



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Etienne Bowie • Thomasina Russaw

### Board meeting of June 7, 2010

#### STUDY SESSION

**Parcel tax:** Consultants **Bryan Godbe** and **Amelia Davidson** of Godbe Research presented detailed results of the firm's polling in May of a representative sample of more than 800 likely district voters about their attitudes toward a possible Foothill-De Anza parcel tax to protect the colleges from state budget cuts. Before hearing arguments for and against the tax and how the proceeds might be used, 71 percent of respondents said they would definitely or probably support a \$69-per-year parcel tax. After being informed of pro and con arguments and the possible uses for a tax, 75 percent said they would definitely or probably support it.

Some 70 percent of those polled had either attended or had someone in their household who had attended Foothill or De Anza.

The results show that voters have a strong interest in maintaining the quality of public education at local community colleges. Respondents placed the highest value on using tax proceeds for maintaining math, science, writing and core academic classes; preparing students for careers in math, engineering and science; and offering an adequate number of classes and labs. They also recognized the value of a wide range of other academic programs and services. There was more support for a tax that lasted four years or six years than eight years.

Chancellor **Linda Thor** noted that a \$69-per-parcel tax would raise between \$6 million and \$6.9 million annually, which is still short of the \$15 million in funding that was cut from the district's budget last year. Trustees noted that they were eager to see whether the San Mateo County Community College District would succeed in passing a \$34 parcel tax on the June 8 ballot. (*Note: Unofficial tallies show it passed with 66.9 percent of the vote, but mail-in ballots were still being counted.*)

Consultant **Charles Heath** of TBWB Strategies told trustees that while the polling results are very positive, substantial communications are needed with area residents to inform them of the district's fiscal situation and how it is affecting programs and services for students.

Trustees said they were pleased with the poll results and the positive relationship the district has with its community. The board will meet on June 14 to decide upon next steps, including whether to fund a districtwide public information campaign to inform residents about Foothill-De Anza's financial challenges; options it is considering,

including a parcel tax; and soliciting public input. Such an information campaign is estimated to cost \$150,000 to \$200,000 from the unrestricted General Fund balance. The board would not vote until Aug. 2, when it will hold a public hearing, on whether to place a parcel tax on the November 2010 ballot.

The cost of a political campaign to pass a parcel tax is estimated at \$275,000 to \$325,000, which is money that must be raised privately. Santa Clara County has estimated the district's share of November election costs at \$350,000.

## REGULAR MEETING

### BOARD BUSINESS

**Student trustees:** Chancellor Thor administered the oath of office and the board welcomed new student trustees – **Etienne Bowie** from Foothill, known as E.T., and **Thomasina Countess Russaw** from De Anza.

**Trustee scholarship:** Trustees **Joan Barram** and **Laura Casas Frier** introduced **Joseph Chong**, a full-time student at De Anza who was chosen to receive the annual Trustees Scholarship from among eight finalists. Chong spoke about the inspiring experiences he's had at De Anza and thanked trustees, who said they asked Chong some hard questions during the scholarship interview and that he asked them some hard questions back.

### ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

**Budget Update: Mike Brandy** reported that the governor's May budget revision would have little effect on the district's revenue and expenditure expectations for 2010-11. While the governor's budget protects higher education from further deep cuts, the state is facing another budget deficit of approximately \$20 million. Brandy said most observers believe the Legislature will spread some of that pain to higher education. However, because of careful stewardship and close cooperation between the district and its unions, Foothill-De Anza could absorb \$5 million to \$6 million in additional state funding reductions in 2010-11 without having to eliminate more positions. He said a tentative budget will be presented to the board June 21 that shows \$2 million more in revenues than expenditures. That is money he said could be used to preserve Escrow 2 positions that have been identified for elimination June 30, 2011.

**State of the college:** De Anza President **Brian Murphy** presented the annual state-of-the-college report, which included the recently completed Educational Master Plan 2010-2015. He noted that enrollment of first-time-to-college Latino students has increased by 77 percent over the past three years; that 43 percent of De Anza students attend full-time, 63 percent are 24 or older; and that 16 percent of all Santa Clara County high school graduates attend De Anza. He reported that associate degrees awarded is on the rise. The annual report and master plan may be viewed at <http://www.deanza.edu/president/publications.html>.

Murphy praised the efforts of faculty, staff and particularly students for their advocacy work this year in calling the public's attention to the state's disinvestment in public higher education and what is at stake. Associated Student Body President **Marlo Custodio** reported on student government efforts that are being planned to assist students, including food voucher, bike rental and bus pass programs, and introduced next year's student body president-elect **Ze-Kun Li**. The students presented a video of their activism efforts over the year. Their efforts will be featured as part of a Student Activist Art Show on Friday, June 10 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at De Anza's Euphrat Museum.

The report won high praise from trustees. Murphy acknowledged the staff who played key roles in producing the report and Educational Master Plan, including **Lois Jenkins, Lori Susi, Andrew LaManque, Patricia Fifield, Alex Kramer, Mae Lee, Marisa Spatafore, Robert Stockwell** and shared governance leaders whose participation helped shape the master plan.

**Whistleblower policy:** The board approved 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.

**New associate degree:** Trustees authorized Foothill College to apply to the state for approval to offer an associate degree in diagnostic medical sonography.

**De Anza bike storage:** The board approved a contract for \$153,000 to R.C. Benson & Sons, Inc. for installation of 109 bicycle racks and 100 lockers in a secure fenced area in front of the Student & Community Services Building.

**Lease leaseback:** Trustees approved the selection of Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co. for a lease-leaseback agreement to build the Physical Sciences and Engineering Center (PSEC) at Foothill. This approach is designed to allow public agencies to obtain the highest quality at the lowest cost by negotiating a guaranteed price maximum in advance to avoid costly post-construction lawsuits. The contract covers preconstruction and construction services and the contractor's contingency, overhead and profit. Negotiations on the guaranteed price maximum are expected to be completed by this fall and the result presented to the board in October.

Under this approach, the district will lease the land to Hathaway Dinwiddie, which will construct the PSEC. The district will pay for the project incrementally and, upon its completion, will have gained full title to the constructed property. The lease-leaseback delivery method is becoming increasingly common among public agencies, but because this is the first time the district has used it, the board authorized the filing of a validation action in Santa Clara County Superior Court to get a ruling that this method complies with all applicable laws.

Some 18 companies submitted statements of qualifications for the project; eight were disqualified and the four top-ranked companies were interviewed. The district also expects to use the lease-leaseback method for the Mediated Learning Center at De Anza.

## HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

**Employment:** Trustees approved employment of the following personnel. In Central Services, **Andrew LaManque** as executive director of institutional research, and at Foothill, new faculty members **Rachelle A. Campbell**, radiologic technology; **Milissa M. Carey**, music; **Lisa Drake**, accounting; **Tiffany Rush**, respiratory therapy; **Jennifer M. Sinclair**, mathematics; and **Teresa A. Zwack**, mathematics.

Other new hires approved by the board include **Gregory Lester**, a facilities and equipment assistant in PE at Foothill, and **Amanda Robinson**, human resources specialist in Central Services.

**Promotions:** The board approved promotions for the following employees. In Central Services, **Wilbert Hollins** to a workstation and system support technician position in ETS, **Erik La Grange** to network and communications technician in ETS, and **Donna Toyohara** to assistant to the chancellor; at De Anza, **Sandra Blackborow** to instructional support coordinator and **Yuan Hern Kuo** to instructional support technician in the Student Success Center, and **Hiu (Rachel) Tai** to cashiering services supervisor in college operations.

**Professional growth awards:** Trustees approved professional growth awards for the following employees. In Central Services, **Elvia Navarro**, **Terri Vijeh** and **Paul Zink**; at De Anza, **Laura Bell**, **Mi Chang**, **Bachmai Kha**, **Griselda Sigala-Aguilar** and **So Kim Te**; and at Foothill, **Tung Duong**.

## HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Foothill President **Judy Miner** congratulated history instructor **Dolores Davison** upon her election to the executive council of the statewide Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. She also noted an article written for the California Community Colleges' publication TechEDge by physics instructor **Frank Cascarano** on the success he's had using webcasting and tablets in engaging students.

Chancellor Thor reported that she has been appointed by U.S. Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan** to serve on the national Committee on Measures of Student Success. The committee is charged with recommending ways for two-year degree-granting institutions to comply with new federal provisions for disclosing college graduation and completion rates.

Vice Chancellor of Technology **Fred Sherman** reported that the district would soon successfully register its 10,000<sup>th</sup> student using Banner, thanks to the hard work of faculty and staff who got the student module up and running.

Foothill instructor **Ken Horowitz** spoke in favor of moving forward with the parcel tax, saying it is essential to preserving important programs. He suggested that all faculty

and staff donate one-quarter of one percent of their salary to help underwrite the campaign. He also thanked **Andy Dunn, Kim Chief Elk** and **Gil Delgado** for their service to the district and urged the board to keep Middlefield as the district's third campus.

Trustee Casas Frier reported on attending the legislative advisory committee of the Community College League of California and expressed concern about a bill that she said would tie funding of community colleges to student outcomes. She urged the district to gather together a cross-section of representatives to attend League-sponsored advocacy days June 22 and July 20.

Outgoing Foothill College Associated Students President **Ahmed Mostafa** thanked President Miner, Chancellor Thor, Trustee Casas Frier and Foothill faculty member Davison for taking part in student events during the year and assisting his work as president. He urged trustees to use students to their full advantage in advocating for Foothill-De Anza and community colleges.

De Anza students **José Romero** and **Isabelle Barrientos Vargas**, who recently completed a term as De Anza student trustee, spoke against Arizona law SB 1070 and said they plan to ask the board to endorse a resolution against it.

Instructor **Bill Mathiasen** and several De Anza students spoke about the benefits to students of the Cooperative Education program, which is being eliminated as part of budget reductions.

## **NEXT MEETING**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, June 14 at 5 p.m. in the district Board Room. The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 21 at 6 p.m. at Foothill College's Hearthside Lounge. 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/](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](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes) after their approval at the subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at [bartindalebecky@fhda.edu](mailto:bartindalebecky@fhda.edu) or extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.