

The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Sept. 6, 2011. The Board summaries are posted at <http://www.smc.edu/ACG/Pages/Trustees-Meeting-Information.aspx>.

In addition, the meeting minutes, which provide all the official actions of the Board, are also posted at <http://www.smc.edu/ACG/Pages/Trustees-Meeting-Information.aspx>.

Podcasts of the meeting are available at <http://www.smc.edu/itunes>.

2011-12 BUDGET: The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adopt a \$466.2 million budget for 2011-12, which includes a \$189.7 million general unrestricted fund and the remainder in restricted funds for a variety of purposes, including bond projects, student financial aid and more. Officials say the college, despite state funding cuts, is starting on a solid financial footing this year after ending the 2010-11 fiscal year with a \$2.1 million operating *surplus*, rather than a \$5.9 million operating *deficit* as originally anticipated.

“This is a remarkable budget for which we should all be proud, especially during these difficult times,” said Vice President of Business and Administration Bob Isomoto.

As a result, the budget includes, on the recommendation of President Dr. Chui L. Tsang, funding to add 200 sections to the class offerings across fall, winter and spring; creating and filling 10 new full-time, tenure-track faculty positions for 2012; setting aside money to institutionalize the Supplemental Instruction/Writing Center/Tutoring Center initiatives; funding for instructional equipment replacement and updates; and funding for technology and facility infrastructure modifications and updates. It also includes a designated reserve of \$1.24 million as contingency for possible mid-year state funding reductions. The budget was reviewed by the District Planning & Advisory Council’s Budget Planning subcommittee, which acknowledged that the budget procedure followed transparent processes and that all constituencies had input.

STATE BUDGET: Vice President of Business and Administration Bob Isomoto reported that in about a week, the college will have a better sense of whether mid-year state funding cuts will materialize, triggered by lower-than-projected state tax receipts. He said that on Dec. 15, the state Department of Finance will announce the official amount of tax receipts and its revenue projection for the back half of the fiscal year. This announcement will determine the status of the “trigger cuts.” Already there are bills being presented to add additional steps before the triggers can take effect, he said.

START OF ACADEMIC YEAR: Several SMC officials reported that the start of the 2011-12 academic year – including Opening Day and VIP Welcome Day the Thursday and Friday before the first day of classes – was a big success. Particularly rewarding, officials said, was a concerted effort by the college, working with the City of Santa Monica, to control traffic last week, which was the first week of classes not only for SMC but also, for the first time, for schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Regula Ziegler, a representative of Friends of Sunset Park, praised the college for its cooperation with the city and for minimizing disruption to the neighborhood the first week of classes.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP INITIATIVE: The Board heard a report that SMC’s Global Citizenship Initiative continues to embed itself more deeply into the college fabric each year. A

comprehensive written report addresses the successful use of annual themes and campus books to promote global citizenship; efforts to reach students; development of new global studies classes; efforts to resuscitate study abroad opportunities that had faltered in 2010-11 because of the economy; and expansion of efforts to include community service. The report – presented by Global Citizenship Faculty Leader Pete Morris, Dean of International Education Kelley Brayton and Dean of Curriculum Georgia Lorenz – is in Appendix B (pages 62-67) in the Board agenda at http://www.smc.edu/ACG/Documents/Trustees_Meeting_Information/Board_of_Trustees_Meetings/2011/9-6-2011%20Agenda.pdf.

DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION UPDATE: The Board heard a report from Dean of Online Services and Support Julie Yarrish and Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Shimizu that SMC’s online education program is one of the largest in the state and continues to grow. According to a written report, total enrollments increased from 23,311 in 2009-10 to 23,745 in 2010-11, and the percentage of students taking online courses is now nearly 22 percent. In addition, more and more classes are being offered online; to date, there have been 275 SMC classes converted to online delivery. And the persistence and success (percentage of students receiving a C or better) rates have increased nearly 10 percent since 2004, the report says. The full report is in Appendix C (pages 68-75) in the Board agenda at http://www.smc.edu/ACG/Documents/Trustees_Meeting_Information/Board_of_Trustees_Meetings/2011/9-6-2011%20Agenda.pdf.

“OIL EXTRACTION TAX TO RESCUE EDUCATION” (PROPOSITION 1481): The Board voted unanimously to support Proposition 1481, dubbed the “Oil Extraction Tax to Rescue Education,” a proposed statewide ballot measure that would place a 15 percent tax on crude oil drilled in California onshore and offshore. The measure would raise an estimated \$3 billion annually for California education, kindergarten-through-college. The deadline to gather signatures to place it on the November ballot is Sept. 30.

CODE OF ETHICS: The Board voted unanimously to give a first reading (tentative approval) to a District-Wide Code of Ethics. The code, which applies to all members of the SMC community, includes brief statements on integrity, responsibility, fairness and civility. Final approval is scheduled for the Oct. 4 Board meeting.

SMC CENTRAL PLANT PROJECT: The Board heard a report from Director of Maintenance Jeff Gehring and Director of Facilities Planning Greg Brown that building a new central plant would reduce energy use and maintenance compared to a project that would have individual chillers and ice storage in each major building.

CITIZENS’ BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: The Board voted unanimously to begin the application process to fill a vacancy on the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee that was created by the resignation of Clarence Chapman.

QUARTERLY REPORT: The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge submittal of the college’s quarterly report as of June 30 to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

ATHLETICS: Athletics Project Manager Joe Cascio reported that SMC Athletics is off to a great start this year, with the football team rolling over Compton College Saturday in the first

game of the season, 24-0. It was the football team's first shutout in 15 years. He said the home games have been moved to days to save energy. Other teams are excelling, too, including the women's volleyball team, he said.

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Management Association President Judy Neveau reported that the association is gearing up for the fall semester and, among other things, has organized a training webinar for managers in November and has signed up to get an orientation for the new Organic Learning Garden.