



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

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

Board meeting of Aug. 2, 2010

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Parcel tax: After a public hearing, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a measure on the Nov. 2 ballot asking district voters to approve a parcel tax of \$69 annually per property, for a period of six years, to support Foothill and De Anza colleges. If approved, the measure would raise about \$6.9 million annually. Funding from the measure would be used to:

- o Maintain core academic classes such as math, science, and writing
- o Prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering and math
- o Restore funding to increase the number of classes and lab offerings
- o Prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in a timely manner
- o Improve support services for students with disabilities
- o Keep libraries open and maintain critical library services and resources
- o Prepare students for careers in computers and emerging technology
- o Maintain job re-training programs
- o Provide essential student and support services

The measure would not be used for administrator salaries or benefits, and there would be citizen oversight.

During the public hearing, three district residents spoke in favor of the funding measure - **Ginny Lear** of Los Altos, **Barbara Klein** of Stanford and **Rob Lancefield** of Palo Alto.

De Anza student **Cain Ramirez** and Associated Students of Foothill College President **Gustavo Okamura** also spoke in support, as did district employees **Blanche Monary**, president of the Association of Classified Employees (ACE), and **Jennifer Dirking**, associate director of the Foothill-De Anza Foundation. As an alternative to seeking additional funding, San Jose resident **Ken Colson** urged the board to eliminate intercollegiate sports and reduce PE activity classes for community residents who are not working toward a degree.

Trustees said the funding measure is essential to maintaining access to affordable, quality higher education for community residents in the wake of \$20 million in state cuts to Foothill and De Anza, particularly when California's budget deficits are expected to continue for several more years.

Foothill Student Trustee **Etienne Bowie** called the measure a long-term investment that would add strength to the economy. Without it, he said, many students will miss out on education opportunities.

Pearl Cheng, vice president of the board, noted that polling by the district was carefully designed to take the pulse of the community, and showed that likely voters were willing to support a funding measure for Foothill and De Anza because they understand the important role the colleges play in the local community and regional economy. Support from two-thirds of those voting is required for the measure's passage.

League for Innovation: At the urging of Chancellor **Linda Thor**, trustees unanimously backed a statement of support for reaffirmation of the district's membership on the board of the League for Innovation in the Community College. Foothill-De Anza is one of the League's charter board members and one of only 19 colleges or districts serving on the board of the internationally influential community college organization. The reaffirmation process is triggered by a change in top leadership, and requires the district to demonstrate its commitment to innovation, experimentation and institutional transformation, among other things. A self-study is being prepared for submission and League representatives will visit the district and meet with the board later this year.

University Associates: **Charles Allen**, executive director of facilities, operations and construction management for the district, provided a report to trustees from a recent meeting of the University Associates - Silicon Valley LLC, the organization of institutions that is working to develop an educational community at the NASA-Ames Research Park. The board discussed proposed changes to the ground lease with NASA that are critical to the project moving forward and the status of the clean-up of toxic chemicals under the development site.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

The board approved the employment at De Anza of **Rowena Tomaneng** as associate vice president of instruction and **Randy Claros** and **Jue Thao** as counselors.

For Foothill, trustees approved the employment of **Angela Su** as program director and instructor in biological and health sciences.

Trustees also approved employment of several deans - at Foothill, **Mark Anderson** as dean of fine arts and communications and **Michael Legarza** as dean of physical education and human performance and at De Anza, **Edmundo Norte** as dean of intercultural and international studies.

The board approved the hiring of three custodians, **Gioi Duong** at De Anza and **David Hutchinson** and **Keith Richardson** at Central Services.

Trustees approved a promotion for **Craig Gawlick** to executive assistant in business services.

STUDY SESSION

Update on grants office: **Richard Galope**, vice president of workforce development & instruction, reported on the progress of the district's new Grants and Resource Development Office. Launched in April, the office coordinates and focuses efforts of the colleges and district to competitively pursue grants and federal earmarks. In 2010, more than \$1 billion in competitive federal grant opportunities were available to community colleges, Galope reported, and Congress funded \$15+ billion in earmark requests, of which \$80 million went to community colleges. He said the grants office generally would target funding opportunities of \$500,000 or more, but noted it has gathered resources that will help individual faculty and staff members pursue smaller grants. The office is focused on funding that aligns with the district's strategic commitments and the colleges' priority initiatives in the areas of basic skills, civic engagement, open educational resources, STEM, student success, transfer preparation and workforce development.

Assignments of existing personnel were restructured to staff the grants office; most continue to have other duties. Joining Galope are **Rick Kuhn**, director of economic and resource development; **Ellen Miller**, program developer; and **Skip Barnes**, workforce development. To date, the office has applied for three grants and received funding for one, in the amount of \$1.25 million. Five additional grant proposals, totaling \$15.5 million, have been submitted or are under way. See the full presentation at <http://fhdafiles.fhda.edu/downloads/aboutfhda/1.GrantsandResourceDevelopme.pdf>

Bond projects and construction management: In a series of presentations, Executive Director Allen presented background on bond-funded facilities projects, how change orders are handled, how architects and engineers are compensated, and reviewed the district's five-year construction plan. He noted that the district hopes to have Division of State Architect approval this fall on the Physical Sciences and Engineering Center (PSEC) at Foothill and the Mediated Learning Center (MLC) at De Anza. Both buildings have won design awards. Based in part on lessons learned from Measure E, Allen said the district has brought change orders to below the industry standard. He said he hopes the new lease-leaseback approach being used for the PSEC and MLC will further lower the percentage. Trustees thanked Allen and his team for their excellent work.

Hiring authority: The board agreed to a proposal presented by **Dorene Novotny**, vice chancellor of human resources and equal opportunity, to delegate approval of most hiring decisions to the chancellor, subject to later board ratification, in cases where waiting for the board's approval would cause delays in hiring. Exceptions still requiring advance approval by the board are chancellor's staff- and presidential-level positions. Currently all personnel transactions are taken to the board for approval in advance. Novotny said that practice at times has delayed hiring for critical positions and contributed to mistakes resulting from rushing to meet board deadlines, which then take more time to correct. Trustees also agreed to a more abbreviated reporting format for personnel actions to reduce the amount of staff time spent preparing

background material for the board. Novotny said the changes are necessary efficiencies given the reduction in staffing across the district.

REPORTS AND HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT THE AGENDA

President **Judy Miner** thanked trustees for attending Foothill's Summer Musical Gala on July 25. She reported that the college had been evacuated successfully in 12 minutes as part of a recent fire drill organized by **Denise Swett, Pat Hyland, Brenda Visas Davis** and **Ron Levine**.

President **Brian Murphy** reported on the participation of three De Anza students in a 540-mile bicycle trip from Northern California to Southern California to call attention to the situation faced by AB 540 students and to promote the Dream Act. The administrative team at De Anza has pledged \$540 to support the ride, and Murphy urged others to make pledges through **Jennifer Dirking** at the Foothill-De Anza Foundation, who has donated a bike for the ride. The bike ride begins Aug. 12.

Chancellor Thor reported on meetings she and Trustees **Joan Barram, Bruce Swenson** and **Laura Casas Frier** held during the July recess with state legislators, including Senator **Elaine Alquist** and Assembly members **Ira Ruskin** and **Paul Fong**. She and Trustee Betsy Bechtel will meet with U.S. Rep. **Anna Eshoo** next week. Thor also reported on information she'd gained at a recent EDUCAUSE board meeting about innovative ways to acquire technology software and services by aggregating demand across institutions.

Trustee Casas Frier complimented the chancellor for her knowledge of the district, gained in a short time, and her outstanding communication skills.

Board President Swenson reported news that **Ken Frier**, the husband of Trustee Casas Frier, is moving from a top position at Hewlett-Packard to become chief investment officer for Stanford University, helping to manage the university's \$12.6 billion endowment.

De Anza Student Trustee **Thomasina Russaw** reported on attending Camp Wellstone with other De Anza student leaders to learn organizing and leadership skills.

Former instructor **Bill Mathiasen** urged the board to consider reinstating the Cooperative Education program at De Anza, which allows working students to maintain full-time status with a work experience education course at the job site.

Setting the record straight: The last edition of Board Highlights incorrectly placed newly hired PE instructor **Danielle M. Altman** at the wrong campus. She's joining the team at De Anza. A title change was omitted for Foothill dean **Judy Baker**, who is now dean of technology and innovation.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. in the District Board Room. Please check the agenda to verify time and location. Agendas generally 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 (650) 949-6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.