



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

### Board meeting of June 20, 2011

#### THE HEADLINES (details below)

##### The Board of Trustees approved:

- A mandatory student fee at De Anza for Eco-Passes
- An ethics policy for Foothill-De Anza employees
- New courses and transfer degrees at both colleges
- The 2011-12 tentative budget

##### Trustees learned about:

- De Anza's self-study for reaffirmation of accreditation
- De Anza student Khalid Rasti, winner of a Trustees Scholarship
- Successful sale of \$184 million in Measure C bonds
- Projects to improve circulation at Foothill College

#### BOARD BUSINESS

**Mandatory student transportation fee:** Acting at the request of De Anza students, trustees approved a resolution implementing a mandatory \$5-per-quarter fee for full-time students (\$4 per quarter for part-time) to fund VTA Eco-Passes for students who commute to De Anza using public transportation. De Anza students voted 985-124 for the new fee, which will start this fall. De Anza Student Trustee **Emily Kinner** said current estimates are that about 1,000 students ride the bus to campus and that efforts will be made to increase that number. The board authorized collection of the fee for two years.

#### INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

**Trustees scholarship:** Trustee **Bruce Swenson** introduced Trustees Scholarship winner **Khalid Rasti**, a De Anza student, and presented him with a certificate of recognition. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to continuing students who demonstrate strong academic performance. Commenting to the board on his decision to return to school, Khalid cited the inspiration provided by his father, who left Afghanistan for a new life. Foothill scholarship winner Heidi Boch was introduced at a board meeting in June. Information about these two noteworthy students is available in the "News" section at <http://www.fhda.edu>. Current and former elected trustees fund the scholarship, which the board established in 2003.

**De Anza accreditation self-study:** President **Brian Murphy** presented the board with a draft of De Anza's self-study for reaffirmation of accreditation. He reviewed key aspects of the study, noting the enormous amount of work that has taken place since

the last self-study. He commented on the processes of establishing and assessing student learning-outcomes, and how the college has integrated learning outcomes, programs review and budget planning.

President Murphy expressed appreciation to those across the campus who participated in the self-study. He singled out for special thanks the work of **Marisa Spatafore**, marketing/communication director and accreditation liaison officer, and **Lois Jenkins**, marketing/communications program coordinator. He also thanked outgoing Academic Senate President **Gregory Anderson** for his leadership with the faculty.

Trustee **Joan Barram**, who participated in the Standard IV committee, said she was impressed with the inclusiveness of the self-study process, how many people were involved and how seriously they took the work.

Submission of the self-study to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges precedes the accreditation team's site visit, scheduled for Oct. 24-27. De Anza's self-study can be viewed at <http://www.deanza.edu/accreditation/>. Foothill presented its self-study draft to trustees in June.

**Measure C bond sale:** **John Sheldon** of Morgan Stanley underwriters presented a summary of the sale of \$184 million in district Measure C general obligation bonds. The Series C sale, which closed on June 9, was the third series the district has sold since voters passed Measure C in 2006.

Mr. Sheldon reported a highly successful sale. He said the district's credit ratings were the highest of any community college district in California – Aaa from Moody's Investors Service and AA from Standard & Poor's. Demand for the bonds was strong with \$347 million in initial orders for \$184 million in bonds. The final interest cost was 4.94%, the lowest of any issues to date, which compared favorably to the expected interest cost of 5.5%. The average tax rate for district property owners will be \$18.86 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Mr. Sheldon credited the positive outcome in large part to presentations to ratings analysts by Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** and Budget Director **Bernata Slater**.

**Foothill parking & circulation projects:** Foothill's **Shirley Treanor**, vice president of educational resources, and **Art Heinrich**, bond program director, presented design concepts for improvements to traffic circulation and parking on the campus. Funded through Measure C, the projects aim to improve vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle safety; traffic congestion and efficiency; storm water management; and Loop Road lighting and signage. Installing electric vehicle charging stations is also part of the project.

The plans feature a new way to enter and exit Foothill from Lot 1 and a new vehicle bridge across the creek. These changes are expected to improve pedestrian safety and reduce traffic by 20 percent at peak hours by minimizing the number of cars that have to travel the entire Loop Road to leave campus. Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** and Student Trustee Kinner pressed for additional bike path improvements.

**Ethics policy:** The board approved a new policy on standards of ethical conduct for employees developed as the result of the accreditation self-study process. The policy is a compilation of best practices in other community college districts and was reviewed by the Chancellor's Advisory Council before coming to the board. Board Policy 3121 may be viewed at [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/stories/storyReader\\$229](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/stories/storyReader$229)

**New courses:** The board approved dozens of new courses at both colleges. To see them, download the June 20 Board of Trustees agenda at [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/stories/storyReader\\$266](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/stories/storyReader$266) and click on Items #6 and #11 for Foothill and Item #7 for De Anza.

**Transfer degrees:** Trustees gave the go-ahead to both campuses to apply to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for approval of new transfer degrees. The proposed transfer degrees — in psychology and sociology at Foothill and communication studies and mathematics at De Anza — are designed for students who plan to complete a degree in a similar major at a California State University campus. It gives them preferential transfer status with junior standing to local CSU campuses that accept the transfer degrees. The new degrees are based on transfer model curriculum developed jointly by community college and CSU representatives. With some exceptions, students transferring to a CSU campus with a transfer degree would be required to complete no more than 60 units after transfer to earn a bachelor's degree.

Work on the model curriculum began after passage last year of Senate Bill 1440, the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, intended to streamline students' pathway between and within the segments of public higher education. Additional transfer model curriculum is expected shortly for associate transfer degrees in other academic fields.

**Tentative budget:** Vice Chancellor McElroy presented an overview of the 2011-12 tentative budget, which trustees subsequently approved. He noted that the projected ending balance of \$34.7 million from 2010-11 will be used to maintain the district's mandated 5 percent reserves (\$9.4 million), provide designated and restricted carryover funds to the colleges and Central Services (about \$11.5 million), and preserve the stability fund (\$13.8 million).

The district projects a \$22.8 million deficit for 2011-12. It will close the gap between income and expenses — and hopefully delay the widespread elimination of full-time positions until 2012-13 — largely by using one-time funds, including \$10.7 million from the stability fund and a portion of college and Central Services carryover. The budget includes a planned workload reduction to part-time faculty effective July 1, 2011, which would lower expenses by about \$6.5 million and affect 100-200 part-time faculty members.

Vice Chancellor McElroy characterized 2011-12 as a "transition year" with the district exhausting much of its one-time funding to delay the elimination of as many full-time positions as possible until June 30, 2012. He acknowledged the outstanding work of Budget Director Slater in preparing the budget. A final budget will be presented to the board in September. Trustee Swenson asked for more information about how the district is addressing declines in enrollment.

Commenting on the tentative budget, Foothill dental hygiene instructor **Ken Horowitz** said elimination of so many part-time faculty positions will hurt students by reducing the number of classes available to them when they have few other options. He asked the board to consider other alternatives such as structural changes and executive and administrative salary reductions.

Visit [http://business.fhda.edu/budget/budget\\_update](http://business.fhda.edu/budget/budget_update) to see the budget presentation.

## HEARING OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

**Public comments:** **Jan Rindfleish**, longtime executive director of the Euphrat Museum of Art who was facing layoff June 30, asked the board to support a budget plan based on community fund-raising to reinstate her as the museum's part-time executive director at 25 percent time for 2011-12. She said the budget proposal offers a way to provide the Euphrat with continuity while allowing orderly planning for the museum's future as she transitions to retirement. One way or another, she said, the museum will need a director. She invited trustees to attend the first in a series of benefit auctions and exhibitions that was scheduled for June 24.

Several additional speakers urged trustees to support the budget proposal, including **Diana Argabrite**, director of the museum's arts & schools programs, and **Steve Yamaguma**, who serves on the Euphrat's advisory board. Board President **Pearl Cheng** thanked Ms. Rindfleisch for her comments and service.

**Board comments:** Trustee Bechtel reported on Foothill's upcoming July 31 Learning Curve bicycle circuit race around the Loop Road, which is expected to attract more than 400 riders. Proceeds from the event will be used for on-campus pedestrian/bike path from El Monte Road to the pedestrian bridge to create safer access to campus.

Acting on a suggestion from faculty member **Robert Stockwell**, Student Trustee Kinner acknowledged the historic collaborative planning effort between De Anza's Instructional Planning and Budget and the Student Services and Finance teams. She also expressed appreciation to all campus teams for welcoming students and their input. She reported on recent student advocacy efforts, including a Student Action for Education (SAFE) bus trip to ask Stockton residents to encourage Assemblyman Bill Berryhill to support tax extensions, and a De Anza Restoring Education (DARE) "activist art show" that included a video of De Anza students explaining how they have been affected by budget cuts. She noted the recent award of \$9,000 to provide institutional aid for AB 540 students who are not eligible for state and federal grants and loans, an initiative led by the campus group IMASS (Integral Movement for AB 540 Student Success).

**Chancellor's comments:** Chancellor **Linda Thor** commented on the many year-end celebrations she had attended. Regardless of the program or campus, she said, two things were clear — the dedication of faculty and staff to student success and the deep appreciation students have for their experiences at the colleges.

**Presidents' comments:** President Murphy thanked Academic Senate President Anderson for his year of service and noted that English instructor **Karen Chow** would succeed him as Senate president on July 1. Foothill President **Judy Miner** thanked Foothill Classified Senate President **Gigi Gallagher** for her work over the past year. President Miner also expressed pride in Foothill students, thanked the faculty who teach them and the classified staff who support them, and noted that 70 of the college's honors students had been accepted to UCLA. She congratulated **Pat Hyland** and other organizers of a fund-raising team in the 2011 Relay for Life named in honor of Foothill division assistant **Sindy Olsen**.

**Staff comments:** Foothill Classified Senate President Gallagher said she had enjoyed the opportunity to serve the college and reported that **Chris White**, marketing and design services program coordinator, would succeed her as president.

## NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, July 11, 2011, 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/](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](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes) after their approval at a subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at [bartindalebecky@fhda.edu](mailto:bartindalebecky@fhda.edu) or (650) 949-6107 with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.