



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

Board meeting of Dec. 5, 2011

THE HEADLINES

The Board of Trustees acted on:

- The election of new officers
- Financial and performance audits for the year ending June 30
- A new hire, extension of acting assignments and professional growth awards

Trustees heard about:

- Accomplishments of faculty, staff and students
- A grant for advancing cross-cultural communications
- A successful community event highlighting Foothill and De Anza

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Election of officers: Trustees elected **Joan Barram** as president and **Laura Casas Frier** as vice president of the board. "This is an exciting and challenging time for community colleges," Barram said. "There is increasing recognition of the importance of community colleges and the transitions from high school to college and the workforce. I think we've done a good job at Foothill and De Anza in spite of budget cuts, and I love the student focus at both colleges."

Among her goals as president, Barram said, is "reaching out to our communities and school districts, making sure they know what's available at Foothill and De Anza and highlighting the successes our students are having in college and the workforce."

Board members commended outgoing president **Pearl Cheng** for her leadership throughout 2011. Chancellor **Linda Thor** also thanked her for exemplary service. "Despite the challenges," the chancellor said, "we have accomplished many things in the past year – reaffirmation of membership in the League for Innovation; completion of the process for reaffirmation of accreditation at both colleges by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges; identifying a permanent location for the district's education center; and maintaining financial stability in the face of significant budget cuts."

After being seated, President Barram made the following appointments: Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** will continue as chair of the district's Audit & Finance Committee; Trustee Casas Frier will join the Audit & Finance Committee; and Trustees **Bruce Swenson** and Cheng will serve on the Foothill-De Anza Foundation's Board of Directors and the committee that conducts interviews for the annual Trustee Scholarships.

INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

Audits for 2010-11: Terri Montgomery from the accounting firm Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., the district's independent auditor, reported on the results of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2011, as well as Measure C performance and financial audits. The auditor issued a clean, unqualified opinion and identified no material weaknesses for all audited records, including financial records and compliance with state and federal laws. The Measure C audits also were clean and unqualified. The external auditor concluded that the Measure C financial statements fairly present the financial position of the Measure C general obligation bonds as of June 30, and that bond funds were spent as authorized by the voters in accordance with California Proposition 39.

The board voted to accept the audit reports. Vice Chancellor of Finance Kevin McElroy thanked Controller **Hector Quinonez** and his staff, as well as staff in financial, student services and instructional offices at the colleges, for their excellent work in preparing for the audit.

Annual environmental compliance report: The board accepted the annual environmental compliance report prepared by Director of Environmental Health & Safety **Mona Voss**. Trustees commended her for the report and her ongoing work.

De Anza food service: Trustees approved five-year contracts with Una Mas Mexican Grill and Hong Fu Gourmet Chinese restaurant to continue providing food service at De Anza College.

HUMAN RESOURCES & PERSONNEL

New hires: Trustees approved the hiring of **Susan Gutkind** as dean of the Physical Education and Human Performance Division at Foothill.

Transfer: Trustees ratified the transfer of **Akemi Ishikawa** to an administrative assistant position in Foothill Global Access.

Extension of acting assignments: The board approved the extension of the following acting assignments at Foothill College through March 31, 2012 – **John Mummert**, interim vice president of Workforce Education; **Denise Swett**, acting vice president of Student Services and Instruction; and **Glenn Violett**, acting dean of the Business & Social Sciences Division.

Professional growth awards: Trustees approved Professional Growth Awards for the following employees – at Foothill, **Shelly Bowers**, an assistant in Admissions & Records, and library technician **Barbara Harding**; and in Central Services, police Sgt. **Stan Cross**, and **Erwin Widiarta** and **Jerrick Woo** in ETS.

REPORTS & HEARING OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Student comments: De Anza Associated Students President **Arvind Ravichandran** reported that students are discussing recommendations of the statewide Student Success Task Force. He expressed appreciation for the level of student involvement in the budget discussions taking place at the college and updated the board on plans for Occupy De Anza for Education.

Staff comments: De Anza Academic Senate President **Karen Chow** reported on the accomplishments of several De Anza faculty members. She said music instructor **Dan Mitchell**, whose nature photography has been featured in Backpacker and the Yosemite Conservancy magazines, now has 170 large-print photographs on display in guest rooms at the historic Stovepipe Wells Lodge in Death Valley National Park. She noted that De Anza mathematics instructor **Barbara Illowsky** is one of six people to receive a national excellence-in-teaching award from the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. The award recognizes teaching, ongoing professional development and leadership. She also congratulated those involved in De Anza's First Year Experience Program, which received honorable mention from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges for being an exemplary program. She said it was one of three programs in the state to receive Senate recognition.

Presidents' comments: Foothill College President **Judy Miner** reported on visiting the Foothill Academic Senate with district Police Chief **Ron Levine** and Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** to discuss the district's plan for handling civil disobedience and unrest on campus. She thanked Chief Levine for having an appropriate response plan. President Miner also noted that **Daniel Hardin**, a Foothill student recently featured in a San Jose Mercury News holiday Wish Book story, has received a laptop computer donated by **Gay Krause**, director of Foothill's Krause Center for Innovation.

De Anza President **Brian Murphy** commented that both colleges have received draft reports from their respective accreditation teams that are "very, very positive." He reported on a three-year grant awarded by The National Endowment for the Humanities to a partnership between the Association of American Colleges and the Democracy Commitment community college network, with leadership from De Anza. The grant will support a project that uses the humanities as a frame for cross-cultural communication and conversations about social justice. President Murphy reported that he has been invited to speak in January in Washington, D.C., to a summit organized by the American Commonwealth Partnership as it launches a year of advocacy to revitalize the civic purpose of higher education.

Chancellor's comments: Chancellor Thor reported that she has completed her work on U.S. Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan's** Committee on Measures of Student Success. She said she believes the committee has struck a good balance between further burdening colleges and finding measures that better represent the success of community colleges in carrying out their multi-faceted mission. The report now goes to Secretary Duncan for review and implementation.

At the invitation of Stanford education professor emeritus **Michael Kirst**, Chancellor Thor recently participated in a conference at Stanford about mapping a new agenda for research on broad-access (non-selective) educational institutions, including community colleges. Her role was to comment on the relevance and practicality of research proposals put forward by 45 participating social scientists from elite universities. She noted that it was an enlightening experience as she heard many misunderstandings and misconceptions about community colleges, and had an opportunity to correct some of them. At the same time, she said, she sees ways these researchers could potentially provide significant help to community colleges. The new research agenda is being funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Trustees' comments: Trustee Casas Frier reported on attending the annual convention of the Community College League of California (CCLC) in San Jose along with Trustee Barram and De Anza Student Trustee **Emily Kinner**. She also reported that the CCLC

hopes to develop online courses for trustees on such topics as ethics, the role of the trustee and fiscal responsibility.

Trustee Swenson reported on attending a community event in Palo Alto, organized by Foothill-De Anza Foundation board member **Kathy Torgersen**, to inform community members about community colleges in general and Foothill-De Anza in particular. He said the chancellor's comments were well received and suggested using the event as a model for similar gatherings elsewhere in the community. Trustee Betchel commented on a recent opinion piece in the Palo Alto Weekly highlighting Foothill-De Anza that she co-authored with Palo Alto Unified School District board member **Barbara Klausner** (See http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/story_print.php?story_id=15913)

De Anza Student Trustee Kinner invited attendance at an Open House being held Dec. 12 at the newly renovated East Cottage at De Anza. She commented on a panel discussion organized by De Anza's Academic and Classified senates to discuss recommendations of the Student Success Task Force. Trustee Kinner has spoken at a number of meetings regarding the task force's recommendations. She also commented on the successful Youth Voices United for Change conference held recently at De Anza for more than 300 high schools students. She noted that the Student Senate for the California Community Colleges is considering a resolution mandating district-level training for all student trustees.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, at 6 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. For more comprehensive information, you may consult the official minutes, which 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*.