The following is a summary of the Jan. 14, 2008 SMC Board of Trustees meeting:

STATE BUDGET UPDATE: Officials presented a stark picture of the state budget that will affect SMC in the current fiscal year and in 2008-09. Dale Shimasaki of Strategic Education Services, SMC’s Sacramento lobbyist, noted that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a $40 million cut to community colleges this year and a $483 million reduction in 2008-09. The governor’s budget for 2008-09 would eliminate any cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increase, would provide funds for 1 percent growth and would cut categorical programs – such as Disabled Student Services and EOPS – by 10.9 percent. President Dr. Chui L. Tsang said that despite the bleak picture, there is some good news in the governor’s budget: for example, there is no cut in general apportionment funds and the 1 percent limit on growth funds does not impact SMC because the college’s enrollment is stable. Nevertheless, Vic Hanson, interim chief business officer, said that in anticipation of state cuts this year, the college will begin an immediate review to identify a $400,000 reduction in spending in the current SMC budget.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang and members of his staff made the following reports:

• Human Resources Training Sessions: Vice President of Human Resources Marcy Wade reported that her department has begun a year-long process of providing sexual harassment prevention training to employees. To comply with federal law, the department already held five such sessions in the fall, reaching 65 managers and 30 department chairs so far. She said her department will continue to have sessions throughout the remainder of this school year and will also offer such training to other employees, including student workers.

• California Employment Training Panel: Chito Cajayon, dean of workforce and economic development, reported that the college has received a second California Employment Training Panel grant to train workers in manufacturing and in logistics, which is the fast-growing field of the worldwide movement of goods and services. The $250,000 grant will target training of 250 employees in such areas as program and project management and computer skills.

• Community Outreach & Meetings on the Student Services Building: Don Girard, senior director of government relations/institutional communications, reported that the college is currently circulating an environmental document on the Student Services Replacement, Bookstore Modernization and Pico Improvements Project. Girard said the college held two community presentations on the proposed project, publicizing both widely through mailings to neighbors and through local newspapers. The environmental document is expected to come to the Board for a vote in February, he said.
2008-09 NONRESIDENT TUITION RATE: The Board voted to increase the nonresident tuition by $6 a unit to $164 for the 2008-09 academic year. This is the minimum amount the college is permitted to charge in accordance with California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office calculation guidelines. And it is significantly below the statewide average rate of $181 per unit. The Board also voted to increase the capital outlay recovery surcharge for nonresidents by $4 per unit, to $31. This, too, is significantly below the $65-per-unit rate that the college is approved to charge under the Chancellor’s Office guidelines.

CCCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board voted unanimously to nominate Trustee Andrew Walzer for election to the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board of Directors. The election of 10 CCCT Board members will be held between March 10 and April 25, and winners will be announced in May.

NAMING OF COLLEGE FACILITIES: The Board voted unanimously to approve a first reading of a revision to a policy on the naming of college facilities. Final approval is scheduled in February.

CLOSED SESSION: Board of Trustees Chair Rob Rader reported that in closed session, the Board approved a settlement agreement between Odemaris Valdivia and the college in exchange for the withdrawal of a complaint and a dismissal of a grievance. The agreement calls for Valdivia to be moved retroactively from salary step 9 to step 12 of the faculty scheduled, effective the fall semester of 2007; Valdivia will be compensated within 30 days of the signing of the settlement agreement; and the Faculty Association and college will negotiate clarifying language for Appendix C-2 of the faculty agreement with the college – specifically, paragraph 5 having to do with “vocational experience.”

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: Management Association President-Elect Kiersten Elliott announced that Mona Martin, dean of learning resources, and Lisa Rose, District/Board of Trustees executive coordinator, were the recipients of December’s “Above and Beyond” awards.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Among other items, the Board of Trustees voted to an extension of the annual distance education site license from eCollege, through June 2010 with an option for a third year, for an amount of $752,000 to $950,000 annually, depending on the annual seat count. The Board also voted to renew a partnership agreement with the Los Angeles Community College District for a consortium for the respiratory therapy program through June 30, 2010; and to accept the resignations of Bambang Sugianto, Telecommunications, and Marvin Martinez, Planning and Development.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned in the memory of Bob Gabriel, a member of the SMC Associates Board and General Advisory Board and long-time supporter of SMC; Hazel A. Peters, mother of Hazel Peters, nursing skills lab project manager; and Dave Trager, husband of Phyllis Trager, Earth Science Department secretary.

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