The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Feb. 2, 2009. 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent/President Dr. Chui L. Tsang and members of his administrative team reported on several items:

• Enrollment: Tsang and Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Shimizu reported that SMC has been experiencing very strong enrollment since summer 2008, attributable in part to the poor economy that traditionally sends people to college for job training or preparation for new careers. Shimizu said headcount and full-time equivalent student (FTEs) counts were up last summer, fall and the current winter session, and enrollment for spring, which begins in two weeks, is already ahead of what SMC had at the opening of spring 2008. Shimizu said many classes are already filled, particularly at high-demand periods in the morning and on the main campus. Demand for several small vocational programs has been so high that all their courses are closed already. Shimizu also said that because of the budget situation, the college will not be following its typical pattern of adding sections of classes in high-demand areas to replace cancelled course sections.

• Budget: Tsang reported that there has been no movement in Sacramento to address the state budget crisis, but that the college continues to work on finding ways to make savings in its own budget this fiscal year.

• Expo Line Phase 2: Officials reported in both written and verbal reports that the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority released its Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Exposition Corridor Transit Project Phase 2, which would extend high-frequency transit service from the Westside of Los Angeles to Santa Monica, including a stop near SMC, at 17th Street either at Olympic Boulevard or Colorado Boulevard. The proposed project has been of keen interest to SMC because of its campaign to get students and employees to ride public transit.

SMC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: Officials submitted detailed written and verbal reports on the SMC Performing Arts Center, which was completed last fall with the opening of The Broad Stage. Among the highlights of the report were:

• The center has hosted widely varied productions and activities – from fundraisers to award shows, from photo shoots to concerts, from music and dance to Shakespeare, and from screenings to lectures. Student music and dance productions have been held there, as have weddings, master classes and even a BBC-broadcast lecture by famed playwright, screenwriter and director David Mamet.

• Despite a difficult economy, the center operates on “cost-neutral strategies,” thus covering staffing, maintenance, operations and other expenses from revenues generated by ticket sales and rentals.
• By the end of the 2008-09 season in May, the center will have presented 23 events in the Broad Stage and eight events at the smaller Edye Second Space. In addition, the center’s arts education program, called Arts Insights, has served more than 1,000 families, as well as local K-12 and SMC students with master classes, interactive workshops, open rehearsals and free performance spaces.

• The Madison Project Foundation, a private, nonprofit organization that oversees, with the college, the center, has raised nearly $150,000 of its fundraising goal of $600,000 for this season.

The full written report is included in the Board agenda (pages 8-9) and can be found at http://www.smc.edu/projects/32/Trustees_Meeting_Information/Board_of_Trustees_Meetings/2009/2009-02-02-Agenda.pdf

AUDIT: The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2007-08 Audit Report of the college’s Financial and Related Statements, prepared by auditor Vicente, Lloyd & Stutzman, LLP. The auditor’s opinion is that the basic financial statements present fairly the financial position of the college. In addition, the report expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements, the best opinion it could give; found that there were no material weaknesses in internal control; and that there were three findings/deficiencies, which college officials say are being addressed through new policies.

2008-09 QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT: The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2008-09 quarterly report for the quarter that ended Dec. 31, 2008. College officials say that while the Budget Committee continues to develop a list of recommendations that seeks to ensure the college ends the 2008-09 fiscal year with a $15 million reserve, the quarterly report reflects recommendations by senior staff regarding reductions. Officials say that SMC enrollment growth is helping mitigate some of the college’s financial problems.

ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS: The Board voted unanimously to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds, stemming from passage of Measure S in 2004, not to exceed $57 million.

CODE OF ETHICS: The Board voted unanimously to approve a first reading of a revised policy having to do with its Code of Ethics and a new policy dealing with political activity.

BOARD POLICY: The Board voted to approve a second reading and final approval to board policies having to do with student trustee qualifications, board study sessions, recording of board meetings, and reporting of fraud, waste and abuse.

MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD: Management Association President Kiersten Elliott reported that the following managers received the newly created “Outstanding New Initiative/Community Builder” award, expected to be presented annually: Ron Furuyama and Maral Hyeler, dual enrollment project managers, and Katharine Muller, dean of external programs. The award is given for a contribution to
fulfilling SMC’s mission and/or enhancing SMC’s sense of community (internally or externally) through exemplary or innovative programming or ideas.

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