The following is a summary of the highlights of the Sept. 8, 2008 SMC Board of Trustees meeting:

**2008-09 BUDGET:** The Board voted unanimously to adopt a 2008-09 general fund budget of $181.3 million, which includes $149.2 million in unrestricted funds and $32 million in restricted funds, which are allocated for specific purposes. The action comes despite the fact that the state has not yet passed a 2008-09 budget, and officials warned that it is based on the best information currently available and that changes could occur during the fiscal year. It includes an $18.7 million reserve – the highest in SMC history – that is expected to shrink by about $9 million over the next year because of a projected operating deficit. The budget also includes other restricted funds totaling $174.2 million – earmarked for such things as bond projects and student financial aid – bringing the total adopted budget to $355.5 million.

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

- Tsang reported that the school year is off to a great start, with enrollment up and faculty and staff working hard to accommodate students in classes and give them a warm welcome. Traffic and parking have been smooth and ridership is up on the Big Blue Bus lines, which are currently free for students and employees with ID, he said.

- Tsang reported that the state is still “hopelessly deadlocked” on passing a 2008-09 budget, with the major point of contention being how to address the multi-billion-dollar deficit. Because SMC has built up a historically high level of reserves, it has enough cash to meet its obligations despite the fact that no funding is coming in from the state. However, Tsang reported that the college is losing interest on money it has in savings that has to be withdrawn to pay its expenses.

- Don Girard, senior director of government relations and institutional communications, reported that the campaign for Measure AA – the $295 million SMC bond measure that will be on the Santa Monica-Malibu ballot Nov. 4 – is under way, with the formation of a campaign committee (Committee for Safety & Modernization at SMC) and field operation, phone banking starting soon, and preparation of a direct mail piece. He said that the measure has received a wide range of endorsements, including the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board, Pico Neighborhood Association, all members of the Santa Monica City Council, and local state legislators. A fundraiser is scheduled for Oct. 6.

- Dale Franzen, director of The Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, reported that the new theater is gearing up for its inaugural gala on Sept. 20, which will feature singer Barbara Cook in concert.

**CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** The Board heard an update on SMC’s career technical education programs and how the college is building on its current offerings and exploring new occupational training programs. Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Shimizu and Dean of Workforce Development/Occupational Education Chito Cajayon reported to the Board on what is happening in several existing programs –
including business, design, logistics and nursing – and areas the college is looking into for new programs. Of particular interest to SMC are emerging fields for the Westside region, including solar technology, sustainable design, digital media, allied health, financial management/insurance, and advanced transportation/alternative fuels. SMC plans to offer an automotive program beginning in spring 2009 in partnership with Lexus/Toyota.

NEW MANAGERS INTRODUCTION: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang introduced several new managers: Kelley Brayton, dean of international education; Madjid Niroumand, associate dean of international education; Sonali Perera, associate dean of outreach and recruitment; Victor Manchik, director of matriculation research; Al Vasquez, director of police and safety services; Gregg Simmons, interim athletic director; and Bonita Cooper, Upward Bound project manager.

CITIZENS BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE: The Board voted unanimously to appoint Luis Suarez as the student representative to the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for 2008-09. Suarez is a former member of the Associated Students Board of Directors.

CONTRACTS: The Board voted unanimously to conduct a second reading and approve a board policy that has to do with the granting of authority to the college president to enter into and amend contracts of $50,000 or less.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned in the memory of Jean Evelyn Allan, mother of SMC life science professor Douglas Allan; Joe Robbins, clarinet player; Frances Wofford, SMC tutoring facilitator in the 1980s and mother of Lisa Battaglia Welser, SMC counselor for 17 years; and Mildred I. Waterstrat, mother of accounting specialist Karen Glusman.

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