The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of June 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.

**BUDGET:** Vice President of Business & Administration Jeanine Hawk gave a detailed report on SMC’s budget situation for the next 13 months in the wake of the state budget crisis. The report addressed preliminary proposals to reduce general fund and categorical spending and laid out the underlying principles and process that will be followed to ensure a 2009-10 balanced budget for the college. In addition, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a 2009-10 tentative budget for restricted funds, an action that is required by June 30 so that the college can continue to spend money. However, the restricted and general fund budgets will both have to be revised to reflect the state budget situation as it unfolds over the next few months. The Board is scheduled to adopt a final 2009-10 budget in September.

**ACCREDITATION:** Executive Vice President Randal Lawson and Academic Senate President Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein reported that the college is making excellent progress in its accreditation self-study, an exhaustive examination of the college’s operations and ways it can improve. The self-study is the first step in a process in which the Western Association of Schools & Colleges determines every six years whether to reaffirm SMC’s accredited status and issues a report on the college’s successes and areas it can improve. Lawson said that the plan is to have a draft of the self-study completed by the beginning of the fall semester for review by the entire college community, with a final report brought to the Board of Trustees in November for approval. An accreditation team will review the report and visit the campus next spring before issuing its report.

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP:** Members of the SMC Global Council presented an in-depth report on the college’s pioneering Global Citizenship Initiative, which was started two years ago and has become a major movement on campus. With a goal of making all SMC students knowledgeable of the world and responsible citizens aware that their actions affect the planet, the Global Council members reported on progress in curriculum (for example, a Global Citizenship class requirement to receive an A.A. degree and plans for an A.A. degree in Global Studies), international students, Study Abroad and professional development. Council members also reported on plans to expand and build on the global program, using “water” as a theme for classroom lessons and many other activities across all disciplines in 2009-10. To see the full report, go to http://www.smcglobal.org and then click on Documents (in the left column) and then on Reports.

**CHANGING-OF-THE-GUARD:** Seth Smith, the new student trustee for 2009-10, was sworn into office, and the Board presented certificates of commendation and flower bouquets to outgoing Management Association President Kiersten Elliott and Academic Senate President Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein.
“COMMUNITY BUILDER” AWARDS: Management Association President Kiersten Elliott reported that Director of Facilities Planning Greg Brown and Associate Dean of Emeritus College Maggie Hall, who is retiring this month with 35 years of service, received the “Community Builder” awards for the spring semester.

AB 947: SMC President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that Assembly Bill 947, which would help SMC because it would allow community colleges to add a capital outlay charge to fees for out-of-state students, has passed the state Assembly and is expected to be approved by the state Senate and eventually be signed by the governor.

BOARD POLICIES FINAL APPROVAL: The Board voted unanimously to give a second reading and approval of 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.

BOARD POLICIES TENTATIVE APPROVAL: The Board voted unanimously to conduct a first reading of two new policies – one having to do with workplace/campus violence and anti-bullying and the other on anti-nepotism.

PRE-FUNDING POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: The Board voted to implement a previous action of the Board to pay for health care costs or other post-employment benefits by establishing an irrevocable trust through the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS).

SMC/CSEA INITIAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROPOSALS: The Board held a public hearing and voted unanimously to adopt the college’s initial proposal for a successor bargaining agreement with Chapter 36 of the California School Employees Association.

FIVE-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN: The Board voted unanimously to approve the filing of the Five-Year Construction Plan (starting with the 2011-12 fiscal year) with the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

BOND FINANCIAL & PERFORMANCE AUDITS: The Board voted unanimously to accept the financial and performance audits for SMC’s general obligation bonds (Measures U & S) for 2005-08.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION: Board Chair Louise Jaffe announced three actions taken by the Board in closed session, all on unanimous votes:

• The Board approved a settlement agreement and mutual general release with FTR International, Inc. to resolve all disputes concerning construction of the new Music and Performing Arts Complex at the Madison Campus. Pursuant to the terms of the
agreement, the college agreed to adjust the final contract price to the sum of $35,291,761.

- The Board ratified a settlement agreement in California School Employees Association, Chapter 36 v. Santa Monica Community College District, an arbitration proceeding under the CSEA collective bargaining agreement. The substance of the settlement agreement is to hold the arbitration in abeyance for one year.

- The Board made a decision in connection with the severance request initiated by the Santa Monica College Police Officers Association and filed with the Public Employment Relations Board. The proceedings seek to have Community College Police Officers represented by the Santa Monica College Police Officers Association rather than CSEA. The Board made a decision to deny the request for recognition because the District doubts the appropriateness of the proposed unit because it does not include Community College Police Officer Trainees.