The following is a summary of the March 6, 2008 Board of Trustees special meeting and the March 10, 2008 SMC regular meeting:

MARCH 6 SPECIAL MEETING

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GIFT AGREEMENT: The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a Charitable Gift Agreement between Santa Monica Community College District, the Madison Project, and The Broad Foundation concerning the naming of the Stage and the second Space at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center. In presenting the item, Dr. Chui L. Tsang noted that the two halls and the performing arts campus are a public trust on behalf of the educational community and the public community to improve cultural understanding, to provide economic benefit, and to remain a resource for all. The $10 million gift form philanthropists and art patrons Eli and Edythe Broad will create an endowment for programming and arts education at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center. In honor of the gift, the new halls will be named The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage (The Broad Stage) and the Edye Second Space.

MARCH 19 REGULAR MEETING

AUDIT REPORT: The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt for the 2006-07 Audit Report of the Financial and Related Statements of the college, prepared by independent auditor Vicente, Lloyd & Stutzman, LLP.

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

- GASB 45 Task Force: The Board charged DPAC to present a recommendation on the issue of the District’s retiree health benefits obligation. The GASB 45 Task Force and DPAC provided a recommendation which is included in the agenda for consideration, along with a recommendation to contract with CalPERS to establish an irrevocable trust to pre-fund post employment benefits. (See below for board action.)

- State Budget Update: The state discovered that there is a property tax shortfall of between $70 to $80 million. This shortfall will have to come from the statewide community college general budget, which translates to about 1.2 to 1.4 percent reduction. The proposal at this time is to take the money out of this current year’s budgets of all districts. This would be a significant reduction for Santa Monica College. The numbers will be coming from the state this week.

- Associated Student Recognition Awards: Student Trustee Adel Morad presented the Associated Students Recognition Awards to Psychology Professor Christian Hart, classified staff member in the LRC Peter Sierra, and Associated Students President Heidi Hoeck.
Management Association: Management Association President Mona Martin reported that the “Way, Way, Way Above and Beyond” award in March went to Executive Vice President Randal Lawson, who has held teaching and administrative positions at the college since 1979.

RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS OBLIGATION: The Board voted unanimously to being to pre-fund its retiree health benefits obligation through an initial contribution of $1.4 million. Subsequent contributions to this trust will be established at the adoption of the annual budget. In addition, the Board approved withdrawing its initial contribution from the Southern California Community College District Joint Powers Agreement and placed in an irrevocable trust and agreed to re-evaluate its retiree health benefits liability in five years. The action was based on recommendations by the SMC Unfunded Retiree Benefits/GASB 45 Task Force, which was approved by the District Advisory Planning Council. In a subsequent action in the consent agenda, the Board approved a recommendation to contract with CalPERS to establish an irrevocable trust to pre-fund post employment benefits.

SMC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER UPDATE: Superintendent/President Chui Tsang underscored the success of the Performing Arts Center with the significant contribution from The Broad Foundation. Senior Director of Government Relations and Institutional Communications Don Girard introduced Greg Brown, Director of Facilities and Planning; Denise Stoeber, Madison Project Operations Manager; and Linda Sullivan, who has been assisting the District in issues of structure and operations. Greg Brown reported that the Performing Arts Center will be completed in three months (May 2008). Testing and debugging will be completed in the summer, and the official opening is planned for fall, 2008. Denise Stoeber reported on some of the development efforts underway, upcoming programs, and membership goals. Linda Sullivan spoke about engagement with the community through expanded use of venue venues.

BASIC SKILLS INITIATIVE: Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Shimizu introduced members of the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) Workgroup which was assembled in Summer, 2007 – Fran Manion, Chair, and faculty members Teresa Hall, Gary Todd and John Quevedo. In Fall 2007, the Workgroup participated in the BSI statewide training. Members of the Workgroup provided an update and progress report on the Basic Skills Workgroup activities, including SMC’s baseline research and the self assessment tool.

CONSENT AGENDA: In other items the Board voted to authorize the award of a purchase order in the amount of $568,230 with Field Turf USA Inc., for SMC’s Football/Soccer field turf replacement project with funding from Measure S; to authorize the award of a purchase order in the amount of $1,182,211 with Field Turf USA with funding from Measure S; and to amend the agreement with Steinberg Architects for architectural services for the Student Services and Administration building to a new amount not to exceed a total cost of $7,851,300 plus reimbursable expenses, with funding from State Capital Outlay Funds,
Measure S, and Measure U. The Board also voted to accept the retirement of Richard Gaydowski, College Police and Eva Redhead, Health Services.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned in the memory of Richard Mednick, adjunct business professor; Rogelio Oseguera, husband of custodian Ismenia Oseguera; Vivian Sheehan, a speech pathologist who developed and taught SMC Pathfinders Post-Stroke communications classes at Emeritus College; Toni Smith, administrative assistant in the Modern Languages Department; and Charlotte Talbot, mother of Michael Talbot, community leader and SMC supporter.

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