



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

### Board meeting of Oct. 5, 2009

#### REPORTS AND HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT THE AGENDA

**Chancellor search update:** Board President **Betsy Bechtel** reported that the chancellor search committee would meet this month to select which candidates to interview before forwarding finalists to the board. A subcommittee of Trustees **Bruce Swenson** and **Pearl Cheng** will work with the district administration on evaluating comparative salary and benefit information.

**Student comments:** Two editors from the De Anza student newspaper La Voz-**Julia Eckhardt**, managing editor, and **Tamara Hahn**, audio-visual editor-introduced themselves to the board. President Bechtel congratulated them on the newspaper's excellent work.

**Staff comments:** Foothill College President **Judy Miner** reported that the college's enrollment at census week was 6 percent above the level that will be funded by the state, and said Foothill is pleased to be able to serve so many students. She said 1,063 students were on waiting lists for 1,212 seats, and 379 of them had been unable to get any classes.

De Anza College President **Brian Murphy** noted that on the opening day of the quarter, some 8,400 De Anza students were on waiting lists for 13,400 seats, and 2,300 had been unable to get into a single class. Interim Director of Institutional Research **Andrew LaManque** said that updated figures for De Anza showed 4,000 wait-listed seats and 1,200 students still without a single class. Murphy praised the "generosity and flexibility" of the faculty in accommodating students.

Miner took note of the longevity award on the evening's agenda for senior library technician **Art Hand**, who she said has served 23 years as an outstanding professional representative of the district. She also reported that the college would host a group of key staff members from the California Legislature Oct. 14-15 to discuss the impact of various state budget and policy decisions on the colleges. De Anza also will be represented at the meeting.

Foothill Academic Senate President **Dolores Davison** commented on the outstanding work being done by faculty member **Allison Lenkeit Meezan**, chair of the college's geography department. Funded by a National Science Foundation grant and

collaborating with faculty in the GIS program at San Jose State University, Meezan and her SJSU colleagues conducted a workshop at Foothill College last month for middle- and high school teachers on how to use Web-based GIS technology to teach problem-based science keyed to the California science standards. Davison also distributed copies of the Senate Rostrum, a publication of the **Academic Senate for California Community Colleges**. It includes an article by Davison and a colleague from Mt. San Antonio College on information competency education.

**Board comments:** Trustee Swenson spoke about the outpouring of respect and affection at the recent memorial service for Foothill faculty member **Sid Davidson**. Davidson taught business law and accounting at the college for 48 years, longer than any other faculty member. He changed the lives of many students, Swenson said, and several spoke at the memorial. The students' comments are a tribute not only to Davidson, Swenson said, but to the great care that Foothill-De Anza faculty show for their students and the extra lengths to which they go on their behalf.

## **ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

**NASA site development:** At the request of Trustee **Laura Casas Frier**, the board heard detailed presentations, discussion and public comment about environmental issues related to the proposed development of an academic and research community at the NASA Research Park. Presenters included **Michael Marlaire**, director of the NASA Research Park and the NASA Ames Research Center; **Kelly Drumm**, senior counsel in the Office of General Counsel in the University of California Office of the President; and **Alana Lee**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) project manager in the Superfund Division for Region 9.

The district's interest in joining UC Santa Cruz and other university partners in creating an academic and research community at NASA Research Park is driven by the opportunities it would create for Foothill-De Anza students, Interim Chancellor **Mike Brandy** said.

A portion of the 77 acres set aside for the development sits above a contaminated plume of groundwater, which is 5-20 feet below the surface and contains high concentrations of the industrial solvent tetrachloroethylene (TCE). Air sampling in existing buildings has determined that TCE and other volatile compounds can migrate through the soil into buildings. None of the indoor air samples indicate a short-term health threat, but they showed TCE levels exceeding EPA standards for long-term exposure. The EPA is in the process of developing proposed mitigation measures to address the risk of chronic health effects from long-term exposure. Once established, these vapor intrusion mitigation measures would be required as part of any future development. This issue and others would be addressed in an Environmental Impact Report if the academic development plan moves forward.

The EPA's Lee reported that the concentration of groundwater contamination has decreased as a result of cleanup efforts in recent years, but the cleanup is expected to take many decades. The EPA is proposing methods that may be faster and more effective. However, Lee noted that some of the companies and government agencies

responsible for the contamination are seeking a waiver, asserting that it would be impossible to clean up the groundwater regardless of what technology is used.

Speakers during the public comment period included community members and environmental studies students and faculty from De Anza. Several expressed concern that any housing proposed as part of the academic community be safe for students, families and children. Other speakers urged trustees to look closely at whether risks of development would outweigh benefits, and to select a developer with deep experience in building on contaminated sites if the district moves forward.

Public documents related to environmental cleanup at the NASA Research Park are available at <http://researchpark.arc.nasa.gov/Public/publicDocs.html>

**Appointments of public committee members:** Trustees approved a process for recruiting and appointing two public members to the board's **Audit & Finance Committee** and four public members to the **Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee**. Trustees Swenson and Casas Frier will serve on a subcommittee to screen Audit & Finance Committee applicants and Trustees Bechtel and **Joan Barram** will serve on the subcommittee for the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. They will make their appointment recommendations to the board for the Dec. 7 meeting.

**Accreditation commission follow-up reports:** Trustees accepted reports to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on the colleges' progress toward meeting commission standards on student learning outcomes (SLOs). President Miner praised the "extraordinary progress" Foothill has made and acknowledged the work of **Katie Townsend-Merino**, vice president of instruction and institutional research, and Academic Senate President Davison. President Murphy noted that 69 percent of De Anza's courses now have SLOs and echoed Miner in praising faculty leadership for moving the work of accreditation forward. He thanked campus institutional researcher **Andrew LaManque** for compiling De Anza's follow-up report even as he was moving into a new post. Trustees Bechtel and Barram thanked participants in the accreditation process for their commitment and dedication.

Foothill's ACCJC Follow-Up Report can be found on the right-hand side of the page at: <http://www.foothill.edu/staff/irs/programplans/programreview.html>

De Anza's ACCJC Follow-Up Report can be found at: <http://www.deanza.edu/accreditation/updates.html>

Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** noted the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has formed a task force to bring forward various concerns to the ACCJC expressed by colleges throughout the state.

**ARCC report:** Interim Director of Institutional Research LaManque reviewed the Accountability Reporting for Community Colleges (ARCC) reports for both colleges, and trustees accepted them. The reports compare a college's performance with the performance of peers on a variety of measures, including successful course completion

rates, fall-to-fall persistence rates, and improvement rates for ESL, vocational and basic skills courses. They are submitted annually to the state Legislature through the state chancellor's office. Responding to a question from Trustee Cheng, LaManque noted that the breakdown of data by student cohorts has only recently become available and should be helpful in further analysis. On balance, LaManque said, the reports show that Foothill and De Anza are among the top-performing colleges again this year compared to their peers. The presentation can be viewed under the heading of Students / Teaching and Learning at [http://www.fhda.edu/about\\_us/board\\_presentations](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board_presentations).

**Designation of reserve funds:** To provide as much budget stability as possible over the next few years, the board approved a number of reserve funds. They include a staff protection reserve, to be renamed, containing \$7 million to ensure that the district can retain sufficient staff to serve students; a medical rate stabilization reserve, containing \$5 million, to smooth medical insurance rate increases for employees; and a medical plan reserve, containing \$2 million to use when the district's self-insured medical plan experiences higher-than-budgeted claims.

**Feasibility study of parcel-tax election:** After several trustees expressed reservations, the board deferred a decision on whether to conduct a feasibility study for a multi-year parcel tax to provide operational funding for critical programs and services that have been cut by the state. Current law requires support from two-thirds of district voters to approve a parcel tax, although proposed legislation has been introduced to reduce the voter-approval threshold to 55 percent.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL**

Trustees approved the employment of **Edmundo Norte** as coordinator of diversity, community and civic engagement at De Anza College, and the hiring of **Bruce Whistler** as director of the Statewide Economic and Workforce Development Initiative, based in the Division of Career/Workforce & Technology at Foothill.

The board approved the promotion of **Darya Gilani** to senior administrative assistant in the Division of Instruction & Institutional Research at Foothill.

Trustees approved Professional Growth Awards for the following employees: At Foothill, administrative assistant **Teresa DeLaCruz** in the Division of Instruction and Institutional Research, and bookstore shipping and receiving assistant **Amelia Quiros**; at De Anza, senior secretary **Tram Nguyen** in counseling; and in Central Services, division administrative assistant **Stephanie Nunes** in ETS.

**Professional achievement awards:** The board approved professional achievement awards for the following faculty:

At Foothill, **Janis Bergmann**, theater arts; **Carolyn Brown**, graphic & interactive design; **Falk Cammin**, ESL/humanities; **Beatrix Cashmore**, adaptive learning/counseling; **Lesley Dauer**, creative writing/English; **Mary Hawkins**, adaptive learning; **Ali Khejjou**, ESL; **Marc Knobel**, mathematics; **Scott Lankford**, English;

**Maureen McDougall**, veterinary technology; **Martin Melia**, biology; **Richard Morasci**, ESL; **Katheryn Perino**, mathematics; **David Sauter**, horticulture; **Bonny Wheeler**, radiologic technology; and **Bill Ziegenhorn**, history.

At De Anza, **Marcy Betlach**, ESL; **Susan Bruch**, nursing; **Catie Cadge-Moore**, art history; **Michael Chang**, intercultural studies; **Judy Coleman**, counseling; **Juanita Cordero**, child development; **Mayra Cruz**, child development; **Lenore Desilets**, mathematics; **Reginald Hamer**, mathematics; **Richard Hansen**, mathematics; **Melinda Hughes**, counseling; **Millia Ison**, mathematics; **Cynthia Kessler**, child development; **Ben Kline**, history; **Arden Kragalott**, physical education and coaching; **George Krestas**, engineering; **Vladimir Logvinenko**, mathematics; **Diane Mathios**, mathematics; **Scott Osborne**, accounting; **Eugene Rodriguez**, art; **Kulwant Singh**, physical education; **Doris Spangford**, biology; **Ameeta Tiwana**, anthropology; and **Deborah Wagner**, medical laboratory technician instructor.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, Nov. 2 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/](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](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 extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.