

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Synopsis of District Legislative Advocacy
March 2003

The district affirms its continued commitment to the Master Plan for Higher Education and its dedication to student access and success. In light of the governor's budget proposal, the Board endorses advocacy for these priorities:

- A. Comparability in funding;
- B. Preservation and equalization of base funding; and
- C. Flexibility in fees.

A. COMPARABILITY IN FUNDING

The California Community Colleges are the most cost-effective and accessible higher education system in California, and as such, should not bear a disproportionate burden of budget cuts. The governor's budget for 2003-04 proposes increases in state funds to the University of California of 1.6 percent and to California State University of 3.6 percent – systems which can also increase and retain fees. Community colleges, meanwhile, would be cut by 10.5 percent. The governor's budget funds every student at the UC and CSU, while removing funding for 96,000 FTES from the CCC budget.

Because community colleges are included in Proposition 98 funding, it is also particularly important to advocate that cuts to community colleges and K-12 should also be proportionate. Within the Proposition 98 formula, K-12 is being cut about two percent, while community colleges are being cut approximately 10 percent.

B. PRESERVATION AND EQUALIZATION OF BASE FUNDING

Preservation of base funding

Proposal: That base funding be preserved in order to maintain quality and have the local option of determining how many students may be served.

Last year, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District served 1,700 FTES for which it did not get funded; statewide, the system served more than 40,000 unfunded FTES. Benefits to the district: Full funding for enrollment in order to maintain quality and access to the extent possible.

Preservation of child care funding

Proposal: That, in order to protect funding for child care, tax bailout funds be removed from the county realignment package and retained either in the State Department of Education's Child FHDA Development Division (CDD) or transferred to the California Community Colleges budget for distribution for child care.

The governor's health and welfare "county realignment proposal" would eliminate child care funding unless new revenues are identified and the counties decide to continue funding for these critical programs. Benefits to the district: The ability to continue to provide child care for students, utilizing the newly remodeled Child Development Center, and to continue to provide a laboratory for future child care providers.

Equalization of funding

Proposal: Support an allocation system among California Community Colleges that gives priority to equalization.

Because of pre-Proposition 13 tax levels and the current program-based formula used to fund community colleges, there is a wide variation in allocations to districts. Due to historical conditions, Foothill-De Anza is among the underfunded districts, receiving more than \$4 million less annually than if the district were at the statewide average. Benefits to the district: Increased base funding.

C. FLEXIBILITY IN FEES

Enrollment fees

Proposal: That the legislature allow local districts to retain additional revenue resulting from enrollment fee increases.

Benefits to the district: This proposal would be a step toward mitigating community colleges' severe underfunding.

Parking/health services fees

Proposal: That the legislature allow local governing boards of California Community Colleges the option to modestly raise parking fees and that local districts be permitted to retain the fees; and that the state lift restrictions on the health services fee, thus permitting modest increases.

Benefits to the district: In affording a degree of autonomy to boards of trustees, this proposal would provide a measure of local control, allowing governing boards to generate income to offset increasing costs.

Facilities rental fees

Proposal: That the state lift restrictions on facilities rental fees.

Benefits to the district: Facilities rental results in wear and tear beyond direct costs. It is reasonable to include modest charges – comparable to those of other public agencies – to recoup indirect costs.

Technology fee

Proposal: That the legislature adequately fund community colleges for technology, or that the legislature allow local governing boards the option to levy a student technology fee.

Benefits to the district: The revenue from the additional funding or fees would allow districts to stay competitive in technology and offer students training opportunities that are current.