



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Bruce Swenson • Erica Anderson • Isabelle Barrientos Vargas

Board meeting of Sept. 14, 2009

BOARD BUSINESS

Trustees appointed **Hsing Kung**, from the **Foothill-De Anza Foundation's** Board of Directors, to serve as a community member on the chancellor search committee, replacing **Joan Barram**, who was recently appointed to a vacancy on the district's Board of Trustees. Kung's wife, Margaret, is co-president of the advisory council of the Euphrat Museum of Art at De Anza.

REPORTS AND HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT THE AGENDA

Board comments: Board President **Betsy Bechtel** reported that the application period for the chancellor's position closes Sept. 21 and that the chancellor search committee will review applications Oct. 9. She noted that Trustee **Pearl Cheng** will represent the board next month in San Francisco at a conference of the **Association of Community College Trustees**, and that the district will work with the **League of Women Voters of Mountain View-Los Altos** to organize a community forum as part of Foothill-De Anza's community connection plan.

Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** reported that she had prepared an article on the challenges the district faces as a result of state budget cuts for the newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Mountain View-Los Altos. She expressed deep concern about the difficulties faced by community college students in transferring to CSU campuses because that system no longer is honoring transfer agreements for the spring term. Casas Frier also reported that she has been named vice chair of the **Advisory Committee on Legislation** of the **Community College League of California**.

Trustee Barram thanked Chancellor Brandy; **Donna Toyohara**, assistant to the chancellor; **Dorene Novotny**, vice chancellor of human resources and equal opportunity; **Miriam Lamb**, employment and classification supervisor; and **Chris Vo**, benefits manager, for their help in her transition to her role as a board member.

Staff comments: Chancellor **Mike Brandy** reported on an advocacy visit to **KCBS News Radio** made with the chancellors of the West Valley-Mission and San Jose-Evergreen community college districts to discuss opportunities and challenges facing community colleges in Silicon Valley and statewide.

Foothill College President **Judy Miner** reported that Foothill is 96 percent of the way to the target for the number of students funded by the state, and is certain to exceed that target. **Katie Townsend-Merino**, vice president of instruction and institutional research, reported that the latest numbers showed 2,600 students on waiting lists for courses at Foothill. Miner and **Dolores Davison**, president of the Foothill Academic Senate, commented that some programs at the college do not maintain waiting lists, and that demand for courses is higher than reflected by the waiting-list numbers.

President **Brian Murphy** reported that De Anza College had more than 13,100 names on course waiting lists, including 1,500 for mathematics alone. One issue facing students, he said, is that if they are not carrying at least 10 units, they are not eligible for financial aid. De Anza has prepared a letter to students explaining that the college is offering fewer course sections because of state budget cuts. It provides them with contact information for the governor and key legislators should students wish to inform them about their efforts to obtain an education in the current budget climate.

Responding to a question from Trustee **Bruce Swenson** about the possibility of using one-time funds to open more sections, Presidents Miner and Murphy said the colleges need to use one-time funds to maintain critical student services and offset deep state budget cuts to categorical programs such as EOPS, DSS and matriculation. Trustees asked the presidents to provide updated information at the board's Oct. 5 meeting about how many students from the waiting lists got into classes.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Grand Jury Report: The board approved a detailed response to a Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury report, titled Who Really Benefits from Education Dollars?, about spending practices of the county's K-12 and community college districts. Chancellor Brandy noted that there were some factual inaccuracies and miscalculations in the report's findings, and that many did not apply to Foothill-De Anza. He said the report identified a few areas where small changes could be made to tighten up current practices, and the district is moving forward with those. Board members praised what one called "a well-written, strong response" prepared by Vice Chancellor Novotny.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

Trustees approved the employment of **Randy Claros** as a counselor and **Jacquelyn V. Reza** as director of professional and organizational development, both at De Anza. Claros was formerly an academic advisor at the college and Reza was a counselor and instructor there.

NEXT MEETING

The Board of Trustees will tour two sites on Sept. 24, 2009, starting at 3 p.m. at Building I at the Middlefield Campus, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, and reconvening at 4 p.m. at the NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Building 19, in Mountain View. The board's next regularly scheduled meeting is Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. in the District Board Room. Agendas 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 extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.

