state education and labor codes. The policy is intended to protect employees from retaliation for reporting allegations of unlawful activity and provides a process for handling such allegations.

Donation of surplus computers: One computer and 26 monitors that have been replaced with new equipment will be donated following board approval to the Computer Donation and Scholarship Program operated by the district's Occupational Training Institute at De Anza. Students who are training as computer technicians will refurbish the computers, which then will be awarded to financially needy Foothill and De Anza students.

Constellation Energy: The board ratified a one-year agreement with Constellation NewEnergy Inc. for the provision of electricity for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The new rate will save the district \$250,000 over the current-year rate.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

Trustees approved extending the service of **Eloise Orrell** as interim vice president of instruction and institutional research at Foothill College through June 30, 2011.

The board approved **Robin Latta-Lyssenko** working out of classification as associate director of development at the Foothill-De Anza Foundation through Sept. 30, 2010, during the search for a new foundation executive director.

Trustees approved the promotion of **Weiming Qian** to distance learning supervisor at De Anza.

The board approved professional growth awards for the following employees: At Foothill, **Susanne Hinds** in language arts; at De Anza, **Thao Nguyen** and **Janet Schmidt** in financial aid, **Irene Niazov** in library services, and **Mai Thai** in college operations; and at Central Services, **Richard Gaca** in ETS.

Trustees approved longevity awards for the following employees: At Foothill, **Dolores Brown** in educational resources and instruction; **Mrinmaie Deshpande** in admissions and records; **Elizabeth Hunter** in P.E. and human performance, and **Donna Rosenthal** in fine arts and communications; at De Anza, **Diana Argabrite** in creative arts, **Susan Bloom** in financial aid, **Hannah Pahl** in special education, **So Kim Te** in academic services and **Gail Vandiver** in counseling; and at Central Services, **Christopher Engstrume Jr.** in district safety and security.

HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

This was the last board meeting of the year for the two student trustees, **Isabelle Barrientos Vargas** from De Anza and **Erica Anderson** from Foothill. On behalf of the board, Board President **Swenson** commended them and presented them with mementos of their service. He joked that the student trustees had demonstrated courage by voting opposite of the elected board members on a regular basis. From the audience, De Anza student **José Romero** thanked the student trustees for their hard work during a difficult budget year. Barrientos Vargas will attend UC Berkeley and Anderson is going to UCLA.

Associated Students of Foothill College President **Ahmed Mostafa** announced that he is working on a resolution opposing Arizona Senate Bill 1070, which he said encourages racial profiling, and urged the board to do the same.

Instructor **Bill Mathiasen** from De Anza's Cooperative Education program spoke about the importance of co-op ed for returning students who are struggling to complete college while juggling full-time work and family responsibilities. He said the program, which is being eliminated for budgetary reasons, helps 1,000 students a year at a cost of about \$150 each.

Foothill faculty member **Ken Horowitz** commented on the chancellor's salary and urged the board to consider reducing the number of high-level administrators. He also

questioned the timing of polling for a parcel tax. Horowitz expressed appreciation for the contributions of **Marie Fox Ellison** during her service as the foundation's executive director.

Association of Classified Employees (ACE) President **Blanche Monary** reported on progress made in placing employees facing layoff into new positions.

Noting scientific evidence that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, Foothill faculty member **Robert Cormia** called upon trustees to strengthen enforcement of the campus policy that restricts smoking to campus parking lots. He advocated for a "zero tolerance" policy for violations, with penalties including suspension and expulsion.

Chancellor Thor reported that De Anza President **Brian Murphy** received a standing ovation for his keynote address on the California Master Plan for Higher Education delivered April 15 at the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges annual conference. De Anza Academic Senate President **Anne Argyriou** said that Murphy's presentation energized participants and was the highlight of the conference.

Chancellor Thor noted that Foothill College President **Judy Miner** has been elected to the board of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and congratulated the Foothill faculty, staff and administrators for successfully hosting **Bill Gates'** visit to the campus April 20. Gates was so engaged with what he learned at Foothill about Math My Way that he tweeted about it and mentioned it in interviews several days later.

Thor also reported that the district has contracted with TBWB and Godbe Research to poll district voters from May 8-16 on their support for a Foothill-De Anza parcel tax. The results will be presented at the board's June 7 meeting.

Foothill President Miner and Trustee **Joan Barram** expressed appreciation for those involved with the Slow the Flow Water Wise Landscape Conference held on campus April 24. The event, initiated by environmental horticulture students **Kathleen** and **Mark Santora** and staffed by students, staff and Foothill Commission volunteers, attracted more than 185 area residents to the campus. President Miner also congratulated mathematics faculty member **Young Hee Park Lee** for the successful Let's Play Math event for children and families on the same day, as well as those responsible for a successful Day on the Hill event April 28, which she said attracted more than 400 local high school students.

De Anza President Murphy reported on the successful teaching and learning conference for community college faculty, staff and students that was organized earlier this month by the De Anza Academic Senate. He also congratulated organizers and participants in the Awakening the Dreamer symposium on environmental sustainability sponsored by De Anza student groups and the city of Cupertino. Murphy acknowledged the good work of De Anza's marketing department, which recently won two first-place awards in a statewide competition for a college brochure and guide. He commented on recent successes of several De Anza athletic teams and proudly noted that De Anza has 75 scholar-athletes who have grade point averages between 3.0 and 4.0.

Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** reported on the planned release this week of a major study from the California Tax Reform Association, which he said would recommend a split-tax roll to correct inequities between the property tax burdens of homeowners and businesses, which have widened over the decades since passage of Proposition 13.

Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** reported on Foothill's annual student business plan competition organized by faculty member **Glenn Violett**, for which she served as a judge, and complimented the activism of Foothill and De Anza students. She mentioned ASFC President Mostafa's work protesting the new Arizona immigration law and noted that one of the speakers at a recent immigration rally in San Jose was a De Anza student.

Trustee Barram commented on the success of a recent community open house at Foothill's Middlefield Campus and how complimentary community members are about the work going on there. She also reported on a recent farewell event celebrating Ellison's accomplishments as the foundation's executive director.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled at De Anza on Monday, June 7 at 6 p.m. in Conference Rooms A & B at Hinson Campus Center. Please check the agenda to verify time and location. 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*.