



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Vincent Mendoza • Antonia Zavala

Board meeting of June 4, 2012

SOME HEADLINES

Trustees approved or reviewed:

- Swearing in of student trustees
- Preview of the tentative budget for 2012-13
- New hires, promotions and retirements
- Revision of course repetition policy
- Contract for Foothill parking & circulation project

BOARD BUSINESS

Swearing in of student trustees: Foothill's **Antonia Zavala** and De Anza's **Vincent Mendoza** took the oath of office, administered by Chancellor **Linda Thor**, as student trustees for 2012-13. Student Trustee Zavala has served the Associated Students of Foothill College as vice president of intramural, sports team liaison for the Intramural Board, and activities coordinator for the Activities Board. Student Trustee Mendoza has served as vice president for Latino/a Empowerment at De Anza (iLEAD!), a student mentor to iLEAD! students in English classes and an advocate for AB 540 undocumented students. He was active in the campus Occupy for Education movement and helped organize De Anza's participation in the March in March to the capitol.

Awarding of trustee scholarships: Board President **Joan Barram** and Trustee **Bruce Swenson** presented \$1,000 scholarships to two continuing students in recognition of their outstanding academic and personal achievements. The scholarship winners are Foothill's **Lorena de Anda Olvera**, who is studying child development and psychology, and De Anza's **Angelica Hernandez**, a student in the nursing program. Past and present members of the Board of Trustees support the Trustees Scholarship through the Foothill-De Anza Foundation.

Correspondence: Trustee Swenson read a letter from **Rosemary Arca**, a Foothill English instructor since 1991 who is retiring. The letter thanks trustees for their stewardship of the district and reads in part: "It is no surprise that the accreditation team commended the board for its careful attention to the needs of the students in difficult times. The board has been, as my father would have said, 'a class act.' ... While I've disagreed with some board actions and policies, I have never doubted the good faith of the board members and their dedication to what is most important to me – the success of our students." Trustee Swenson expressed the board's appreciation for the letter, especially in tough times.

Foundation report: Trustee Swenson reported on the May 23 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Foothill-De Anza Foundation. Six new members, all with impressive resumes, are joining the foundation board. He called upon foundation Executive Director **Sheryl Alexander** to speak about an unexpected bequest made to the foundation from the estate of a local resident that no one at the foundation had ever met. The donor had contributed to the Chancellor's Circle in the past. He included the foundation in his will at the suggestion of a friend after seeing slides at Celebrity Forum soliciting gifts for Foothill-De Anza.

INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

Tentative budget for 2012-13: Vice Chancellor of Business Services **Kevin McElroy** reported on preparation of the tentative budget for 2012-13, which will be presented to the board for preliminary review on June 18. The district faces a number of risk factors that could reduce revenue for the coming fiscal year. These include enrollment losses that the colleges are working to recover; uncertainty about whether tax revenue from redevelopment agencies will be redirected to community colleges as budgeted, and if not, whether the state will make up the difference; and the possibility of property-tax revenue again falling short. Another major uncertainty is whether Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed tax initiative will win at the polls in November; if it fails, community colleges will face another round of significant mid-year budget cuts in 2012-13.

The district is currently projecting it will end the 2011-12 fiscal year with about \$27 million in one-time carryover funds, Vice Chancellor McElroy said. Of that amount, \$10 million will remain in legally mandated reserves, \$3 million will be retained in the stability fund to deal with budget volatility in 2013-14, and \$2 million will be set aside to hire part-time faculty as part of the district's enrollment restoration effort or to offset any continuing enrollment declines. In addition, the district must set aside \$1.5 million to cover the cost of trustee elections and negotiated items, and is reserving \$4 million to offset probable mid-year reductions if there are insufficient funds for transfer from redevelopment agencies to community colleges.

That leaves only about \$6.6 million in one-time funds to help fill the district's budget deficit in 2012-13.

The best-case budget scenario for Foothill-De Anza is a deficit of \$11.8 million for 2012-13 and the worst case is a deficit of \$17.1 million. The colleges and Central Services already have developed plans that will take effect July 1 to reduce expenses by \$3.6 million, leaving a deficit of \$8.2 million (best case) or \$13.5 million (worst case). The administration has asked the campuses and Central Services to prepare preliminary budget-reduction plans by the end of the month for the worst-case scenario for refinement over the summer and adoption in the fall. Vice Chancellor McElroy said the district must plan for implementing reductions sooner than expected because there are not enough one-time funds budgeted to last through the end of 2012-13.

Trustee Swenson proposed some guiding principles for a shared governance group that the chancellor has formed to work together on how to close the district's budget gap. The group is called the Budget Rebalancing Options Clearinghouse, or BROOC (rhymes with broke). Among the principles he suggested is maintaining the high quality of Foothill-De Anza programs, both in fact and in the public perception. Faculty members are at the core of the district, he said, but the faculty and district cannot succeed without sufficient management and support staff to run the operation. Trustee Swenson also urged a

review of enrollment trends to gain an understanding of where declines have occurred and whether the district is likely to grow back or remain a smaller organization, and an examination of the role an education center at the former Onizuka Air Force Station would play in the district's future.

Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** said the district is going to have to eliminate "the nice to haves" and commended Foothill College for offering an extra summer session. Trustee **Pearl Cheng** expressed support for having an inclusive planning process and urged the group to stay focused on student success, the core mission of transfer and workforce development and service to the local community. Board President Barram expressed appreciation to employees at all levels for their cooperation, which has made possible such accomplishments as reducing the district's cost of health benefits. She said she hopes everyone will continue working in the spirit of trusting one another and working cooperatively on shared goals so the district will be well positioned for the future. She thanked the Faculty Association for helping educate district employees about the budget situation

Associated Students of Foothill College budget: Members of the ASFC Budget Committee presented the 2012-13 budget, which trustees approved. Associated Students President **Shane Courtney** assured trustees that the budget process met the highest ideals of transparency and student participation. Vice President of Finance **Matthew Sultan** and committee members **Kelli Lee, Diana Aka, Joseph Otayde** and **Elizabeth Wright** described the key elements of the \$615,665 budget.

The ASFC budget supports a wide range of activities and services including textbook rentals, tutorial and transfer activities, legal counseling and the food bank as well as athletics, campus heritage months, new student orientation, dental hygiene services, and the fine arts and performing arts. New to this year's budget is \$50,000 in funding for a political action committee to support student advocacy efforts for higher education. Revenue comes primarily from Owl card sales and ASFC business operations such as the Design Center, Smart Shop and discount movie ticket sales.

Reflecting the sentiment of the board, Trustee Cheng commended the students for their professional presentation and ASFC's contributions to expanding the learning experiences of Foothill students.

Course repetition policy: Trustees approved a revision to Board Policy 6124, Course Repetition. The revision limits students to two attempts to repeat a course to improve upon a "W" (withdrawal) notation or a grade of D, F or NP for certain courses. In these cases, the student's permanent academic record would show all course attempts and the grades or notations received. The limit is inclusive of courses taken either at Foothill or De Anza.

New associate degree for transfer: Trustees approved De Anza's application for a new Associate in Science Degree for Transfer in Business Administration. The new transfer degree offers certain benefits for students who intend to complete a bachelor's degree in a similar field at a California State University campus.

Open educational resources: The board received a report from **Judy Baker**, dean of Foothill Global Access, on the use of open educational resources at Foothill and De Anza. The report notes that faculty adoption of open textbooks for math, business, economics and health courses resulted in an estimated savings in 2011-12 of more than \$165,000 for students.

Foothill parking & circulation: The board awarded a \$2.57 million contract to Robert A. Botham Inc. for parking and circulation improvements at Foothill College that will be made over the next two years. The work is being done in a way that minimizes impacts on the college. Work will begin this summer.

HUMAN RESOURCES & PERSONNEL

Administrative employment: Trustees ratified administrative contracts with **Betsy Nikolchev**, executive director, and **Carmen Ponce**, director of Stretch to Kindergarten and Early Learning Programs, with the Family Engagement Institute at Foothill.

Full-time faculty employment: Trustees approved employment for **Ruben Abrica** as an instructor in the Division of International/Intercultural Studies and **Kay Fischer** as a community organizer, both at De Anza; and **Florence (Jess) Miller** as a counselor in Disability Resources at Foothill. The board also approved temporary employment for **David Huseman** in the EMT/paramedic program at Foothill.

Classified employment: Trustees ratified the hiring of **Alex Zapien** as a heating, ventilation and air-condition apprentice in Central Services.

Promotions: The board approved the promotion of **Denise Swett** to vice president of student services at Foothill.

Faculty Retirements: Trustees approved the retirements of **Ann Lee-Yen** in Child Development and **Roger Mack** in Social Science and Humanities, both at De Anza; and **Sandi Watkins** in Language Arts at Foothill.

Professional Growth Awards: The board ratified PGAs for the following classified employees: at De Anza, **Mi Chang**, **Melodie Cheney**, **Bachmai Kha**, **Karen Oeh**, **So Kim Te** and **Christine Woo**; at Foothill, **Tung Duong**, **Gigi Gallagher**, **Deborah Haynes** and **Susanne Hinds**; and in Central Services, **Terri Vijeh** and **Paul Zink**.

Reduction in classified service: Trustees approved elimination of a program coordinator position previously funded by the Associated Students at Foothill College, resulting in a 45-day notice of layoff.

REPORTS & HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Staff: **Erin Clifford Ortiz**, a student activities specialist at Foothill College and a Foothill graduate, introduced herself as the newly elected president of the Foothill Classified Senate. Foothill Academic Senate President **Dolores Davison** reported that students, in consultation with the Academic Senate, have selected music instructor **Robert Hartwell** as the faculty commencement speaker on June 29. She also noted that the Foothill Senate has nominated **Robert Cormia** as District Academic Senate president pending approval by the De Anza Academic Senate. De Anza Senate President **Karen Chow** reported that the Senate's new vice president is **Randy Bryant**, an instructor in automotive technology, and that she will continue as president for a second year.

Presidents' comments: President **Brian Murphy** reported De Anza has won the Coast Conference All Sports Trophy for 2011-12, an award it has captured for 18 of the past 28 years for the cumulative achievements of campus teams. He presented the board with a

collection of letters to the governor and lawmakers written by Foothill and De Anza students associated with the CalWORKS program at the Occupational Training Institute (OTI) at De Anza. The letters explain how reducing the time limit for Cal WORKS training from four years to two would hurt students' ability to achieve their educational goals and affect them and their families. President Murphy thanked Program Coordinator **Dan Dishno** and the OTI staff for putting the booklet together.

Foothill College President **Judy Miner** spoke of her pride in Instructor **Bubba Gong** and the Foothill Repertory Dance Company, which recently presented a sold out 25th anniversary fundraising concert. She noted that **Dolores Davison**, a history and women's studies instructor, was re-elected to a two-year term as president of the Foothill Academic Senate and thanked her for leadership on a number of campus Academic Senate committees.

Chancellor's comments: Chancellor Thor commended district police Chief **Ron Levine** for putting together "sobering and thought-provoking" workshops for faculty and staff on how to survive an active shooter, presented by trainers from UC Davis. She said the workshop underscored the importance of having a plan and practicing it to prepare to respond appropriately in a stressful situation. She also congratulated board President Barram for a well-received presentation to the Board of Education of the Fremont Union High School District about Foothill-De Anza and its plans for a new education center at the former Onizuka Air Force Station.

Trustee comments: Trustees Betchtel and Swenson both recounted speaking recently with residents of other countries about Foothill-De Anza. One, a former student working in Slovenia, told Trustee Bechtel about the excellent educational experience he had at De Anza; the other, an international student from China, told Trustee Swenson that "everyone in Guangzhou knows about De Anza as one of the premier transfer institutions in the United States."

Board President Barram commented on some of the year-end events she has attended as well as the all-district meeting called by the chancellor to present budget concerns. She said she was pleased to see how many faculty and staff attended the budget meeting to discuss the importance and severity of our fiscal problems this year.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, June 18 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. The official minutes 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*.