

Board meeting of Feb. 9, 2015

SOME HEADLINES

Trustees considered or approved:

- Progress on new district offices
- Development options for Flint Center garage
- Feasibility of public-private partnership at De Anza
- Recruitment of next chancellor
- Appointments, new hires, retirements, awards

Agenda & backup material: <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/fhda/Board.nsf/Public>

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STUDY SESSION

New district offices

Vice Chancellor Kevin McElroy briefed the board on a strategy to minimize construction costs for a new building to house district offices and the boardroom on Lot 7 at Foothill College. He said the building could be exempted from meeting more costly Field Act construction standards if the district would resolve that it will never be used for instruction and can show that the site isn't part of the campus. The Field Act requires the highest level of earthquake-resistant construction for California's K-14 public schools. Even if the building weren't constructed to meet the Field Act, he said, the new offices would meet building codes for seismic safety in non-school buildings.

Reducing costs is important because funding for the new district offices will come largely from whatever contingency and other funds remain from completed bond projects. Vice Chancellor McElroy said building to Field Act standards would also take longer.

In response to a question from the board, Foothill's Bond Project Manager **Art Heinrich** said the district had received only one comment in response to a legal notice that the district intends to adopt a mitigated negative declaration regarding environmental impacts of the project. He said the Santa Clara Valley Water District expressed concern about the building's location in an easement for Adobe Creek.

Trustee **Joan Barram** reaffirmed her objections to an earlier design proposed for the district boardroom and asked whether the district offices would be an environmentally "green" building. Vice Chancellor McElroy said the architect is going back to the drawing board on the boardroom and that the building will have sustainability as a "prime

requirement.” However, he said, the district is unlikely to seek LEED certification because of the additional costs involved.

At its regular evening session, the board approved an agreement with Swinerton Builders for preconstruction services for the district offices at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. Vice Chancellor McElroy said that involving a builder now would allow the architect and builder to work together to develop economical design and construction options.

Development options for Flint Center garage

Trustees discussed possible options for addressing seismic safety concerns at De Anza’s Flint Center garage. The parking structure needs extensive seismic retrofitting and renovation at an estimated cost of \$15.5 million to \$18 million. Before the seismic issues were discovered, renovation of the garage was budgeted at \$5.2 million. The district doesn’t have enough Measure C funds remaining for the larger seismic project.

Board members were skeptical last year about an administration recommendation to demolish the parking structure and replace it with surface parking at an estimated cost of about \$6.25 million. Demolition would remedy the seismic concerns but leave the college with approximately 900 fewer parking spaces.

Vice Chancellor **Kevin McElroy** presented several other options, including a recommendation that the district explore development alternatives for the land under the parking structure as well as the land under the Flint Center. While the Flint Center has an illustrious history, he said, it’s now relatively old and outdated as a performance venue, and over the past decade has provided little or no financial benefit to De Anza College or the district. In addition, he said, a recent engineering report revealed that the Flint Center also needs seismic and other costly upgrades, and annual maintenance costs for the building continue to rise.

As the district considers what to do, it is evaluating four options:

- Renovating and seismically retrofitting the parking structure, which would require taking on additional debt while continuing to pay off existing debt on the garage, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million annually for 20 years.
- Working with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to develop a bus rapid transit center that would include vehicle parking for De Anza.
- Pursuing a mixed-use development, including parking, on the combined parking garage and Flint Center parcels.
- Some combination of the VTA and mixed-use development options once they are more fully developed.

While the college has little use for the Flint Center, President **Brian Murphy** said, the building has a long history of providing a service to the community. He said it’s important to determine whether there are other venues that satisfy the community’s needs. Faculty Association President **Rich Hansen** said he’s been told the Flint Center has great acoustics for music and wondered if more could be done to attract music acts, making the Flint Center more profitable. Responding to trustees questions about Celebrity Forum, Vice Chancellor McElroy said the initial feedback he’s received is that the speaker series could be moved successfully to another location.

De Anza’s **Donna Jones-Dulin**, associate vice president of college operations, reported that the VTA is interested in working with the college on a joint venture that includes a transit hub and parking. She said VTA currently doesn’t have funds for such a project but

is willing to explore other possible funding sources. She said that having a bus rapid transit hub would help the college reduce its carbon footprint and bring more students to the campus. However, she said she advised VTA that the college also would need to get a minimum of 700 parking spaces from such project to make it work.

Public-private partnership feasibility study

One possible avenue for resolving the Flint Center parking structure dilemma would be a public-private development, and the district intends to gather detailed information about the feasibility of that approach.

Trustees heard a presentation from **Matt Bohannon**, a regional vice president at Brailsford & Dunlavey Inc., about public-private partnerships at other colleges. Bohannon noted that an increasing number of community colleges are partnering to build and operate on-campus student housing or transitional housing for faculty and staff.

Trustee **Betsy Bechtel** and several other board members said they aren't interested in getting into the student housing business. Chancellor **Linda Thor** said that providing low-income students with affordable housing and integrating it with learning communities could have a positive effect. The chancellor also noted the growing difficulties that Foothill-De Anza's international students face trying to find local housing and the challenges that high housing costs pose for employee recruitment.

President Murphy said De Anza's priority for any housing on campus would be for deeply discounted apartments for low-income students rather than market-rate housing for wealthier students. "We're not interested in being a shopping mall," he added, noting that any development on campus should benefit the community. He said a feasibility study would give the college information it needs to understand its options, even if the district decides not to do a project.

De Anza Student Trustee **Melissa Epps** said it's important to understand how everything would fit together, for example, knowing which students might be interesting in on-campus housing and whether that could cut into VTA bus ridership.

Later that evening, the board approved in concept entering into a contract with Brailsford & Dunlavey to conduct a feasibility study for the public-private development of the Flint Center and parking structure parcels. Board President **Pearl Cheng** said a feasibility study would help the district reach the next level of inquiry. Trustees **Bruce Swenson** and **Joan Barram** requested that the scope of work for the study be shared with the board.

Chancellor recruitment

Trustees discussed the draft of a chancellor search profile to be used in recruiting, and heard from search consultant **Pamila Fisher** of ACCT and search liaison **Mike Brandy** about recent public forums to discuss the skills and background the next chancellor needs. In addition to open forums at both colleges, sessions were held Feb. 3-4 with the Foothill-De Anza Foundation Board of Directors and college commission members; the chancellor's cabinet; the College Council at De Anza; and the Planning & Resource Council at Foothill. Mike Brandy said about 70 people participated in the forums and provided a good sense of the challenges and opportunities facing the next chancellor. Dr. Fisher noted that there are currently about a dozen community college CEO positions open in California and about 100 across the country.

Later that evening, at its regular business meeting, the board approved the chancellor search profile with several changes requested by trustees, along with a timeline, the charge to the search committee, and the committee's composition and membership. According to the timeline, the committee will interview and select finalists in mid-May and invite them to take part in public forums at Foothill and De Anza in June.

Education Center progress report

Time ran out and trustees postponed discussion of progress on the new education center in Sunnyvale to the March 2 board meeting.

REGULAR SESSION

INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

Foundation board report

Trustee **Joan Barram** reported on the January board meeting of the Foothill-De Anza Foundation, which featured presentations by candidates for the district's new Innovation Grants. A committee consisting of the chancellor, the college presidents, and the foundation board president later selected the first grant recipients – **Isaiah Nengo's** Turkana Basin project, which will fund four underrepresented students from De Anza doing anthropology field research in Kenya this summer; a project on artistic expression and social change proposed by **Diana Argabrite**, program coordinator at the Euphrat Museum of Art, and **Julie Lewis**, chair of African American studies at De Anza; and a support program at Foothill for parents who want to get back into the workforce in STEM fields, proposed by mathematics instructor **Debbie Lee** and engineering instructor **Sarah Parikh**. The grants are used to fund programs that support student equity and retention.

Board's legislative principles

After suggesting several revisions, the board approved legislative principles which guide the district's legislative advocacy. Among the additions, Trustee **Laura Casas** suggested supporting the elimination of the federal financial aid cap for students who begin their education at community colleges.

Board policy revisions

Trustees heard the first reading of two proposed policy revisions:

- Board Policy 3200 (formerly BP 2510), Accreditation, includes added language to ensure that the board is kept informed of accreditation matters.
- Board Policy 3250 (formerly BP 3050), Institutional Planning, includes new language listing the institutional planning documents required by state regulations, incorporates language from accreditation standards, and updates legal references.

The Academic and Professional Matters Committee and the Chancellor's Advisory Council have approved these changes, which will return to the board for action at the March meeting. The district is updating all its policies and procedures and aligning its numbering system to conform with the Community College League of California Policy and Procedure Service.

Budget update & fiscal self-assessment

Vice Chancellor Kevin McElroy presented an update on the budget outlook for 2015-16 and reviewed the district's annual fiscal self-assessment. He recapped that state funding for 2015-16 looks good overall and includes a proposed increase in base funding that would bring Foothill-De Anza about \$3 million in new dollars and a 1.58 percent cost-of-living increase that would bring approximately \$2.2 million to the district.

In addition, he said, the governor has proposed additional categorical funds to support student success, career-technical education, and apprenticeship programs, among others. One of the most significant – funding for student equity plans and the Student Success and Support Program (3SP) – could yield about \$4.8 million for the district. However, Vice Chancellor McElroy noted that those dollars may require a 2:1 funding match that the district may not be able to meet. He said this is an issue for districts throughout the state.

The governor's proposal to spend \$351.3 million to pay down community colleges' unfunded mandated costs claims would be significant, but he said that dollars proposed for this purpose in past years have been drastically reduced or used to fund other legislative priorities.

He reported that state Chancellor Brice Harris is urging caution until the budget process is completed since some of the funding may be diverted to other uses and because California's boom economy won't last forever. Community colleges still face major ongoing fiscal challenges, including increased costs for STRS and PERS, unfunded retiree health benefit costs, and the phasing out of revenue from Proposition 30's temporary tax increases.

Reviewing the district's annual fiscal self-assessment, Vice Chancellor McElroy complimented the work **Hector Quinonez**, the district's executive director of fiscal services, and Budget Director **Joni Hayes Lamprey**. Trustee **Bruce Swenson** noted that the district's general fund expenses have declined from \$190 million in 2008-09 to \$170 million last year, very closely mirroring the district's decline in revenue during the state's budget crisis. Achieving those kinds of reductions is not easy to do, he said, and makes an important statement about the fiscal management of the district.

Responding to a question about the loss of funding from temporary tax increases, Vice Chancellor McElroy said he hopes that increased state revenues will provide backfill to offset the loss of Prop. 30 dollars or that Gov. Brown will support some form of Prop. 30 renewal.

Reduction in classified service

At the request of acting Foothill President **Kimberlee Messina**, an item was withdrawn from the agenda that would eliminate a vacant senior library technician position at Foothill College due to fiscal challenges and because "the position is no longer performing work at a senior level." Also withdrawn was creation of a new library technician position at a lower rate of pay.

Foothill College librarians **Mary Thomas**, **Kay Jones**, **Pam Wilkes** and **Micaela Agyare**, along with senior library technicians **Karen Smith** and **Art Hand**, spoke to the board about why they believe the senior library technician position should be retained. Since 2008, **Mary Thomas** said, the library has been reduced from six librarians and seven senior library technicians to four librarians and six senior library technicians, including the vacant position. This has been supplemented by a succession of temporary employees.

Kay Jones said the library staff and the college administration disagree about the skill level that library technicians need to effectively serve students and that library staff would like an opportunity to help find a better solution. The speakers asked trustees not to further diminish library service for students by eliminating the senior library technician position. Responding to a question from the board, **Art Hand** said the library has had to shorten evening hours because of budget cuts.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Administrator positions

The board ratified the appointment of **Mike Teijeiro** as athletic director at Foothill College; he began work Jan. 1. Trustees ratified the extension of **Elvia Hererra's** appointment as assistant director of the Family Engagement Institute at Foothill through April 30, and the appointment of **Kimberlee Messina** as acting president at Foothill College through March 31, when President **Judy Miner** is expected to return.

The board accepted the resignation of Chancellor **Linda Thor**, effective June 30, and approved training/retraining awards for three administrators – Foothill's **Teresa Ong**, dean of Disabled Student Services and Veterans Programs, and De Anza's **Thomas Ray**, dean of Language Arts, and **Rowena Tomaneng**, associate vice president of instruction. Trustees approved a title change for Central Services' **Lester Lyons** to associate director of facilities & operations, as well as the creation of a new, second administrator position with the same title.

Faculty employment

Trustees ratified or approved a number of new counseling positions at both colleges using categorical funding. Four positions in Counseling & Student Success at Foothill take effect July 1 and the three temporary counseling positions at Foothill became effective Jan. 20. The board ratified employment of **Hillary Bacon**, **Mimi Overton** and **Christopher Rico** in three temporary Foothill counseling positions. At De Anza, three counseling positions will take effect July 1, one in Physical Education & Athletics and two in Outreach and Relations with Schools. One De Anza counseling positions, in Biological, Health & Environmental Sciences, became effective Feb. 10.

Professional development leaves

The board approved professional development leaves for the following faculty members:

At Foothill, PDLs were approved for chemistry instructor **Richard Daley**, ESL instructor **Michele DuBarry**, art instructor **Hillary Gomes**, environmental horticulture instructor **Daniel Svenson**, and counselors **Leticia Delgado**, **Tobias Nava**, **Elaine Piparo** and **Tilly Wu**.

At De Anza, PDLs were approved for mathematics instructor **Roberta Bloom**, ESL instructor **Christine Chai**, intercultural studies instructor **Anu Khanna**, art history instructor **Elizabeth Mjelde**, sociology instructor **Jennifer Myhre**, photography instructor **Diane Pierce**, English instructors **Karen Chow**, **Diana Fleming** and **Jill Quigley**, and counselors **Kevin Glapion**, **Herminio Hernando** and **Ky-Duyen Huynh**.

instructor **Elizabeth Mjelde**, sociology instructor **Jennifer Myhre**, photography instructor **Diane Pierce**, English instructors **Karen Chow**, **Diana Fleming** and **Jill Quigley**, and counselors **Kevin Glapion**, **Herminio Hernando** and **Ky-Duyen Huynh**.

Classified employment

The board ratified employment for the following employees: at De Anza, **Holly Lofgren** as coordinator of furniture, fixtures & equipment and **Joaquin Vega** as custodian; and in Central Services, **Jeffrey Ricketts** as police sergeant in Campus Safety & Security.

Faculty & staff retirements

The board approved the retirement of De Anza English instructor **Suzanne Helfman**, effective June 26, 2015, after 21 years, under Article 19 of the Faculty Association contract. Trustees approved the retirement of **Kerry West**, administrative assistant in Biological and Health Sciences at Foothill, effective April 7, 2015, after 18 years, and ratified the retirement of Central Services' warehouse worker **David Jones**, whose last day with the district, after 37 years of employment, was Dec. 30, 2014.

New classified positions

Trustees approved creation of several new classified positions using categorical funding: at Foothill, a second research analyst position was added in Counseling & Student Success, and at De Anza, two administrative assistant positions and an outreach assistant position were added in Student Services. The board also approved a new position and classification, multimedia producer, in the President's Office at De Anza.

Professional Growth Awards

The board ratified Professional Growth Awards at De Anza for administrative assistant **Carlita Alamban**, senior program coordinator **Margaret Bdzil**, and enrollment services specialist **Atousa Pojhan**.

REPORTS & HEARINGS OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

(Board members cannot discuss items that are not placed in advance on the agenda.)

Staff comments

Foothill Classified Senate President **Karen Smith** reported on the college's winter professional development day, which focused on student retention. She said classified staff at the college would like to reinstate new employee orientations so classified staff have a better sense of where to direct students for services. She noted that **Roberto Sias** has returned as a tri-chair of Foothill's Equity Committee, and that **John DuBois** and **Tom Shepard** are the new tri-chairs, respectively, for the Transfer Workgroup and Assessment and Placement Ad Hoc Committee. She commented on the success of 7 x 7 x 25, a reflective writing challenge for faculty and staff featuring seven pieces of writing over seven weeks in 25 sentences about teaching, learning and student success: <http://www.foothill.edu/staff/development/reflectivewriting.php>

President's comments

De Anza President **Brian Murphy** reported that the women's badminton team, undefeated for two years in a row, was named a California Community College Athletic Association scholar team. This is a special award that recognizes academic achievement by all members of a team.

Board comments

Trustee **Joan Barram** reported on attending the Community College League of California's annual legislative conference in Sacramento as well as the Joint Venture Silicon Valley's State of the Valley conference with fellow board members **Pearl Cheng** and **Laura Casas**. Regarding the legislative conference, board President Cheng commented on a presentation by Dr. **Manuel Pastor** on California's demographic changes and the role of higher education in closing the equity gap and Trustee Barram congratulated De Anza President **Brian Murphy** on an excellent presentation about The Democracy Commitment and the importance of preparing students for civic engagement. De Anza Student Trustee **Melissa Epps** reported that she and Foothill Student Trustee **Evelynn Chun** had recently attended the Camp Wellstone leadership retreat.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Monday, March 2, at 6 p.m. in the Toyon Room in the Campus Center at Foothill College. The Toyon Room is the board's new meeting location until further notice.

Agenda: <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/fhda/Board.nsf/Public>

Agendas generally are posted 72 hours in advance. Please check the agenda to verify the time and location of the meeting.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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Minutes: <http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/fhda/Board.nsf/Public>

Find approved minutes by meeting date under the "Meetings" tab. Minutes are typically approved at the next board meeting. For questions about minutes, please contact Paula Norsell, assistant to the chancellor, at (650) 949-6106 or norsellpaula@fhda.edu.