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, September 16, 2009 at 2:07 p.m. at Santa Monica College, Library Conference Room (275), 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California.

I. Call to Order  2:07 p.m.

II. Budget Planning Committee Members

Chris Bonvenuto, Administration
Bob Isomoto, Administration, Co-Chair
Eric Oifer, Academic Senate Representative
Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Academic Senate Representative
Teresita Rodriguez, Management Association Representative
Erica LeBlanc, Management Association Representative
Mitra Moassessi, Faculty Association Representative
Howard Stahl, Faculty Association Representative
Bernie Rosenloecher, CSEA Representative
Tron Burdick, CSEA Representative (Absent)
Leroy Lauer, CSEA Representative (Absent)
Connie Lemke, CSEA Representative
Kyle Szesnat, Student Representative
Ian Skjervem, Student Representative
Cameron Henton, Student Representative
Christabella Adams, Student Representative

Interested Parties:
Randy Lawson, Administration

III. Review of Minutes: Minutes of September 2, 2009 approved.

A. Report From Fiscal Services On ARRA (America Recovery And Reinvestment Act) Funding

Chris Bonvenuto and Bob Isomoto shared the ARRA Funds Worksheet with the Committee. The State and District budget assumed $140 Million in ARRA funding which would be used to partially offset the cuts proposed in categorical funding. At this time, it appears that only $37 Million will be available. Different scenarios to handle the $103 Million shortfall were presented and discussed.

B. Adopted Budget For 2009-2010

At last night’s Board Meeting, the Board Of Trustees approved the 2009-2010 Budget. The Committee discussed the last-minute caveat to the Budget that passed along with the Budget. There was some uncertainty as to the meaning and intent of the caveat. It was reported by Chris Bonvenuto that further clarifying language will be presented in the minutes of the Board Meeting.
The Committee also discussed a potential source of new revenue: using a contract education model to offer University of California undergraduate coursework. Courses would get paid at the non-resident tuition rate and likely would occur online. At this point, the idea is in a very preliminary stage. Statewide discussions are ongoing but both SMC and UCLA appear interested in pursuing this idea.

In response to the ongoing budget problems, the following motion was discussed.

MOTION: “The Budget Committee recommends to DPAC that the President/Superintendent convene another Town Hall Meeting to update the community on the budget situation.”
Made: Henton Seconded: Rosenloecher Vote: 13 For; 0 Against; 1 Abstain
PASSED

C. “Under Consideration/Study” Budget Savings Recommendations

The Committee discussed the need to begin work on long-term savings ideas, as the current budget crisis appears to be multi-year in nature. With the prospect of mid-year cuts appearing more and more likely, further savings actions will become necessary in the future. Certain committee members expressed the opinion that steps need to be taken now if long-term savings recommendations to be implemented.

There were three budget savings recommendations approved by DPAC that the Superintendent/President reported with the status of “Under Consideration/Study”. There are:
- The Healthcare Incentive Plan
- The Retirement Incentive Plan
- Automate the Purchasing process employed by the District.

MOTION: “The Budget Committee recommends to DPAC that the President/Superintendent immediately task the Collegewide Benefits Committee to study and report findings on the Healthcare Incentive plans that are currently under consideration.”
Made: Tahvildaran Seconded: Henton Vote: 6 For; 6 Against; 1 Abstain
FAILED

Chris Bonvenuto recommended the Committee ask Fiscal Services to report on the status of these savings items. VP Isomoto agreed to agendize the report at the next meeting.

Adjournment at 3:44 p.m.