The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Oct. 6, 2009. 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.

**ACCREDITATION:** Executive Vice President Randy Lawson and political science professor Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein reported that progress continues on the Accreditation Self-Study, with most of the initial draft posted on the SMC website for college review and input. The co-chairs of the accreditation committee noted that three of the four “standards” covered in the self-study have been completed and posted, and the fourth standard is expected to be posted by Oct. 15. In addition to the opportunity to make written remarks on the study, college employees will be given the chance to discuss the report in a series of brown bag lunch and evening meetings. The report is expected to come to the Board of Trustees in December for approval before being forwarded to the accreditation team that will visit the college next spring.

**FACILITIES MASTER PLAN:** Greg Brown, director of facilities planning, reported that SMC had held (as of Tuesday) the first of three public meetings on SMC’s Career and Educational Facilities Master Plan 2009 Update. The first meeting, held Sept. 30 at the Bundy campus, attracted more journalists, architects and college officials than members of the public, but attendance is expected to increase in subsequent meetings Oct. 7 and 14. Don Girard, senior director of government relations/institutional communications, reported that the Master Plan process will continue through the remainder of the fiscal year, with the master plan’s accompanying environmental impact report scheduled to be released next spring and a final report coming to the Board next June.

**BUDGET:** SMC President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that the amount of the federal stimulus funds coming in to help ease the state budget cuts this fiscal year will be less than expected. However, he said, the impact will not be significant for SMC.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** The Board heard an update from administrators on SMC’s career technical education programs and workforce development. A comprehensive written report that was submitted to the Board outlined many major accomplishments in the areas of career technical education, workforce development, economic development, and professional training and contract education. The four areas work together to meet regional employer needs for training and retraining, and for cultivating small business and entrepreneurial efforts in the Los Angeles area.

**EMPLOYEE DIVERSITY:** The Board directed staff to update its policy having to do with employee diversity. The action came after it heard a report from administrators on SMC’s employee diversity that concluded that strategies should be developed to broaden and balance racial and ethnic representation among employees with each recruitment process, within the guidelines of applicable laws and policies. The written report, submitted to the
Board, concluded, “The message that the (college) wants to promote is that there is commitment to achieving employee diversity at SMC.”

**EOPS MONTH:** The Board voted unanimously to approve a resolution recognizing October as Extended Opportunity Programs and Services month and honor the mission and purpose of the EOPS program. Board of Trustees Chair Louise Jaffe noted that the SMC EOPS office has a strong track record, serving a record high 1,624 eligible students this year, 85 percent of whom are at basic skills level. Jaffe said 86 percent of the EOPS students stay in college from term to term and 76 percent persisted from fall 2008 to fall 2009. In addition, about 40 percent who complete 12 units or more have a grade point average of 3.0 or above, and 51 percent of EOPS students with 40 or more units were transfer ready at the end of spring 2009.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS:** Associated Students President Cameron Henton reported that the A.S. Board of Directors voted two weeks ago to approve a document that lays out a list of goals it wants to accomplish this academic year. They include the Cayton Center renovation (with sustainable features), continuation of work on its zero-waste policy (for example, the A.S. distributes biodegradable plates and utensils to student clubs for their activities), a garden, alternative transportation, and establishment of a new scholarship for student athletes. A.S. also plans to enter a contract with CalPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group) – a nonprofit, nonpartisan watchdog organization – to promote issues such as affordable textbooks, public transit and environmental issues.

**“APPLAUSE AWARD:”** SMC Management Association President Erica LeBlanc said that Director of Campus Operations Jeffery Peterson and his team are the winners of the newly instituted “Applause Award” for September.

**CITIZENS BOND COMMITTEE:** The Board voted unanimously to appoint Associated Students President Cameron Henton to the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for 2009-10 as the student representative.

**BOARD EFFECTIVENESS & EFFICIENCY:** The Board heard a report from its Ad Hoc Committee of Effectiveness and Efficiency of Board Operations that recommended, among other things, that staff written reports should be submitted to the Board in advance of a meeting; no long presentations should be given except for such items as the budget; no extra board meetings should be scheduled; and ad hoc workgroups should be formed to focus on specific issues and those of particular interest to trustees.

**BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:** The Board voted unanimously to approve a schedule of its meetings for 2010.

**CLOSED SESSION ACTION:** Board Chair Louise Jaffe announced that at the Board’s Sept. 29 closed session it concluded its annual evaluation of President Dr. Chui L. Tsang and voted unanimously, with Trustee Margaret Quiñones-Perez absent, to reaffirm its unqualified support for Tsang’s dedicated leadership of SMC.