



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees    Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Hal Plotkin • Bruce Swenson • Erica Anderson • Isabelle Barrientos Vargas

### Board meeting of Aug. 3, 2009

#### STUDY SESSION

**2009-10 budget:** Interim chancellor **Mike Brandy** led a discussion about the 2009-10 budget. He said some \$15 billion in statewide spending reductions approved by the California Legislature on July 24 are the result of the worst recession in California since the Great Depression. The district lost about \$14 million in state funding, resulting in an operating deficit of about \$5.3 million for 2009-10 after using available one-time funds to help fill the gap between expenses and revenue.

Brandy reported that about \$8 million of the state's cuts to the district are reductions to categorical programs such as EOPs, matriculation and disability support services (DSS). Although some of those reductions can be cushioned to some degree with one-time district funds this year, he said that unless categorical funding is restored for 2010-11, students would lose access to important services such as counseling, academic advising and tutoring.

Brandy said the district continues to anticipate the need for salary and benefit reductions in 2010-11. In response to a question from Trustee **Bruce Swenson**, the chancellor said he recommends setting aside some of the district's approximately \$10.8 million in unrestricted ending balance for 2010-11 to help carry the district through financially unstable times. Planning a year ahead is important, Brandy said, because expenses for 2010-11 are projected to rise by at least \$3 million to \$4 million and no new state revenue is expected.

Among steps the district is taking to bring expenses into line with revenue this year is to reduce course offerings by 5 percent, which means eliminating approximately 500 sections. This will result in the hiring of fewer part-time faculty.

**Exploration of parcel tax:** Vice Chancellor of Business Services **Andy Dunn** reported on preliminary discussions about the possibility of pursuing a short-

term parcel tax to help offset the substantial state funding reductions the district is experiencing. He took note of SCA 6, pending legislation to put a state constitutional amendment before voters that would reduce the voter-approval threshold for parcel taxes for school and community college districts from the current two-thirds to 55 percent. Aside from a parcel tax, there are few options for raising operating revenues, so the district would like to begin gathering information about how many parcels are within the district, how much funding could be raised and for what kinds of uses. Board President **Betsy Bechtel** and Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** commented on some of the obstacles the district would face in pursuing a parcel tax, including a difficult economic climate. There was consensus among trustees that if the expenses involved are minimal, the district should take the preliminary exploratory steps described by Dunn.

**Bond Measures E & C and NASA development:** Executive Director of Facilities, Operations and Construction Management **Charles Allen** reviewed some of the active bond projects that are currently under way. The final Measure E projects will conclude in 2010 and 2011. Allen said that district project teams have been working to update cost forecasts to gain information needed to plan for future bond sales under Measure C. Among major Measure C projects scheduled over the next few years are a new ETS building (data center), renovation of the district office building, construction of the Physical Sciences and Engineering Center at Foothill, construction of the Mediated Learning Center at De Anza and utility upgrades at both colleges.

Vice Chancellor Dunn reported that the board of the **University Associates-Silicon Valley LLC** (UA-SV) has asked two developers to create business plans for developing an education-research community at the NASA Research Park at Moffett Field. The developers are expected to present those plans this fall, which should indicate whether the project is financially viable. Dunn said the district's payment of \$480,000 toward the costs of the LLC and \$180,000 toward the ground lease of 75 acres—which together constitute the district's share of the costs for 2009-10—will not be due until Jan 1, 2010. By then the district will have a better sense of whether the project is feasible and whether it wishes to continue its participation. He said UA-SV is investigating whether outside sources would help meet the costs of the ground lease.

Trustee Swenson suggested that the district develop an alternate plan for programs currently housed at the Middlefield Campus in case the NASA development falls through. He suggested that board members tour the Middlefield Campus in the near future and discuss whether the facilities there are a sound long-term option.

**Strategic planning:** Vice Chancellor of Technology **Fred Sherman** reviewed the progress and approach of the district's strategic planning effort. Among the

goals of the district strategic plan is creating a shared vision for the next decade that supports student access and success as defined by the colleges. The plan will encompass board goals, college initiatives and college accreditation needs, and also will refine and support current planning efforts. The result should be a few measurable district initiatives and a plan that aligns planning and budgeting across the district.

## REPORTS AND HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT THE AGENDA

**Terry Terman**, representing the League of Women Voters, asked for an assessment of how state funding reductions were affecting waiting lists for classes at the colleges. Foothill College student **Jacqueline Proctor** spoke about her perception that she was treated unfairly in the awarding of financial aid.

Foothill President **Judy Miner** reported that the college had recently hosted a delegation of 15 elementary and high school educators from the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, who were interested in workforce development. She noted that on July 23, some 82 students from the **Mountain View-Whisman School District** are graduating from the **Math Acceleration Program (MAP)** held this summer on the Foothill campus using the **Math My Way** curriculum. Miner said she had just received word that the district had received a \$1.5 million grant from the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** to continue the work of the **Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (CCCOER)** on open textbooks. She thanked Trustees Swenson and Casas Frier for attending the **Foothill Commission's** gala summer fundraiser.

De Anza College President **Brian Murphy** noted that he and President Miner had recently attended a briefing for **Martha Kanter**, U.S. under secretary of education, held by **Aim High** in East Palo Alto, one of 11 Bay Area locations for the organization's summer program for middle-school youth. He also reported that several cohorts of students in De Anza's summer bridge program have been on campus and invited trustees to attend the upcoming graduation of foster youth taking part in the summer program.

Student Trustees **Erica Anderson** from Foothill and **Isabelle Barrientos Vargas** from De Anza reported that they would attend a conference for student trustees and had recently met with Trustee Casas Frier, their board mentor. Anderson said she has decided to focus her work this year on reducing textbook costs for Foothill students and Barrientos Vargas said she will work on an environment project involving a sustainability fee and VTA Eco Passes for buses and light rail transportation for De Anza students.

Trustees Swenson noted that he, Casas Frier and Bechtel had recently attended, along with numerous federal, state and city elected officials, a benefit in Cupertino hosted by the **Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute (APALI)**. Swenson called the success of the event “a tribute to the political connectedness of APALI” and Casas Frier said it reflects the leadership network cultivated by APALI director **Michael Chang**, an instructor of Asian American and intercultural studies at De Anza.

## **ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Mission statement:** The board approved a revision to the district’s mission statement, as follows: The mission of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is student success. We accomplish this mission by providing access to a dynamic learning environment that fosters excellence, opportunity and innovation in meeting the diverse educational and career goals of our students and communities.

**Board elections:** Trustees elected Bruce Swenson as vice president and Trustee Pearl Cheng as a board representative to the audit and finance committee for the remainder of the year, filling vacancies created by Hal Plotkin’s resignation.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL**

The board approved employment of the following personnel: In Central Services, **Andrew LaManque** as interim director of institutional research; at Foothill, **Kathleen A. Depaolo** as an instructor in veterinary technology; and at De Anza, **Robert M. Alexander** as a counselor in Student Success and Retention Services, **Ronald W. Francis** as an instructor of physics, **Cleve L. Freeman III** as a counselor in the International Students Office, **Shagundeeep Kaur** as an instructor in speech communications, and **Kevin Mello** as an instructor in accounting.

Trustees approved the hiring of **Christine Nakahara** as a sign language interpreter at De Anza.

Professional growth awards were approved by the board for the following employees: In Central Services, **Patricia Conens**; at Foothill, **Naziko Galoyan**, **Deborah Haynes**, **Bhavi Patel** and **Mario Ramos**; and at De Anza, **Sofia Abad**, **Duc Nguyen**, **Quan Peng**, **Sandra Sokabe** and **Christina Woo**.

## NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, Aug. 31, starting at 3:30 p.m. with interviews of finalists for a vacant board position, followed by a closed session at 5 p.m. and a public session at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board Room. Agendas are posted 72 hours in advance at: [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/board/agenda/](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. If you would like more comprehensive information, you may consult the official minutes, which generally are available at [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/board/minutes](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes) after their approval at the subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at [bartindalebecky@fhda.edu](mailto:bartindalebecky@fhda.edu) or at extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.