The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Dec. 15, 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.

NEW BOARD CHAIR & VICE CHAIR: The Board voted unanimously to elect Louise Jaffe chair and Judge David B. Finkel, Judge of the Superior Court (Ret.), vice chair of the Board for 2009. This is the first time that these trustees, both elected in 2006, have been selected for these leadership posts, which rotate annually. Jaffe succeeds Rob Rader and Finkel succeeds Jaffe.

TRUSTEE SWEARING-IN: Trustees Rob Rader and Susan Aminoff, who were re-elected Nov. 4, were sworn into their second four-year terms. Trustee Margaret Quiñones-Perez, who was re-elected to a third term Nov. 4, was absent and will be sworn in at a later date.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN: The Board voted unanimously to approve an SMC Emergency Response Plan and to conduct a first reading of a board policy that ensures that the college implements the plan. An Emergency Response Plan is required by the federal and state governments for SMC to receive state or federal funding in the event of an emergency. Final approval of the policy is expected in January.

BUDGET: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that the California Legislature has still failed to take action on the state budget deficit, which the Legislative Analyst Office has projected will be $40 billion for the remainder of this fiscal year and 2009-10. Several proposals have been floating in Sacramento, including one by Republican legislators that would slash California community colleges’ budget by $1.6 billion, compared to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposal for a $332 million cut for two-year colleges. Regardless of the final amount, Tsang reported that the college has been meeting with college constituency groups and has asked the District Planning & Advisory Committee to recommend SMC reductions over the next six months so that SMC is left with $15 million in reserves by the end of this fiscal year. In an earlier email to the college community, Tsang 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.”

SMC-SMMUSD EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE: Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Shimizu and officials from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District reported that a recent collaborative between the college and school district resulted in about 500 Santa Monica-Malibu high school students taking more than 1,000 courses at SMC in 2007-08. The dual-enrollment courses are offered at SMC and the high school campuses.

SABBATICALS: The Board voted unanimously to approve seven sabbaticals for 2009-10. The recipients are:
Chemistry professor Ethan Gallogly, who will spend a semester performing research in fuel-cell technology at the laboratory of Professor Ruilin Wang at Sichuan University in Chengdu, China.

ESL professor Judith Marasco, who will travel to China to refresh her understanding of how English is taught at the college level in that country, establish professional relationships with colleagues who teach English as a Foreign Language (EFL), and lay the groundwork for a potentially exciting study abroad experience for SMC students.

English professor Dana Morgan, who will pursue independent research and field study to explore the complex relationship among food, culture, and society in the community garden, home garden and small family farm.

Geography professor Pete Morris, who will revise and improve his course, *Geography 8: Introduction to Urban Studies*, with an eye toward its inclusion in SMC’s Global Citizenship initiative, as well as (potentially) a new A.A.-degree program in Urban Studies.

Education professor Wendy Parise, who will research and develop online pedagogy that will create greater student interaction and engagement in the online classroom.

Art professor Marc Trujillo, who will work on his own paintings for an exhibition and will travel to Europe to research old master paintings in Amsterdam and London.

Librarian Carol Womack, who will explore alternative ways of delivering library instruction at a community college, particularly gaming.

**ATHLETICS:** Athletic Director Greg Simmons reported that his program is 95 percent on target for student-athletes to graduate and/or transfer to a four-year university. In football, the program is 100 percent on target, he said.

**“ABOVE & BEYOND” AWARD:** Management Association President Kiersten Elliott reported that Dean of Instructional Services Georgia Lorenz and Dean of Academic Affairs Erica LeBlanc won the “Above & Beyond” Awards for November and December, respectively.

**MEASURE AA:** The Board voted unanimously to appoint the existing Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee to serve as the oversight body for Measure AA, the $295 million bond passed by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in November. The committee also has oversight authority over two previous SMC bond measures. In addition, the Board voted to accept the official results of the Nov. 4 election, which showed that 30,232 (or 61.47 percent) cast yes votes for Measure AA and 18,953 (or 38.53 percent) voted no.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Board of Trustees Chair Rob Rader reported that in closed session, the Board authorized the resolution of a complaint filed by employee number
7046 for the sum of $48,000. The Board directed Vice President of Human Resources Marcia Wade to take all appropriate actions to bring about the settlement. In addition, by unanimous vote, the Board ratified a Memorandum of Understanding with CSEA Chapter 36 involving the use of outside contractors to perform certain work at the college.

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