



Board meeting of April 4, 2011

THE HEADLINES (details below)

The Board of Trustees approved:

- A policy on political activity by district employees
- Elimination of three classified positions
- A resolution authorizing temporary borrowing
- A request for offers to acquire property for an education center
- A preconstruction services agreement for the district Data Center
- New hiring, an appointment and professional growth awards

Trustees heard about:

- The latest budget planning

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Policy on political activity: Trustees approved changes expanding Board Policy 4195 to address political activity by all employees, not just faculty members. The policy prohibits political campaigning by employees using district resources or on district time. To read the amended BP 4195, go to [http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/stories/storyReader\\$230](http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/stories/storyReader$230)

Reduction in service: The board approved a resolution eliminating three classified positions effective June 30 for lack of funding. Board President **Pearl Cheng** expressed appreciation for the service provided by employees in the positions, two of which are currently filled. The positions being eliminated are the executive director of the Euphrat Museum of Art at De Anza College, a senior secretary in counseling at De Anza and the program coordinator for the NASA Ames Internship Program.

Trustee **Joan Barram**, a longtime member of the Euphrat Advisory Council, acknowledged the many contributions of executive director **Jan Rindfleisch** in making the Euphrat a vibrant community art venue. She expressed appreciation for the director's work, regret at having to eliminate the position, and said she hopes the college can keep the museum open.

Budget update: Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** said the district is now anticipating and planning for the possibility of an all-cuts state budget since it appears there will be no state tax extensions on the June ballot to help fill California's budget deficit. This worst-case scenario involves a 16 percent state-imposed workload reduction in keeping with a doubling of the governor's proposed \$400 million in cuts to community colleges, plus a possible

additional 4 percent workload reduction due to an enrollment decline in the district in the current year. These revenue losses leave the district facing the need to cut up to \$30 million in 2011-12.

Vice Chancellor McElroy said this budget reduction scenario is the most challenging the district has faced and its implementation would dramatically affect staffing, programs and services as well as the numbers of students the district can serve. Community colleges throughout the state are facing similar circumstances, he said, and many already have begun imposing reductions and furloughs. He said the district's stability fund, currently projected to end the year with a \$14 million balance, will play a critical role in sustaining services in 2011-12.

Trustee Barram said she is disappointed that the district has been placed in a position that could exhaust the stability fund in one year because of an all-cuts state budget. Trustee **Bruce Swenson** said he thinks the stability fund should be spread over more than one year "so we don't fall off a cliff" when the money is exhausted. Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** urged the colleges to encourage enrollment over the summer as a way to reduce the amount of state revenue loss.

Faculty Association President Rich Hansen said that the worst-case scenario is built on assumptions that may not come to pass and that the situation may not turn out to be so dire. He urged the board to put on hold any costly "frills" and said his hope is that everyone will work together "to come up with a clear plan that everyone understands."

Authorization to borrow: The board adopted a resolution authorizing the district to issue up to \$10 million in Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRAN) to help as needed with short-term cash management. The district's TRAN would be combined with other community college and K-12 districts and sold as a combined pool. Vice Chancellor McElroy likened the resolution to having an insurance policy. The resolution does not obligate the district to take part in the TRAN sale if the cash is not needed.

Education Center request for offers: Trustees approved the solicitation of offers for undeveloped land or developed property with buildings suitable for use or renovation as an Education Center in Palo Alto, Mountain View or Sunnyvale. Deadline for the receipt of offers is June 20. Separate from the request for offers, the district is moving forward concurrently in discussions with Palo Alto about purchasing land for the education center at the Cubberley Community Center and with Sunnyvale about locating the education center at the decommissioned Onizuka Air Force Station via a public benefit conveyance.

In response to questions from trustees, Chancellor **Linda Thor** said that funds earmarked under Measure C for developing a permanent education center could not be used to fund district operations despite the current shortfall in state funding, and that moving forward with a permanent location for the center fulfills the district's commitment to the voters. Among the financial advantages to owning the education center site is no longer having to spend \$1 million in operating funds each year to lease space at Cubberley for the current center, known as Middlefield Campus. She said that staff members who currently operate the Middlefield Campus would move to the new center, so operational costs would be comparable for the foreseeable future, as long as enrollment at the center remains about the same.

Whatever happens as a result of the current process, the opening of a permanent education center is at least several years away, said Vice Chancellor McElroy, leaving more time for the state's economic recovery.

View the request for offers by clicking on:

http://www.measurec.fhda.edu/Portals/26/docs/Ed_Center_RFO_4-6-11.pdf

District Data Center: Trustees authorized the award of a pre-construction services agreement for the district Data Center to **Hensel Phelps Construction Co.** Under the agreement, Hensel Phelps will pre-qualify subcontractors, develop a guaranteed maximum price and a preliminary construction schedule for future consideration by the board as part of a lease-leaseback construction agreement. The selection of Hensel Phelps followed an extensive committee review of qualification statements, responses to a request for proposals and interviews with five finalists, followed by reference, litigation and safety-record checks. Funding for the preconstruction services phase of the agreement comes from Measure E.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

New hires: Trustees approved or ratified the following new hires after hearing explanations from the ranking administrators for why the positions are being filled: At De Anza, instructor **Ron Stewart** in the High Tech Center Training Unit and senior library technician **David Byars**; at Foothill, **Kimberlee Messina**, vice president of instruction; chemistry instructor **Sandhya Rao**; and technology specialist **Christopher Burley** in Foothill Global Access; and in Central Services, payroll technician **Rachelle Licon**.

Acting dean: Trustees approved **Glenn Violett** as acting dean of Foothill's Business and Social Sciences Division.

Professional growth awards: The board approved the following employees for professional growth awards: At Foothill, administrative assistant **Barbara Brown**, graphic design technician **Pamela Parker**, and cashiering services coordinator **Patricia Wood**; at De Anza, special education instructional associate **Ellen Mann** and learning management systems administrator **Kevin Metcalf**; and in Central Services, workstation and systems support technician **John Bartch** and senior programmer analysts **Sheila Coyne** and **Irma Rodarte**.

HEARING OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Presidents' comments: Foothill President **Judy Miner** welcomed and introduced **Kimberlee Messina**, the college's new vice president of instruction and former dean of instruction for science, technology, engineering and mathematics at Santa Rosa Junior College. Although she does not begin work at Foothill until May 23, Vice President Messina has been using vacation days to attend key meetings and events at Foothill. President Miner expressed pride in the work being done by anthropology instructor **Sam Connell** and his students as they help excavate the remains of an Ice Age mammoth discovered in Castroville. (See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcJyPnS7IXs>)

Chancellor's comments: Chancellor Thor noted that De Anza President **Brian Murphy** was absent because he was representing the district at the Northern California CEO conference to discuss changes that community colleges may need to make to achieve the scale of reductions required by an all-cuts state budget.

Chancellor Thor also reported that she and De Anza Student Trustee **Thomasina Russaw** would join leaders from other community college districts, the University of California and the California State University for meetings with legislators April 5 in Sacramento. She said that later in the week she and Presidents Miner and Murphy would attend a CEO meeting in Sacramento to discuss budget and legislative issues such as the five-year fiscal outlook, enrollment and community college funding, fees and financial aid, coordination and sharing of services, and enrollment priorities.

Board comments: Trustee Casas Frier reported attending a budget town hall discussion hosted by state Senator **Elaine Alquist** and a League of Women Voters' event focused on redistricting requirements related to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 data.

De Anza Student Trustee Russaw issued an open invitation to the First Thursday "open mic" nights sponsored by the Black Student Union Club at the college's Euphrat Museum of Art. Foothill Student Trustee **Etienne Bowie** reported on Foothill students attendance at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges' Spring General Assembly. He noted that he would like to see more Foothill students in leadership positions with the statewide student senate. He also reported that a Help Japan fundraiser had been held on the campus earlier in the day.

Trustee Barram reported that she had represented the board at a League of Women Voters' event at which elected officials from a variety of public agencies gave a brief summary about their agencies. Trustee Swenson, who serves as a board liaison to the Foothill-De Anza Foundation, reported that the foundation has retained the services of a consultant for help in finding an executive director. He said the expectation is that the names of five to seven pre-screened applicants would be forwarded to the hiring committee in the next month.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2011, at 6 p.m. in the District Board Room. Agendas generally are posted 72 hours in advance at: http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/agenda/. Please check the agenda to verify time and location of the meeting.

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 are available at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes after their approval at a subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at bartindalebecky@fhda.edu or (650) 949-6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.