



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

### Board meeting of June 6, 2011

#### THE HEADLINES (details below)

##### The Board of Trustees approved:

- Changes to the board policy on public participation
- A resolution to curb a property-tax break
- A few new hires, training stipends and several position eliminations

##### Trustees heard about:

- A Trustees Scholarship winner
- Foothill's accreditation self-study
- Details of the 2011-12 tentative budget

#### BOARD BUSINESS

**New student trustees:** Chancellor **Linda Thor** administered the oath of office to newly elected student trustees for 2011-12. **Stephanie McGee**, representing Foothill, has served as legislative director with the Associated Students of Foothill College and an officer in the EOPS Ambassadors Club. She was an active volunteer in last year's Measure E parcel tax campaign. **Emily Kinner**, representing De Anza, has been active in the advocacy group D.A.R.E. (De Anza Restoring Education), Students for Justice, and CEAG, the College Environmental Advisory Group. She organized the "zombie crawl" at De Anza last fall to inform voters that Proposition 23 would repeal California's climate change legislation.

**Trustees Scholarship:** On behalf of the board, Trustee **Joan Barram** recognized Foothill College student **Heidy Boch** for accomplishments leading to her selection as a recipient of a \$1,500 Foothill-De Anza Trustees Scholarship for 2011. Trustee Barram presented Ms. Boch with a certificate and acknowledged her parents, who were in the audience. **Khalid Rasti**, the De Anza student who received the other Trustees Scholarship, will be recognized at a later meeting. Trustees established the Trustees Scholarship in 2003 to assist students who show strong academic performance and are returning to Foothill or De Anza the following year. Current and former trustees fund the scholarships. Trustees Barram and **Bruce Swenson** served on this year's scholarship committee.

#### ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

**Foothill accreditation self-study:** President **Judy Miner** presented the board with a draft of Foothill's self-study for reaccreditation. In a short presentation, she reviewed key aspects of the study, including how the process was organized and the college's

plans for improving the assessment of program reviews and continuous quality improvement. She expressed appreciation for many people across the campus who served on accreditation standards committees and applauded the Foothill Academic Senate for taking the lead in program assessment. Academic Senate President **Dolores Davison** praised the contributions of faculty members **Rosemary Arca**, **Carolyn Holcroft** and **Gillian Schultz**.

President Miner acknowledged accreditation liaison officer **Kurt Hueg**, whose organizational skills she credited with bringing together so much campus talent to produce the study; project coordinator **Darya Gilani**; Foothill researcher **Elaine Kuo**; the editing team of **Lori Thomas** and **Kay Thornton**; and graphic designer **Pam Parker**. Classified Senate President **Gigi Gallagher** noted the contributions of classified staff members **Judi McAlpin**, **Asha Harris** and **Rosalin Jen**, who served as tri-chairs of the standards committee, and **Maureen Chenoweth**, who co-chaired a standards committee and served as an accreditation co-chair with Davison and **Eloise Orrell**.

Board members complimented Foothill on an impressive and well-documented study, which Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** described as "an honest and professional portrayal that shows an enormous amount of dedication and hard work." Responding to a question from Trustee Swenson about how the study had influenced change, President Miner cited the creation of new structures for integrated planning and budgeting.

Submission of the self-study to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges precedes the accreditation team's site visit, which will take place in October. Foothill's self-study can be viewed at <http://www.foothill.fhda.edu/president/2011.php>. De Anza will present its draft self-study to the board on June 20. Both colleges' self studies will come to trustees for action on July 11.

**Budget update:** Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** reported on key state decisions that could affect district funding for 2011-12. Based on best estimates, he said Foothill-De Anza is planning on a 13.7 percent workload reduction in the upcoming fiscal year "with full knowledge that everything is in flux." The workload reduction is due to a combination of expected state budget cuts and revenue loss due to enrollment declines the district has experienced in the current fiscal year.

Vice Chancellor McElroy said the district's stability fund stands at \$13.87 million. About \$10.7 million of it will be used to help close the district's projected \$16.2 million operating deficit for 2011-12, supplemented by carryover dollars from the colleges and Central Services. The remaining stability fund is being reserved for 2012-13.

There is some hope that California will pass a 2011-12 budget on time, he said, but the district may not know its level of state funding until later in the fiscal year. The tentative budget will come to the board for adoption on June 20. The new fiscal year begins July 1.

Trustee Barram expressed appreciation for the district's conservative fiscal approach, noting that the stability fund gives the district a year to prepare for whatever ongoing budget reductions are needed.

**Ethics policy:** Trustees discussed a proposed policy on standards of ethical conduct that was developed to comply with a recommendation coming out of the accreditation self-study process. Chancellor Thor noted that the district has a policy on ethical

conduct for the board, but does not have one addressing employee conduct. The new policy is a compilation of best practices in other community college districts and was approved by the Chancellor's Advisory Council on June 3. It will come to the board for action at a later date. The proposed policy may be viewed by clicking on #13 on the June 6 board agenda at: [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/stories/storyReader\\$266](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/stories/storyReader$266)

**Repeal of property-tax break:** Trustees approved a resolution supporting the elimination of Proposition 90 in Santa Clara County. The statewide measure, approved by voters in 1988, allows residents of other California counties who are 55 or older to transfer their Proposition 13 tax base into Santa Clara County, one of only eight California counties that allow such transfers. The county tax assessor has recommended that Board of Supervisors end this practice in order to generate more revenue to fund essential services. While Foothill-De Anza is not directly affected, the practice could affect basic aid districts such as the Fremont Union High School District and Palo Alto Unified School District.

**Policy on board agendas:** Trustees approved changes to the board's current policy on public participation, BP 9128. Among the changes are giving the board president discretion to limit the number of speakers addressing a particular subject and the time for each speaker to less than the currently allowed maximum of five minutes. Another addition is a provision for any two board members to submit a proposed agenda item to the chancellor.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL**

**Reduction in service:** Due to lack of funds, the board approved elimination of six classified positions at Foothill College, four of them currently vacant. The positions identified for elimination are administrative assistant II and senior program coordinator, both in Foothill Global Access; theater and fine arts assistant; instructional designer and division administrative assistant, both in CTIS; and administrative assistant II in Apprenticeship programs.

**New hires:** Trustees approved the hiring of Foothill instructors **Hilda Fernandez** in Language Arts and **Sarah Parikh** in PSME. The board ratified the hiring of **Anthony Arellano** as campus facilities rental coordinator and **Trung Mai** as Special Education tutorial assistant, both at De Anza.

**Professional growth awards:** The board approved professional growth awards for the following employees:

At Foothill, **Kirsi Engels**, senior library technician; **Cynthia Olsen**, Fine Arts Division administrative assistant; **Henry Jung**, Admissions & Records supervisor; and **Linda Robinson**, Library instructional associate.

At De Anza, **Lily Greene**, academic adviser in Student Services; **Andy Huynh**, testing technician in Counseling; and **Joy Lu**, instructional associate in Business/Computer Systems.

In Central Services, **Wilbert Hollins**, workstation & systems support technician in ETS; **Gina Bailey**, buyer in Operations; and **Carol Skoog**, accounts payable assistant in Business Services.

**Training stipends:** Trustees approved administrative training/retraining stipends for **Marsha Kelly** and **Carmen Redmond** in Central Services. The board also approved and faculty training/retraining stipends for Foothill faculty member **Phyllis Spragge** and De Anza faculty members **Diana Alves de Lima**, **Marcy Betlach**, **Rebecca**

**Board Lilijenstolpe, Carolyn Brown, Kathy Flores, Alexandria Giardino, Julie Pesano and Linda Yee.**

## **HEARING OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

**Board comments:** Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** reported on a recent meeting of the board's Audit & Finance Committee including a discussion of audit findings regarding procurement cards. She also commented on the creativity she saw at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Student Film & Video Show at De Anza.

Trustee Swenson reported on a recent meeting of the Foothill Foundation board, and the progress of its major gifts committee in meeting with potential donors. He also reported on a recent education update presented by state Sen. Joe Simitian that included a discussion of whether the Legislature could extend temporary taxes to balance California's 2011-12 budget before putting them on the ballot for a public vote. He said the bottom line he came away with is not to assume the tax-extension revenues would be available in 2011-12.

Trustee Casas Frier noted that the U.S. Supreme Court had declined to hear a California case challenging resident tuition for undocumented students at the state's public colleges and universities. That decision leaves standing a state law that treats undocumented students as California residents for the purpose of tuition if they attend a California high school for three years and graduate.

**Student comments:** **Arvind Ravichandran**, the newly elected president of the De Anza Associated Students, introduced himself and new DASB Vice President **Shaila Ramos**.

**Chancellor's comments:** Chancellor Thor noted that an executive recruiter had been hired to help the district with its search for an executive director for the Foothill-De Anza Foundation following two unsuccessful attempts. She said she expects the hiring committee to put forward a finalist or finalists in the near future. The chancellor reported that the district's membership on the board of the League for Innovation in the Community College was reaffirmed. She also commented on attending a meeting of the U.S. Department of Education's Committee on Measures of Student Success, which was covered by Insider Higher Education:

[http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/06/06/u\\_s\\_panel\\_drafts\\_and\\_debates\\_measures\\_to\\_gauge\\_community\\_college\\_success](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2011/06/06/u_s_panel_drafts_and_debates_measures_to_gauge_community_college_success)

The chancellor noted that Vice Chancellor Kevin McElroy has been elected to the Association of Chief Business Officials' (ACBO's) fiscal standards and accountability committee representing Northern California and said the first-hand information he gains will be helpful to the district.

**Staff comments:** President **Brian Murphy** reported that De Anza students had voted 985-124 to impose a mandatory quarterly student fee to fund VTA Eco Passes for students who ride buses and/or light rail to get to De Anza. He said now students will work to increase the number of their peers who take the bus to campus.

Vice Chancellor **Fred Sherman** reported that **Andrew LaManque**, the district's executive director of institutional research and planning, has been elected president of the Research and Planning Group for the California Community Colleges.

Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** commented that faculty groups across the state, including the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, have lined up against AB 515, proposed legislation that would allow California community colleges to operate credit-bearing extension programs. He said faculty groups view it as a policy change that undermines state funding for community colleges and represents a step toward privatization of higher education. The legislation, initiated by Santa Monica College and the College of the Canyons, is supported by Foothill–De Anza as a way to maintain access for students displaced by budget cuts and as an alternative to for-profit institutions.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2011, at 6 p.m. in Conference Rooms A and B in the Hinson Campus Center at De Anza College. 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*.