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, March 3, 2010 at 2:05 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
   Bob Isomoto, Administration, Co-Chair
   Eric Oifer, Academic Senate Representative
   Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, Academic Senate Representative
   Teresita Rodriguez, Management Association Representative
   Mona Martin, Management Association Representative
   Mitra Moassessi, Faculty Association Representative
   Howard Stahl, Faculty Association Representative, Co-Chair
   Bernie Rosenloecher, CSEA Representative
   Leroy Lauer, CSEA Representative
   Connie Lemke, CSEA Representative
   Kyle Szesnat, Student Representative (Absent)
   Jennifer Barry, Student Representative
   Cameron Henton, Student Representative
   Reza Ayazi, Student Representative

   Interested Parties:
   Randy Lawson, Administration
   Maggie Benjamin, Student Representative
   Mario Martinez, Faculty Association Representative


   A. Discussion Of Fiscal Projections Shared At The Board Study Session

   A number of committee members commented on the scenarios and assumptions shared at the Board Study Session held February 20, 2010. Certain committee members felt it was unfortunate that significant budgetary assumptions were not disclosed to the Budget Committee and came to light at the Study Session. According to both collective bargaining agreements, all health and welfare discussions should occur at the joint Collegewide Benefits Committee. Certain committee members expressed concerns that what took place has undermined the efforts of the Committee and threatened the level of trust and collegiality that exists. Furthermore, the actions of the District might constitute an unfair labor practice or be grievable if it is determined to be a violation of the collective bargaining agreements. Administrative representatives on the committee agreed that what happened should have been handled in a different manner.

   Certain committee members expressed concerns regarding the fluid nature of the vacancy list of job openings maintained by Human Resources. Administrative
representatives reported that the list is regularly reviewed and altered by Senior Staff based on need, openings that have been filled as well as separations that occur throughout the year. While the Board’s “Principle E” adopted at the 2007-2008 Board Retreat held March 15, 2008 states that vacancies can be used as one means for reaching budgetary targets, certain committee members expressed concern about the lack of dialogue and collaboration that occurs as the list gets revised and used for this purpose. Following much discussion on the vacancy list, it was agreed that this topic would get agendized for further discussion at our next meeting.

B. Discussion With Human Resources Concerning The Retirement Incentive Plan Study

Marci Wade, Vice-President of Human Resources, addressed the committee, presenting information regarding the early retirement incentive (“golden handshake”) study performed by PARS in June, 2009. Two different scenarios were prepared, one that would offer 65% of final salary and a second that would offer 85% of final salary. Marci reminded the Committee that much of the projected savings that would occur from such a program would come from not replacing the positions of those newly retired employees who have accepted the incentive. Certain committee members expressed their lack of support for such an incentive if it meant no longer replacing those who have separated from the District. Since this topic is a negotiable item and is currently in discussion at negotiating sessions currently underway, certain committee members advised the Committee to limit the discussion on this topic.

C. Report From Fiscal Services

Chris Bonvenuto shared revised Budget Assumptions For Fiscal Years 2010-11 And 2011-12. Two different scenarios were prepared. Further discussion on this information will get agendized at the next meeting.

Adjournment at 3:51 p.m.