The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Nov. 11, 2008. The Board summaries are posted at http://www.smc.edu/apps/docs.asp?Q=586.

In addition, the meeting minutes, which provide all the official actions of the Board, are posted at http://www.smc.edu/apps/Pub.asp?Q=544.

Podcasts of the meeting are available at http://www.smc.edu/itunes.

BUDGET: Fiscal Services Director Chris Bonvenuto told the Board that California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s recent proposals to deal with the state’s current budget crisis would have a “devastating” effect on California’s community colleges. SMC is projecting, based on its most recent quarterly report, that the college would have an operating deficit of $6.32 million for the current fiscal year. That would reduce its historically high reserve of $18.79 million to $12.47 million by June 30, 2009. However, if the governor’s proposal were approved, the college would face an additional $6 million in cuts for 2008-09, bringing the reserves to $6.4 million at the end of the current fiscal year. Bonvenuto noted, however, that the governor must still win approval of the state Legislature, which is currently meeting in an emergency session, and nobody knows what will happen. However, the college has begun a process to reduce expenditures – such as non-essential travel, equipment purchases, and the hiring of temporary personnel – in an effort to save an estimated $1.5 million. In an earlier email to the college community, President Dr. Chui L. Tsang has said he believes the college “can weather this crisis if extraordinary care is given to safeguard the reserve and prudent action is taken to trim our operating deficit.”

ENROLLMENT: Academic Vice President Jeff Shimizu reported that fall 2008 enrollment is very strong – 6 percent higher than fall 2007 in full-time equivalent students and 7.5 percent in headcount. International student headcount is up 3 percent and out-of-state student enrollment is up by 10 percent from 2007. In addition, enrollment for online courses is up 17 percent over a year ago.

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING: The Board voted unanimously to award a $7.97 million contract to Minco Construction to complete Phase 1 of the Student Services Building project. The first phase is the demolition of the site’s current buildings – Amphitheater, Concert Hall and Music Building – and excavation of the underground parking garage. The vote came after David Hart of Steinberg Architects gave a detailed overview of the project, a 100,000-square-foot building that will be the prominent entryway structure on campus. The futuristic, concrete-and-glass building has an unusual design with sustainable features. The three-story building would house all student services, the Welcome Center and Senior Administration, including the President’s office. Demolition is scheduled to begin in January 2009, with completion expected in 2013.

ELECTIONS: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that the Nov. 4 elections yielded many positive results, including the re-election of Trustees Rob Rader, Susan Aminoff and Margaret Quinones-Perez, as well as passage of Measure AA, the $295 million SMC bond measure. Statewide, Democrats gained a couple of seats in the state Legislature, but not enough to overcome the two-thirds vote required to pass a state
That two-thirds threshold has often resulted in long delays in passage of the state budget, affecting SMC. But Tsang said there is a move afoot to put on the statewide ballot a measure that would reduce from two-thirds to a simple majority the margin to pass a state budget.

**MEASURE AA:** Senior Director of Government Relations and Institutional Communications Don Girard reported that the passage of Measure AA by Santa Monica and Malibu voters demonstrated the community’s “love for the college.” He said many organizations and individuals deserve credit for its passage, including the Board, Associated Students, constituency groups on campus, the K-12 educational community, Santa Monica and Malibu city councils, and many more.

**“ANY LINE, ANY TIME” PROGRAM:** Project Manager for Sustainability Genevieve Bertone reported that early indications suggest that SMC’s “Any Line, Any Time” program – which was started at the beginning of the fall semester and gives students and employees free rides on any Big Blue Bus – has had a significant impact on bus ridership. For example, Line 7, which runs along Pico Boulevard, experienced an 83 percent increase in passenger activity during peak school hours, compared to the same time a year ago. Line 6, which runs between the college and the Mar Vista-Palms area, had a whopping 147 percent increase.

**QUARTERLY REPORT:** The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2008-09 Quarterly Report for the quarter that ended Oct. 31.

**PERSONNEL COMMISSION:** The Board voted unanimously to reappoint Karen Bancroft to the SMC Personnel Commission for a three-year term, beginning Dec. 1, 2008.

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