

The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of April 5, 2011. The Board summaries are posted at <http://www.smc.edu/apps/docs.asp?Q=586>.

In addition, the meeting minutes, which provide all the official actions of the Board, are posted at <http://www.smc.edu/apps/Pub.asp?Q=544>.

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

BUDGET: Vice President of Business & Administration Bob Isomoto reported that with Gov. Jerry Brown ending negotiations for a bipartisan state budget plan that included a June ballot seeking voter approval for tax extensions, the best-case scenario for community college budgets “is no longer reality.” Instead, California community colleges will have to eliminate thousands of classes when demand is at an all-time high. In addition, at community colleges throughout the state, there have been employees laid off and furloughed, changes to health care offerings, salary reductions and freezes, service hours shortened, calendar changes, and a multitude of other spending reductions. He said SMC, because of its recent healthy fund balance, has largely been spared the most onerous of these cost saving strategies, but it is now time “to begin serious discussion on the very real fiscal challenge that lies ahead.”

SACRAMENTO REPORT: SMC President Dr. Chui L. Tsang, returning from a two-day trip to the State Capitol to lobby for community colleges as they face the worst budget crisis in more than 30 years, said “the news from Sacramento is grim” and he was shocked that legislators don’t know what to do. However, he did say that higher education’s lobbying efforts – particularly a meeting held Tuesday of the three heads of the public college and university systems in the state with Gov. Brown – have been effective. Nevertheless, “there don’t seem to be any solutions at this point,” he reported.

FINANCIAL AID: Vice President of Enrollment Development Teresita Rodriguez reported that while financial aid to SMC students has increased this year over last, there is uncertainty about the future of state and federal financial aid programs because of budget crises in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. This year, 37 percent of students are receiving some form of aid, totaling \$37 million, compared to 32 percent, receiving \$33.5 million, last year. Federal Pell grants have risen from approximately \$21 million in 2009-10 reaching 6,500 students to \$26 million this year awarded to 7,500 students. The number of recipients of Board of Governor tuition waivers has gone up from 16,000 last year to 17,000 this year; CalGrants are up 19 percent this year over last; and other forms of aid have also increased.

AB 515: Senior Director of Government Relations & Institutional Communications Don Girard reported that the college is working closely with State Assemblymember Julia Brownley of Santa Monica to shape AB 515, a bill that would allow community colleges to establish and maintain an extension program offering credit courses, similar to programs already offered by the University of California and California State University. Meeting Monday in Sacramento with Brownley and representatives of community college faculty organizations, Girard said the bill – sponsored by SMC and College of the Canyons – is being amended to address concerns that have been raised. The bill would provide a “bridge solution” to the severe class offering reductions at community

colleges statewide, allowing campuses to offer fee-based courses that have been eliminated or reduced because of the current budget crisis. AB 515 is expected to get its first legislative committee hearing on April 12.

THREE SPECIAL SMC PROGRAMS: The Board heard a report on three special programs at SMC – the Veterans Resource Center, Asian American Pacific Islander Achievement Program, and the Promo Pathway Program. The written report on these programs – which outline their many achievements – is Appendix A, Pages 34-36, in the Board Agenda,

[http://www.smc.edu/Projects/32/Trustees Meeting Information/Board of Trustees Meetings/2011/4-5-11_Agenda.pdf](http://www.smc.edu/Projects/32/Trustees%20Meeting%20Information/Board%20of%20Trustees%20Meetings/2011/4-5-11_Agenda.pdf).

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EAST WING PROJECT: The Board provided comments on design plans for the Performing Arts Center East Wing Project, a structure that will replace the existing East Wing that was damaged in the 1933 Long Beach earthquake and never properly upgraded. The major space in the new wing will be a rehearsal and performance multipurpose hall, with attached instrument storage, food preparation and equipment storage rooms; additional storage on a mezzanine level; and two specially designed instructional classrooms on the second floor. The design plans will now go to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for review (SMC leases the Performing Arts Center property from the school district) and SMC officials will distribute an informational handout for the immediate neighbors.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH: The Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution recognizing April as National Community College Month.

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS REPORT: Associated Students President Tiffany Inabu reported on several projects the A.S. has sponsored in recent and upcoming weeks, including organizing and transporting three busloads of SMC students to join the statewide “March in March” community college protest of budget cuts in Sacramento; sponsoring, with 10 student clubs, the “Love to Japan” campaign to raise money for Japan relief efforts; involving students in the “Hands Across California” community college student scholarship fundraising event April 17; holding Associated Students elections; helping with Earth Week Activities April 18-22; and organizing Club Row on April 28 that will showcase 50-plus clubs on campus.

MANAGER HONORED: Management Association President Al Vasquez reported that Community Relations Director Judy Neveau was honored March 31 by the Santa Monica Lions Club with the Community Recognition Award.

SMC POLICE OFFICERS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROPOSALS: The Board held a public hearing and voted unanimously to adopt the college’s initial collective bargaining proposal to the Santa Monica Community College District Police Officers Association’s initial collective bargaining proposal and receive the association’s initial collective bargaining proposal.

CCCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board voted unanimously to cast their votes for five candidates for eight open seats on the California Community College Trustees Board of Directors.

CLOSED SESSION: The Board voted unanimously to suspend without pay for a period of 20 days (200 hours) one classified employee. This suspension will be implemented beginning April 12, 2011.

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