The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees’ Oct. 7, 2008 meeting:

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

- Tsang reported that there has been no recent change to the state budget as it applies to community colleges, but noted that SMC could be affected in some way by the current economic difficulties experienced at both the national and state levels. He said he remains hopeful, however, that the college’s budget can be maintained at its current capacity this year and that SMC will weather the economic storm in the longer run.

- Senior Director of Government Relations and Institutional Communications Don Girard reported that the Yes on Measure AA campaign – which is working on behalf of the $295 million SMC bond measure on the Nov. 4 ballot – has been busy on several fronts: absentee ballots have been mailed; the list of endorsements has grown and includes all college organizations as well as many outside SMC; a successful campaign kickoff event was held Oct. 6; and the Associated Students has committed a total of $50,000 for the campaign.

- Music Department Chair Rhoda Tuit reported that her program will soon be inaugurating a concert series in the newly opened Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center. Six concerts are scheduled in the 499-seat venue for the fall semester, with a Music Department Opening Concert scheduled for Oct. 25. Several more concerts are scheduled in the adjoining Edye Second Space, a 99-seat “black box” at the Performing Arts Center that opened in fall 2007.

- Communications professor Nancy Grass Hemmert and Theatre Arts Department Chair Perviz Sawoski reported that SMC is about to embark on an historic cultural exchange trip with Shandong University of the Arts in Jinan, China. A group of 18 theatre arts students, along with two student journalists, leave Saturday for a pioneering 8-day trip to stage “American Reflections: Broadway in Concert,” a revue of numbers from Broadway shows of the past 80 years, at Shandong as part of the university’s 50th anniversary.

MEASURE R: The Board voted unanimously to endorse Measure R on the Nov. 4 ballot, a half-cent sales tax that would fund transportation projects within Los Angeles County. Over 30 years, it is projected that the measure would generate $40 billion for congestion relief projects.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES: The Board received a written report and heard a report from Executive Vice President Randy Lawson and Caroline Sheldon, dean of institutional research, on SMC performance on Accountability Reporting for Community Colleges (ARCC) measures, mandated by the state. The SMC report presents information about
SMC’s performance and identifies basic skills and vocational education as areas of focused interest. The SMC report says that “ARCC can be viewed as a mechanism that drives change and improvement.”

**SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS IN 2009:** The Board voted unanimously to approve a 2009 regular Board meeting schedule: Jan. 12, Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

**“ABOVE & BEYOND” AWARD:** Erica LeBlanc, vice president of the Management Association, announced that Kiersten Elliott, associate dean of enrollment services and president of the Management Association, is the winner of the September “Above and Beyond” award, presented to exceptional managers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Board adjourned in the memory of Gayle Sosa, administrative assistant in the Facilities/Maintenance Department.

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