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

“ANY LINE, ANY TIME” BIG BLUE BUS PASS PROGRAM: The Board voted unanimously to approve a program in which all students and employees with current SMC ID will be able to ride any Big Blue Bus line at any time for free, effective this fall. The total program will cost $1.2 million in 2008-09, about a third of which will be a maintenance of effort from the SMC general fund, and the remaining two-thirds will be from new revenues generated from increased Associated Students membership fees. The program is an expansion of the SMC-Big Blue Bus transportation initiative launched last year that has added and expanded routes that serve the college main and satellite campuses. The Big Blue Bus service will also include a new “Rapid 7” line along Pico, providing faster service to the main campus.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang and other officials made the following reports:

• State Budget Update: Tsang reported that the college is working to make projections about the 2008-09 state budget and how it will affect SMC. He said the Budget Committee is expected to finalize principles guiding the preparation of the SMC budget on May 12, and crucial information will be revealed May 15 when the state releases its revised budget. Based on the revised state budget, college officials will work with the Budget Committee and the District Planning Advisory Council to come up with a tentative 2008-09 SMC budget to be presented to the Board on June 9, he said.

• Associated Students Organic Garden Initiative: Associated Students Vice President Melody Overstreet reported that her organization, after two years of work and discussion, have come up with a detailed plan to establish an organic garden on campus. She said the proposal has received widespread support from faculty, the college’s Environmental Affairs Committee and others but that issues surrounding the labor needed to maintain such a garden still must be resolved.

• Recognition of Interior Architectural Design Students: Interior architecture design professor Denise Travis reported that several students in her program have recently won prestigious awards and made impressive achievements. For example, Wei-Chieh Tsai won second place in the Saul Golding Memorial Lighting Education Scholarship; Otilia Gomez-Nakandakari won second place in the California Affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Science Kitchen Design Contest; and Juko Chun served an internship and has been hired part-time by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry.

• Randy Lawson honors: Board Chair Rob Rader presented a framed certificate congratulating Executive Vice President Randy Lawson for having been named the 2007-08 recipient of the Carter Doran Leadership Award.
The award was given by the California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers.

SPECIAL COUNSELING PROGRAMS: A special presentation on several counseling programs, all of them unique to SMC, was given. The programs are:

- A new program to help U.S. veterans who have suffered brain injuries, primarily from blasts, in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- The Latino and African-American Collegian centers, which provide special counseling, tutoring, classes, workshops, scholarships, field trips and more to Latino and African-American students.
- The Pico Partnership program, which provides special counseling and other assistance to low-income students from the adjacent Pico neighborhood.
- Welcome Center, which is a “one-stop shop” for new students to receive enrollment assistance, counseling, financial aid and more.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: English professor Gordon Dossett and Instructional Services Dean Georgia Lorenz reported on the highlights of the accomplishments of the Global Citizenship Task Force, which was formed last year.

CCCT BOARD BALLOT: The Board voted unanimously to cast ballots for four candidates for the California Community College Trustees Board of Directors, including SMC Trustee Andrew Walzer.

CASH BORROWING: The Board voted unanimously to approve two resolutions that allow for borrowing cash if the state falls behind in providing funding to the college in a timely manner. One resolution allows the college to borrow up to $30 million from any fund within the college’s budget. The other allows the college to borrow up to $50 million from the Los Angeles County Treasury.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH: The Board voted unanimously to observe and celebrate National Community College Month in April.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: In other actions, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to accept a two-year Job Development Incentive Fund grant from the Chancellor’s Office in the amount of $300,000 per year to provide short-term training activities for individuals to enter the green-tech sector or to retain a successful career; to approve new courses in Transportation Management, Supply Chain Management, and Operations Management, as approved by the Curriculum Committee and the Academic Senate; the award of bid for the Bundy Campus Northeast Driveway and traffic signal light to Pima Corporation in the amount of $2,464,000 with funding from Measure S; and to accept the resignation of Jenny Serrano, Early Start Pathway.
ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned in the memory of Sandy Berlin, Santa Monica resident and education supporter; Ed Rafeedie, retired Santa Monica judge; and Ray Hobson, father of SMC Events Coordinator Carol Evans; and Gertrude Silvers, community activist.

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