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

BUDGET: Vice President of Business & Administration Bob Isomoto reported that since the state budget was passed last month, the college has estimated that it will have to reduce its 2009-10 budget by approximately $7 million. Isomoto said that the state cut $3.694 million from SMC's general fund and another $2.296 million from "categorical" programs, such as Basic Skills, Disabled Students and Career Technical Education. That totals about $6 million, but SMC has committed to making up some of the cuts in the categorical programs with an additional $1 million from the general fund, bringing the total required reductions to $7 million. Isomoto warned that there may be more cuts required as the budget picture develops in such areas as property tax revenue shortfalls and the exact amount of bailout money that might be coming from the federal government. The Board is scheduled to adopt a final 2009-10 budget in September.

ENROLLMENT: Vice President of Enrollment Services Teresita Rodriguez reported that enrollment for the fall semester is running way ahead of enrollment at the same time last year, with a 24 percent increase in the number of applicants by the end of July compared to 2008. Enrollment is up in all segments of student populations – local, out-of-state and international, she said. Rodriguez reported that the college has implemented a system to notify students of the increased fees, from $20 to $26 per unit, as mandated by the state. She said SMC is busy gearing up for the fall semester, with an increased number of campus tours and increased activity in counseling.

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR/PACIFICA INSTITUTE: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that SMC continues to "build capacity" in its global citizenship initiative, this summer sending 11 employees to the Salzburg Global Seminar in Austria and six employees to the Pacifica Institute-sponsored trip to Turkey. In Salzburg, he said, it became clear that SMC is a leader in this area, and that many at the seminar noted how much the college has accomplished in the two years since it launched the initiative. Tsang also reported that the college has received a federal two-year grant of more than $160,000 so that it can continue its efforts in this area.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY: The Board voted unanimously to give a first reading to a policy that updates the list of designated positions required to file Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms. The list of designated positions is long and includes the trustees, president, vice presidents, deans and more. The new policy is required because the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved and amended the Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Code for SMC. Final approval of the policy is expected in September.

POLICY ON CLAIMS AGAINST SMC: The Board voted to give a first reading to a policy that allows the college president to proceed in a timely manner with appropriate
action related to claims filed against the college. Final approval of the policy is expected in September.

DENNIS BICE: The Board presented a certificate of recognition to Dennis Bice, warehouse and mail services supervisor for the past 31 years, on the occasion of his upcoming retirement Oct. 1.

CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS: Board Chair Louise Jaffe announced two actions from closed session:

• The Board voted unanimously to ratify the decision of the college president to suspend without pay for a period of three (3) work days one classified bargaining unit employee. This suspension will be implemented effective August 10, 2009.

• The Board voted unanimously to approve a settlement agreement in Hendricks v. Santa Monica Community College District, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC396797, and authorized the execution of documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.