A meeting of the Santa Monica Community College Budget Planning Committee, a subcommittee of the District Planning and Advisory Council (DPAC) was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at Santa Monica College, Library Conference Room 275, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California.

I. Call to Order 2:05 p.m.

II. Budget Planning Committee Members

Chris Bonvenuto, Administration
Randy Lawson, Administration (absent)
Eric Oifer, Academic Senate Representative
Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Academic Senate Representative
Mona Martin, Management Association Representative, Co-Chair
Leonard Crawford, Management Association Representative
Mitra Moassessi, Faculty Association Representative
Howard Stahl, Faculty Association Representative (absent)
Bernie Rosenloecher, CSEA Representative
Tron Burdick, CSEA Representative (absent)
Leroy Lauer, CSEA Representative, Co-Chair
Miguel Reyes, CSEA Representative (absent)
Jazmin Mendez, Student Representative (absent)
Jafet Santiago, Student Representative (absent)

No representatives of the public were in attendance.

III. Minutes of June 4, 2008 were approved.

IV. Election of Budget Planning Sub-Committee Co-Chair for 2008-09

Howard Stahl was unanimously elected Co-Chair for 2008-09.

V. Fiscal Services Update (Chris Bonvenuto)

State-wide budget continues to change on a daily basis. While there has been some talk of a COLA for next year, the SMC tentative annual budget is being left as presented for the time being with no COLA included.

VI. Discussion on Designated Reserves

The Sub-committee continued its discussion on designated reserves, reiterating that if the annual budget included designated reserves, criteria needed to be clearly defined and documented and identified as one-year or multi-year initiatives. Some members felt strongly that there be no designated reserves, but instead a list of budget priorities should be identified through the collegial governance process (through DPAC).
The Sub-committee unanimously moved that the following motion be placed on the next DPAC agenda:

The Budget Planning Subcommittee recommends that DPAC identify a list of College budget priorities immediately to be forwarded to Superintendent/President Chui Tsang for consideration of items to be included in the 2008-09 budget.

The Sub-committee also requested a follow up on the recommendation DPAC approved:

DPAC recommends that senior staff involved in creating budget policies and strategies meet with the Budget Planning Subcommittee to coordinate deliberations at least once per semester.

It appears that designated reserves has been used to accomplish multiple goals (one-year projects, multi-year projects, showing commitment to priorities, setting aside for known cost items, etc.) Chris suggested that a category of “Allocated Reserves” could be used, broken down by such categories as Budget Priorities, Operational, and Three-year projects, thus resolving this conflict. Discussion of designated reserves will continue at the next meeting(s).

Adjournment at 3:48