

Board meeting of July 6, 2009

BOARD BUSINESS

Resolution: Acknowledging Trustee **Hal Plotkin's** resignation to serve as senior advisor to **Martha Kanter** in Washington, D.C., President **Betsy Bechtel** presented Plotkin with a board resolution honoring his leadership in higher education and his public service as a trustee for the past six years. "This place is so deeply in my heart," Plotkin said, touching his chest. "You will all be in my heart." He also thanked his wife, Loren, who was in the audience, for the sacrifices she made to support his work as a trustee.

Trustee appointment process: The board approved a process for filling the vacancy created by Plotkin's resignation. Prospective candidates must apply by 5 p.m. Aug. 17 and trustees will interview finalists and select a new board member Aug. 31. (More information about the appointment process is available on the district's home page, <http://www.fhda.edu>.) Member of the public **Terry Terman** urged the board to take various steps to enable the public and district employees to comment on the applicants.

Chancellor search: On behalf of the chancellor search committee, committee co-chair and former vice chancellor Jane Enright secured the board's approval of the chancellor profile that will be used in recruitment material. The announcement of the chancellor's position can be viewed from the district's home page, <http://www.fhda.edu>.

New mission statement: Trustees reviewed the following revision of the district's mission statement: *The mission of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is student success. We accomplish this 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.*

REPORTS AND HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT THE AGENDA

Palo Alto resident and Foothill College instructor **Ken Horowitz** congratulated trustees on several accomplishments in the past year, including selection of **Pearl Cheng** as trustee; employment of **Katie Townsend-Merino** as Foothill vice president of instruction and institutional research; and excellent management of

Measure C bond projects by **Charles Allen**, the district's executive director of facilities, operations and construction management. Horowitz said he disagreed with some of the board's fiscal decisions, including reclassifying two positions to associate vice presidents; filling dean positions that he said could be put on hold; and hiring a consultant to help with the chancellor search.

Blanche Monary, president of the **Association of Classified Employees**, informed the board that ACE had passed a constitution and elected its board.

Leo Contreras, **CSEA** chapter president, read a written statement objecting to what he described as a violation of the collective bargaining agreement between CSEA and the board involving the proposed elimination of a head groundskeeper position.

Shirley Barker, acting Foothill College president, presented trustees with copies of **The Loop**, a guide to life on the Foothill campus written and produced by students for students, under the guidance of English instructor **Scott Lankford**.

De Anza President **Brian Murphy** thanked trustees for attending the college's graduation ceremony. Trustee Cheng thanked both colleges for all the hard work that went into producing those ceremonies, which she called "truly wonderful events."

Fred Sherman, vice chancellor of technology, noted that the district had passed a milestone July 1 went it went live with the finance module of the Banner management information system. He credited the successful start to the hard work of team members across the district.

On behalf of trustees, President Bechtel presented **Jon O'Bergh**, assistant to the chancellor, with a letter of commendation thanking him for 20 years of service exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism and wishing him well as he joins former chancellor Kanter as an advisor in Washington. Kanter also provided a letter, which was read aloud. It praised O'Bergh's "unique intellect, dedication, creativity and wit," and called him "forever cool, calm and collected" and a person of "ingenuity and munificence who brought people together to get the job done." True to form, O'Bergh remained cool, calm and collected in the face of rousing applause. "I will truly miss all of you," he said.

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Constitutional amendment: Recognizing the need for stable sources of locally controlled education funding at a time of state budget cuts, trustees approved a resolution supporting Senate Constitutional Amendment 6 (SCA 6), sponsored by state Sen. Joe Simitian. The amendment would enable passage of parcel taxes by 55 percent of the voters, instead of two-thirds, for school and community college districts and county offices of education.

New Foothill courses: The board approved 19 new **apprenticeship** courses in the pipe trades program, and authorized the college to seek state approval for two new non-credit courses, **Bridge to College**, which would introduce non-native English speakers to the college environment, and **Job Readiness**, designed to teach participants skills such as writing resumés and cover letters, interviewing, communication and customer services.

New programs: Trustees authorized Foothill's application to the state for three new programs—viticulture, popular culture and leadership and service. The **viticulture program** would offer three certificate options and an associate's degree in viticulture and enology. The program covers all aspects of grape and wine production and would include a demonstration vineyard and wine cellar based on the latest technology being developed in Silicon Valley. **Popular culture** is an interdisciplinary certificate program that examines the context and influence of popular culture on contemporary society through advertising, technology, music, film, television and sports. **Leadership and service** is a certificate program in which students pursue core studies needed to develop leadership and communications skills, exercise civic responsibility, explore diverse cultures and participate in community-building.

NASA update: Brandy and vice chancellor **Andy Dunn** presented an informational update on development activities at the NASA Research Park by **University Associates–Silicon Valley LLC**, which is made up of partner organizations including the **University of California, Carnegie Mellon University** and Foothill-De Anza. Dunn said the partnership had received four proposals from potential master developers interested in developing the NASA property. Next steps are to ask one or more of the developers to develop a business plan for the project, which includes academic, residential and commercial components. The partnership hopes to have a development agreement negotiated with a master developer by early next year.

Responding to concerns expressed by Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** and other trustees, Brandy said that no district General Fund money has been used to date to support the NASA project; all costs have been paid from an unrestricted capital account and Measure C bond funds. The district still hopes that operating costs will be borne by a master developer starting sometime early next year. Casas Frier asked for more information about where the housing would be built in relation to a Superfund cleanup site and requested more information about the district's academic focus for the project.

A \$180,000 lease payment is due in December, and Brandy said the district is actively exploring funding alternatives so as to avoid using any General Fund dollars. He said he is optimistic that other resources can be found.

Dunn said the district could withdraw from the partnership if there is no viable business plan or if its terms are not acceptable. If the project moves forward, it would have to go through a comprehensive California Environmental Quality Act review. He also reported that President Miner and Mission College's president had

begun talking about how the two colleges could collaborate on programs at the NASA campus. Brandy said he would update the board again in August.

Budget update: Although the state had not yet finalized the 2009-10 budget, Interim Chancellor **Mike Brandy** said the district is anticipating approximately \$11 million in funding cuts for 2009-10 in addition to about \$5 million in retroactive cuts for 2008-09. He said the 2009-10 reductions probably would be divided about evenly between the General Fund and categorical programs, but it is still unknown exactly how cuts to categorical programs would be applied. The district is planning on making a 5 percent reduction in fulltime-equivalent faculty to live within the reduced revenue, which will affect part-time faculty. Brandy said he hopes that further staff reductions won't be needed in 2010-11 beyond those that already have been proposed. He said the district needs to set aside some unrestricted funds for use in 2010-11, which may be another financially difficult year. Brandy said it appears that a lower funding rate for PE classes is no longer being considered in Sacramento, and that tuition for students is expected to increase from \$13 per quarter to \$17 starting this fall.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

Trustees renewed administrative contracts through June 2010 for the following administrators: At Foothill, **Eloise Orrell**, division dean of biology and health sciences; **Brenda Visas Davis**, director of facilities and special projects; and **Katie Townsend-Merino**, vice president of instruction and institutional research. At De Anza, **Christina Espinosa-Pieb**, vice president of instruction, and in Central Services, **Dorene Novotny**, vice chancellor of human resources and equal opportunity. The district currently is not extending administrative contracts beyond June 2010 due to the budget situation.

The board approved professional growth awards for the following classified staff: At Foothill, instructional associate **Linda Robinson**; at De Anza, executive assistant **Philippa Gibson**, administrative assistant **Carlita Alamban** and financial aid assistant **Sarah Corrao**; and at Central Services, senior buyer **Gina Bailey**, workstation and systems support technician **Michael Banks** and accounts payable assistant **Carol Skoog**.

Longevity awards were approved for senior administrative assistant **Sheri Mines** and student activities specialist **Erin Ortiz** at Foothill, and program coordinator **Cynthia Lister** and admissions and records coordinator **Joan Pena-Ferrick** at De Anza.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, Aug. 3, starting with a study session at 2:30 p.m. in the Foothill-De Anza Community

College District Board Room, followed by a regular business meeting at 6 p.m. in the same location. 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. If you would like more comprehensive information, you may visit

http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes to read the minutes, generally available after approval at the subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at the above e-mail address, or at extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.