WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District recognizes that access to education is essential to the future of our students, the future of our communities and the future of the state of California; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District supports the promises made in the Master Plan for Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 56, the State Budget, Related Taxes, and Reserve, Voting Requirements, Penalties Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute on the March 2004 state ballot would require a 55 percent rather than a two-thirds vote of the Senate and Assembly to adopt a state budget; and

WHEREAS, this constitutional amendment and statute, also known as the Budget Accountability Act, would provide incentives for lawmakers to progress with their work including withholding salary and expenses from the governor and the legislature if the budget is not passed and signed by the constitutional deadline, and provide for a “rainy day” reserve fund of five percent to be established in good years to cushion the state from severe cuts in a bad economy, among other provisions; and

WHEREAS, California is one of only three states (in addition to Rhode Island and Arkansas) in which a two-thirds majority is needed to approve a state budget; and

WHEREAS, the high vote threshold has been cited as the primary reason the legislature frequently has been unable to adopt a timely budget, having missed the June 15 deadline for adopting a budget 18 times in the last 22 years and having begun a new fiscal year without an approved budget in place nine times over the past 13 years; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District does not have sufficient information for adopting an appropriate budget when the legislature has not acted by its deadline; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District recognizes that this proposition is crucial to maintaining educational opportunity and student success in higher education; and

WHEREAS, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District believes that every effort should be made to inform voters about the impact of passage of the Budget Accountability Act on local residents and students and their community colleges; now

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District supports the Budget Accountability Act and encourages students and voters to become aware of the pros and cons of passage of the Budget Accountability Act and the impact of its passage upon Foothill and De Anza Colleges.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd day of the month of February 2004, by the Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

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Paul Fong, President