



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Vincent Mendoza • Antonia Zavala

Board meeting of June 3, 2013

SOME HEADLINES

Trustees reviewed or approved:

- Swearing in of new student trustees for 2013-14
- Innovation of the Year award
- Renewal of Higher One for disbursing financial aid
- Report on open educational resources at the colleges
- Update on the 2013-14 tentative budget
- New hires, retirements, training stipends and Professional Growth Awards

To see background information for any of the items that appear below, go to <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/fhda/Board.nsf/Public>. Click on the meeting of June 3, 2013 and then click on "View the Agenda" to access all supporting documents.

INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

Swearing in of student trustees: Chancellor **Linda Thor** administered the oath of office to the newly elected student trustees for 2013-14, **Anita Adams** representing De Anza and **Alex Baker** representing Foothill. Trustee **Joan Barram** will be a mentor to Student Trustee Adams and Trustee **Pearl Cheng** will mentor Student Trustee Baker.

Trustee Scholarship recognition: Trustees and scholarship committee members **Laura Casas** and **Cheng** introduced **Andy Ngo**, the De Anza winner of this year's Trustee Scholarship. Andy was a star athlete who sustained a serious injury in high school, which forced him to rethink his priorities and face his challenges. He came to De Anza, took developmental education classes and went on to succeed in biology and chemistry classes. A biology and kinesiology major, he hopes to go on to become a sports medicine doctor. The Trustee Scholarship was created in 2003 and is funded by current and former elected trustees. The Foothill scholarship winner will be recognized at the June 17 board meeting.

Innovation of the Year Award: De Anza College President **Brian Murphy** congratulated the team behind the Student Facilitator Training Program, selected as the college's Innovation of the Year (<http://www.deanza.edu/achievements/facilitator-training-program.html>). The award is an opportunity offered to member colleges by the League for Innovation in the Community College to recognize innovations by faculty, staff and administrators that improve service to students. Information about the winning programs is shared nationally.

President Murphy said the training program provides leadership opportunities for students to facilitate and manage meetings for students, faculty and staff – roles they wouldn't typically

play in an academic setting. He particularly acknowledged the work speech Instructor program leader **Donna Stasio**, who gave a presentation on the program. She credited “a phenomenal team of colleagues” for the program’s success, and said working with the group has changed her ideas about partnerships and collaboration as well as student learning and empowerment. Branching out from the college’s Partners in Learning Conference, De Anza students have used their training to facilitate other meetings on campus and in the community. The team continues to look for ways to improve the program.

Foundation board report: Trustee Barram reported that at its most recent meeting, the Foothill-De Anza Foundation board of directors discussed the foundation’s \$100 million fundraising goal; reviewed a strategic plan presented by board member **Kathleen Santora**; and discussed the feasibility of a fundraising campaign for the education center at Onizuka. She said that **Martin Neiman**, the board’s treasurer, reported on a meeting with De Anza students who have asked the foundation to remove several oil companies from its investment portfolio. He said the students were respectful, well informed, articulate and ready to listen and engage. Several board members support divestment, Trustee Barram said, and the companies in question represent only a small part of the portfolio. Further discussion about this is expected.

Audit & Finance report: Trustee **Bruce Swenson** reported on a recent meeting of the board’s Audit & Finance Committee, which includes four public members and two trustees. Discussion topics included audits for the coming year, transferring money for the district’s unfunded retiree medical benefits liability, refinancing certificates of participation to get lower interest rates and the proper level of district reserves. Trustee Casas, who serves on the committee with Trustee Swenson, said the district is fortunate to have such adept public members on the committee.

Higher One renewal: More than a dozen De Anza students politely expressed their concerns regarding the district’s three-year renewal of a contract with Higher One for disbursing financial aid. The students focused primarily on fees associated with using the Higher One card and having limited access to Higher One ATMs. Founded in 2000 by two Yale University students, the financial services company has come under fire nationally for excessive fees and inadequate disclosure. In a settlement with regulators last year, it agreed to change some of its practices.

Before the students spoke, Vice Chancellor of Business Services **Kevin McElroy** reported on improvements by Higher One contained in the new agreement with Foothill-De Anza. These include charging the district a flat rate of \$5,000 annually rather than the previous per-student charge, which cost about \$15,000 a year; eliminating some of the fees charged to students, including one for account inactivity; and providing students with options to have financial aid money deposited directly into their own checking accounts or receiving a check, thus avoiding use of a Higher One account with its associated fees. For students who don’t already have bank accounts, he said, U.S. Bank offers free checking accounts to students, including students who don’t have a Social Security card. He noted that Higher One is adding an additional indoor ATM at Foothill and De Anza this summer so there will be two Higher One ATMs on each campus. Higher One charges students a fee for using its card to withdraw cash at a “foreign” ATM or using it like a debit card for purchases. (Higher One ATMs are available only on college campuses and are not accessible when the buildings are closed.)

Students and trustees readily agreed that more information is needed to help students understand their financial aid options from the start. If the card is managed correctly, there don’t have to be any fees, said board President **Betsy Bechtel**. But several students said that the Higher One card arrives in the mail without information about how to avoid fees, what the

fees are or what alternatives exist. A few said they didn't know the Higher One card was the way to access their financial aid, and when they didn't use the card they were charged a fee. President Murphy said the college is working on a plan to boost students' financial literacy generally, not just in regard to financial aid.

Students asked that the Higher One contract be extended only for one year while the district looks for a new provider. However, the agreement had come to the board only for ratification. Acting on the authority delegated to him, Vice Chancellor McElroy had signed off earlier on the three-year extension because the agreement was expiring and Higher One had committed to substantial improvements. He said it would take up to 12 months lead time to find and select a new provider and dedicate the time and resources needed to integrate the complex new software with the district's information management system.

Trustees voted 3-2, with Trustees Casas and Cheng voting "no," to ratify the agreement and form a committee of administrators and students to review Higher One practices and solutions. Trustee Swenson said Higher One should be made aware of the level of concern expressed by students and the board, the amount of opposition to their practices and the need for further change. Trustees complimented the students on being well informed and articulate.

Performing Arts Alliance: The board approved agreements for 2013-14 with seven community arts groups that make up the current Performing Arts Alliance. Foothill and the individual performing arts groups jointly operate the program to train qualified students age 14 and older in various areas of the performing arts through lecture, performance and laboratory courses. Participants are eligible to receive college credit. The participating groups include the California Youth Symphony, Cantabile Youth Singers, Children's Musical Theatre of San Jose, City Lights Theatre Company, El Camino Youth Symphony, Peninsula Youth Theatre and West Bay Opera.

Report on Open Educational Resources: Trustees received the 2013 report on use of open educational resources (OER) in the district. Prepared by **Judy Baker**, dean of Foothill Global Access, the report estimates that faculty use of open textbooks saved Foothill-De Anza students almost \$150,000 in spring 2013 alone. The bulk of the savings – \$129,556 – occurred at De Anza, where instructors in mathematics, business and economics have adopted open textbooks. Foothill instructors in economics and health saved students an estimated \$19,533 by using open textbooks. An example of the cost savings to an individual student with the open textbook *Applied Finite Mathematics*: \$0 for the book online (or \$13 to print it) versus about \$200 to buy a traditional new textbook.

The report also covers campus OER resources available to faculty and staff and plans to advance the use of OER. In 2004, Foothill-De Anza became the first community college district to adopt a board policy supporting use of public domain-based learning materials, now commonly known as open educational resources.

Budget update: Vice Chancellor McElroy presented the latest projections for the district's 2013-14 tentative budget, which will come to the board for action June 17. The district is currently projecting a structural budget deficit of \$3.2 million, down from \$10.2 million projected previously. Among the key reasons for the improvement are the governor's May budget revision proposing additional revenue for community colleges and an increase in the district's revenue from non-resident students combined with lower expenses projected in several areas, including a decrease in instructional costs due to the district's lower enrollment and vacant classified positions. The district currently projects it will have \$10.2 million from

the ending balance available for the Stability Fund to apply against budget deficits in 2013-14 and 2014-15. However, if enrollment continues to decline beyond current levels, the amount of the projected deficit could increase. Enrollment decline is now the major factor contributing to the district's structural budget deficit.

Vice Chancellor McElroy acknowledged **Joanie Hayes Lamprey** for her work in preparing the budget as interim budget director following **Bernata Slater's** move to Foothill College as vice president of educational resources.

HUMAN RESOURCES & PERSONNEL

Faculty employment: Trustees approved the employment of **Eric Reed**, as Foothill's Learning Resource Center director and instructor in PSME's supplemental learning program, effective Aug. 1.

Administrator retirements: The board approved the resignation for the purpose of retirements of De Anza Bookstore Director **Jeri Montgomery**, effective June 30.

Faculty retirements: Trustees approved the resignation for the purpose of retirement of De Anza Chemistry Instructor **Paul Calgher**, under Article 19 of the Faculty Association agreement, effective June 28, and English Instructor **Anne Paye**, effective June 28.

Classified employment: The board ratified employment of **Akosua Grant** as accommodations coordinator in Adaptive Learning & Disability Services at Foothill, effective June 3, and **Michael Teijeiro** as facilities and equipment coordinator in Kinesiology & Athletics at Foothill, effective May 17.

Classified retirements: Trustees approved the retirement of **Patricia Jobs**, campus payroll assistant at De Anza, effective June 21.

Training and retraining: Trustees approved training/retraining stipends for the following faculty and administrators: At Foothill, Registrar **Shawna Aced**, Counselor **LeeAnn Emanuel**, and Instructors **Jordana Finnegan**, **Bruce McLeod**, **Natalia Menendez**, **Phyllis Spragge**, **Voltaire Villanueva** and **Bonny Wheeler**; at De Anza, Dining Services Director **Patrick Gannon**, Counselor **Pauline Wethington** and Instructors **David Capitolo**, **Steve Howland**, **Cynthia Lee-Klawender**, **Sandra Spencer** and **Linda Yee**; and in Central Services, Human Resources Director **Suzanne Pfeiffer**.

Professional Growth Awards: Trustees ratified Professional Growth Awards for **Veronica Aparicio**, senior evaluation specialist in Student Services at De Anza; **Linda Robinson**, Language Arts instructional associate at Foothill; and **Carol Skoog**, accounts payable assistant in Central Services.

REPORTS & HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Presidents' comments: Foothill President **Judy Miner** reported that the Family Engagement Institute (FEI) at Foothill College has received a \$150,000, three-year grant from the United Way of Silicon Valley, and that FEI's Stretch to Kindergarten program was the beneficiary of last week's Foothill is a Gem fundraiser sponsored by the Foothill Commission. She noted that **Mark Millet**, who she met through a connection at the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce,

is donating solar panels to the college to provide a hands-on learning experience for students participating in the new energy curriculum. She reported that Foothill's enrollment for the early summer session, which starts June 10, is up 5 percent over last year and close to goal.

De Anza President Murphy urged trustees to attend the colleges' year-end celebrations, calling them the culmination of years of collective work by students, faculty and staff. He noted that 575 people were expected to attend The Democracy Commitment's national meeting June 6-8 in Denver, including community colleges and four-year institutions. He reported that De Anza students have launched an anti-sweatshop, anti-child labor initiative focused on student apparel.

Chancellor's comments: Chancellor Thor reported on a recent meeting of the Chancellor's Business and Industry Advisory Council, which was formed earlier this year. She said employers on the council had great ideas about opportunities for the district's new education center at the decommissioned Onizuka Air Force Station, and that she would report on them as part of a presentation on education center plans at the board's June 17 meeting. She commented on attending campus year-end celebrations, which she said confirm all the good work done at the colleges throughout the year.

Trustee comments: Trustee Swenson congratulated Trustee Casas on receiving the Status of Women Award from the American Association of University Women's Los Altos-Mountain View branch. He said the award reflects how well she connects with people and represents the board and district in the community. Trustee Casas spoke about the Puente Project, whose year-end celebration she recently attended at De Anza. It is one of many outstanding programs that support student success in our district, she said. Trustee Barram reported on the Silicon Valley Leadership Group's regional economic forum that she attended with the chancellor as well a number of year-end celebrations. She recounted a conversation with De Anza's **Susanne Chan** who told her that former De Anza president Robert DeHart's motto was "constant, purposeful innovation." It's something she said she is keeping at the top of her mind.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, June 17 at 6 p.m. in 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*.