



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Trustees

Betsy Bechtel • Pearl Cheng • Laura Casas Frier • Joan Barram • Bruce Swenson • Etienne Bowie • Thomasina Russaw

Board meeting of Nov. 1, 2010

ACTION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Solar collaborative: Trustees approved an independent contractor agreement for **Catherine Ayers** to manage day-to-day operations of the SolarTech Workforce Innovation Collaborative for Foothill-De Anza. The collaborative recently received a \$4 million Green Innovation Challenge grant from the state of California to encourage business-led partnerships to develop creative methods of increasing employment within the green economy. Besides Foothill-De Anza, partners in the collaborative include the NOVA Workforce Board and SolarTech, an initiative of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. Foothill-De Anza's share of the grant is about \$1.26 million. Ayers helped write the grant proposal.

Increase in De Anza student body fee: The board approved the first increase since 1993 in the student body fee at De Anza College at the request of the De Anza Associated Students, taking it from \$6 to \$9 per quarter. This year, the DASB received more than \$1.5 million in funding requests for college programs and services but had only \$1 million to allocate. The fee increase will add \$200,000 annually to the DASB budget, making it possible to expand programs and services that have been reduced and to fund new initiatives, including a food scholarship program.

De Anza Student Trustee **Thomasina Russaw** said students support the increase and welcome an opportunity to provide financial assistance to the college at a time of great need. College President **Brian Murphy** thanked the students for their initiative and Trustee **Joan Barram** complimented them for managing their money well and using it to do good things.

Revisions to employment policy: Trustees approved the first reading of a policy revision aimed at increasing efficiency by giving the chancellor authority to approve hiring decisions and other employment actions when necessary to avoid employment delays, then bring them to the board for ratification. Certain appointments would still require prior board approval: chancellor, interim and acting chancellor, president, vice chancellor and executive director of facilities, operations and construction. Board Policy 4125 returns for approval at the next meeting.

Recruiting for advisory committees: The board reviewed plans for recruiting community members for the Measure C Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee and the board's Audit & Finance Committee, and appointed Trustees **Betsy Bechtel** and

Pearl Cheng to review the applications and make recommendations. The board is seeking one community member for Audit and Finance and three for the bond committee in the categories of student representative, senior citizens' organization representative and an at-large representative. Application deadline is on Nov. 19. The volunteer positions are being advertised.

First quarter budget report: Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** said that first-quarter budget activity is consistent with the district's expectations and that he and his staff are still working through the details of the new California budget and what it means for Foothill-De Anza. He noted it seems likely the state budget will have to be reopened at some point during the fiscal year given California's structural budget deficit. He said the district should be very cautious about its expenditures.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

New hires: Vice chancellor **Dorene Novotny** introduced **Suzanne Pfeiffer** as the new director of human resources and the board ratified her hiring. Pfeiffer, who will join Novotny as a chief negotiator, brings the district a depth of human resources experience in areas including negotiations, employee relations, employment and compensation and benefits. Prior employers include the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, where she managed the employee benefits program. Most recently, Pfeiffer directed the Antioch Unified School District's human resources division and served as chief negotiator, following service as the district's benefits manager and director of classified personnel.

Trustees also ratified the hiring at De Anza of **Ernesto Ybarra Jr.** as a customer service assistant in the bookstore and **Abdul Ghamrawi** as tool room assistant in automotive technology.

Professional Achievement Awards: The board ratified Professional Achievement Awards for three De Anza instructors – **Wayne Chenoweth** and **Kevin Glapion** in Disabled Student Services and HOPE special education instructor **Monica Sheirich**.

Reclassifications: Trustees approved reclassifications in Central Services of **Ed Hoffman** to HVAC apprentice III and **Juan Mardueno** to journeyman plumber.

Professional Growth Awards: The board approved Professional Growth Awards for the following employees – at Foothill, **Inna Witkop**, financial aid outreach assistant; at De Anza, administrative assistant **Melissa Ingalls**, accountant **Lisa Kirk**, program coordinator **Blanche Monary**, administrative assistant **Melissa Sheldon** and **Sophia Varela**, Child Development Center teacher; and in Central Services, web applications administrator **Drake Lewis**.

HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Special recognition: Board President **Bruce Swenson**, joined by other trustees, administrators and the audience, acknowledged the extensive efforts of three individuals who dedicated countless hours as volunteers in the Measure E campaign.

Bob Grimm, Kathy Torgersen and Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** all received standing ovations. "It has been an extraordinary effort by everyone here, and many outside this room, to make good things happen," Swenson said. "We owe them a huge debt of gratitude."

Swenson went on to thank Foothill and De Anza students for their extraordinary work and contributions to Measure E. He also expressed appreciation for volunteer efforts by employee groups and Chancellor **Linda Thor**. "Whatever happens tomorrow," he said, "we can feel we've put out an A+ effort." On behalf of the chancellor's staff, Chancellor Thor spoke of their gratitude to the three volunteers for their dedication. "Those who have worked with you are in awe of your passion, creativity and energy," she said. "We are proud to have you represent us."

Trustee comments: Trustee Bechtel commented on watching the recent White House Summit on Community Colleges and her pride that Chancellor Thor was one of only three California community college executives at the historic event.

Trustee **Laura Casas Frier** reported on attending a Foothill College Transfer Center presentation to the Mountain View-Los Altos Community Scholars program, and congratulated **Pat Hyland, Bernie Day** and **Maureen Chenoweth** on a successful event. Casas Frier noted that the Foothill transfer team recently set a record, reviewing 544 Transfer Admission Guarantee agreements for University of California campuses this fall. The numbers are unprecedented. This fall, Foothill processed a total of 1,376 TAGs for students seeking transfer to UC campuses, including the 544 for which the particular UC campuses required counselor review. For the entire 2009-10 academic year, Chenoweth reports, Foothill processed a total of 234 TAGs for UC, CSU and private universities combined.

Faculty comments: Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** thanked Chancellor Thor, Trustees Cheng and Barram and administrators **Ron McFarland** (De Anza) and **Peter Murray** (Foothill) for attending the Faculty Association's recent retreat.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6 in the Hearthside Lounge, located across from the bookstore at Foothill College. Please check the agenda to verify time and location of the meeting. 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. For more comprehensive information, you may consult the official minutes, which generally are available at http://www.fhda.edu/about_us/board/minutes after their approval at the subsequent board meeting. Please contact Becky Bartindale at bartindalebecky@fhda.edu or extension 6107, with comments or questions about *Board Highlights*.