The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of May 4, 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.

POSTHUMOUS A.A. DEGREE CONFERRAL: On behalf of the Board, President Dr. Chui L. Tsang presented an A.A. degree to members of the family of Luke Dunphy, an SMC student who was killed last summer in a motorcycle accident. Brothers Jay and Ben, who came to Los Angeles from out of town to receive the degree that was awarded to Luke posthumously, said the A.A. would be particularly meaningful to Luke’s surviving 5-year-old son Isaiah. Amrita Mahesh, who received a kidney from Luke, was also on hand for the degree conferral.

PROPOSITIONS 1A-1C: The Board voted to endorse Propositions 1A-1C on the May 19 statewide ballot. The Board’s adopted resolution says Props. 1A, 1B and 1C "will generate short-term revenues to help the state get out of this unprecedented fiscal crisis, establish long-term budget reforms to stabilize and protect community college funding, and lay out a responsible timeline for repaying community colleges the massive cuts they have incurred."

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Tsang and members of his administrative team reported on several items:

• Student Recruitment Video: A recruitment video targeting out-of-state students was screened. Associate Dean of Outreach & Recruitment Sonali Bridges – who noted that the video was produced in-house by a team of managers, classified employees, students and faculty – said the piece would be shown at various high school visits and college fairs. In addition, it will be mailed to more than 5,000 high schools around the country and featured on the SMC website, YouTube and the SMC Facebook page.

• AB 947: Tsang reported that Assembly Bill 947, which is currently making its way through the state Legislature and is not facing much opposition, would help SMC because it will allow community colleges to add a capital outlay charge to fees for out-of-state students.

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES WEEK: The Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution recognizing Classified Employees Week May 18-22.

“ABOVE & BEYOND” AWARD: Management Association President Kiersten Elliott reported that Payroll Manager Ian Fraser won the “Above & Beyond” Award for April.

TENTATIVE BUDGET: The Board voted to adopt the 2009-10 tentative general fund budget of $149.3 million, which includes reserves of $15 million. College officials note,
however, that the budget could change, depending on the outcome of a statewide vote May 19 on six ballot measures that will affect the state budget, from which SMC gets most of its funding. A clearer fiscal picture is expected May 28, when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger releases his revised 2009-10 state budget. Depending on what is in the revised state budget, Tsang said it might be necessary for the Board to schedule a special meeting in mid-June to reconsider the tentative 2009-10 SMC budget.

**BASIC SKILLS:** Representatives of the Basic Skills Initiative Committee reported on its plan of action to address the diverse learning needs of underprepared students. The college has already begun implementing its Basic Skills Initiative plan, which was adopted a year ago and which focuses on faculty development, counseling, instructional support, and research and assessment. For example, the committee reports that the expansion of the Counselor Visitation Project has shown that underprepared students are seeking out campus resources such as counseling at higher rates.

**QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT:** The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the third-quarter 2008-09 budget report as of March 31.

**PERSONNEL COMMISSION 2009-10 PROPOSED BUDGET:** The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2009-10 proposed Personnel Commission budget of $874,556. That budget will be up for a second reading and final approval at the commission’s May 20 meeting.

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:** The Board voted unanimously to present an initial collective bargaining proposal to California School Employees Association's Chapter 36, which represents SMC’s classified workers. The Board also voted unanimously to accept an initial proposal from CSEA. The two proposals, from the Board and the union, will serve as the jumping-off point for contract negotiations.


**CITIZENS BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:** The Board voted unanimously to begin the process to seek applicants for upcoming vacancies on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, which oversees the implementation of Measures U, S and AA, the 2002, 2004 and 2008 bond measures that are funding capital improvement projects at the college.

**BOARD POLICIES:** The Board voted unanimously to give a first reading to two new policies – one having to do with institutional accountability, the other raising the dollar limit required for competitive bidding. The former policy states that everyone – from the Board of Trustees to the entire campus – share responsibility for ensuring that the college’s mission be accomplished. The second policy raises the limit for a requirement for competitive bidding on equipment, materials or supplies furnished, sold or leased to
the college, as well as repairs and maintenance (with some exceptions) from $50,000 to $52,900.

**PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE:** The Board voted unanimously to give a second reading and approve a policy that designates the California School Employees Association Chapter 36 as the organization that appoints classified employees to the college’s participatory governance bodies such as the District Planning & Advisory Council. The Board also voted unanimously to give final approval to a policy that establishes the District Planning & Advisory Council as the body primarily responsible for making recommendations to the college president on matters not otherwise the primary responsibility of the Academic Senate, classified staff or Management Association.

**INVESTMENT POLICY:** The Board voted unanimously to give a second reading and approve a revision to its investment policy that requires the college to consider the safety of invested funds, minimize risks and regard the preservation of principle as of primary importance, as well as to ensure that investments provide liquidity and remain sufficiently flexible to meet cash-flow requirements.

**STUDENT TRUSTEE:** The Board voted unanimously to authorize the continuation of privileges for the student trustee that include the making and seconding of motions and the casting of advisory votes. Under state law, this action is required to be taken annually.

**UNIVERSAL SINGE-PAYER HEALTH BILL:** The Board voted unanimously to reaffirm its support of state and federal universal single-payer legislation that would establish a state-administered system to provide comprehensive coverage to all Californians.

**EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT:** The Board voted unanimously to support congressional legislation called the Employee Free Choice Act that would authorize the National Labor Relations Board to certify a union as the bargaining representative when a majority of employees voluntarily signs authorizations, to provide for mediation and arbitration, and to establish meaningful penalties for violations of a worker’s freedom to choose a union.

**CLOSED SESSION ACTION:** Board Chair Louise Jaffe announced that the Board in closed session ratified a settlement agreement in Marcia Fierro and California School Employees Association, Chapter 36 vs. Santa Monica Community College District, an arbitration proceeding under the CSEA collective bargaining agreement. The substance of the settlement agreement is that the grievance was dismissed upon the payment of $4,000.