The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Dec. 8 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.

NEW BOARD CHAIR & VICE CHAIR: The Board voted unanimously to elect Judge David B. Finkel, Judge of the Superior Court (Ret.), chair of the Board for 2010, and Dr. Andrew Walzer vice chair. This is the first time that these trustees, both elected in 2006, have been selected for these leadership posts, which rotate annually. Finkel succeeds Louise Jaffe and Walzer succeeds Finkel.

ENROLLMENT: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that though SMC has scaled back its winter session class offerings to 300 this year, the college is running the largest winter session in the state. He said the college has also imposed a 5-unit limit per student in winter to allow more students to enroll in classes. Winter classes, which are already virtually full, are being offered on the main campus only. Spring semester enrollment, meanwhile, is expected to hit SMC's target, he said.

ACCREDITATION SELF-STUDY REPORT: The Board voted unanimously to accept SMC's 2010 Accreditation Institutional Self-Study Report, with the understanding that Board members' comments and observations will be considered before the report is finalized. The body of the report is complete, but the co-editors continue to refine it, organize the supplementary sections and deal with formatting and publication details. College officials say "the self-study process has been reflective and rewarding, and the discussions that have occurred throughout the college during the development of the document have resulted in an opportunity to 'tell our story,' celebrate our many accomplishments over the last six years, acknowledge areas in need of improvement, and create an ambitious planning agenda to move the institution to the next level. The study, when completed, will be forwarded to the accreditation team that will visit the college next spring. The report can be found at http://www.smc.edu/apps/comm.asp?$1=253.

LAND SWAP OF SMC SHUTTLE LOT FOR AIRPORT PROPERTY: The Board voted unanimously to authorize the college president to explore with the City of Santa Monica and the Exposition Construction Authority the practical and legal options for land and lease swaps to create a buffer for the proposed Phase 2 Exposition Light Rail maintenance facility. Expo plans to build the maintenance facility adjacent to SMC's shuttle lot on Stewart Street just south of Olympic Boulevard. In exchange, the City of Santa Monica is offering land at Santa Monica Airport.

ZERO-WASTE EVENTS: The Board voted unanimously to approve a first reading of a policy that would integrate zero-waste practices into all college events in which food and related materials are present. The industry standard for zero waste is 90 percent diversion of waste. Final approval of the policy is expected in January.
**BUDGET PANEL:** President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that the college will hold early next year a campuswide Budget Panel to discuss the latest budget projections from Sacramento and how that will affect SMC’s 2010-11 budget. He said the panel will be scheduled after Jan. 8 when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger unveils his proposed 2010-11 state budget.

**SABBATICALS:** The Board voted unanimously to approve five one-semester sabbaticals in 2010-11 for psychology professor Dorothy Chin, dance professor Judith Douglas, philosophy professor Amber Katherine, English professor Judith Remmes and ESL professor Kathryn Sucher.

**DAVID SIMON TRUST:** The Board voted unanimously to authorize a transfer of the management of the David Simon Trust Account from Auxiliary Services to the SMC Foundation. The management transfer will allow the Foundation to transfer the maximum allowable monies to the Foundation for California Community Colleges to meet SMC’s portion of The Bernard Osher Foundation’s $100 Million Challenge to the state’s community colleges. Together, these actions will consolidate and increase the awarding of SMC student scholarships with the intent that approximately 100 students each year in perpetuity will benefit from the David Simon Scholarship Account. Simon, a generous donor to SMC, died in 1991, and his bequest was at the time the largest gift in college history.

**BOND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT:** The Board voted to approve an agreement with LPI, Inc. to manage the bond construction program for three years, from Jan. 1, 2010 through Dec. 31, 2012, for an amount not to exceed $5.7 million, plus reimbursable expenses. LPI, Inc. is currently providing these services under a Board-approved contract that ends June 30, 2010. The cost of the contract will be funded by SMC’s bond measures, college capital funds, and state construction grants.

**PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE:** Trustee Nancy Greenstein reported that she is working on a proposal to create a Public Policy Institute at SMC that would combine educational opportunities with service learning at a local level. The proposal is still very much in its embryonic stages but is envisioned to be a forum for public seminars on various current issues and other educational offerings – with a social activism slant – involving students, employees and the community. She said she is working with former state Sen. Sheila Kuehl and political science professor Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein on formulating the plan and has secured a small grant to begin the project.

**PUBLIC FUNDING OPTIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION:** The Board heard a report from SMC consultant Denny Zane that highlighted various proposed California ballot measures, as well as regional transportation measures and local education funding possibilities, which have the potential to increase public funding for SMC and other institutions of higher education. They include such proposals as the statewide Community Funding Protection & Accountability Act and a local parcel tax.

**GMAIL ACCOUNTS FOR SMC STUDENTS:** The Board voted unanimously to approve a contract with Google to provide SMC students with Gmail email accounts for four years, at no cost to the college. Gmail accounts will be automatically created for students at the first login to the SMC self-serve portal, and students will be informed that the college will communicate with them solely through these email accounts. The target rollout date for the program is March 2010.
EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT: The Board voted unanimously to approve a first reading of a policy that brings the college into compliance with the federal Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). Final approval of the policy is expected in January.

“APPLAUSE AWARD:” SMC Management Association President Erica LeBlanc said that Associate Dean of Online Services & Support Julie Yarrish and her team are the winners of the “Applause Award” for November.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION: Board Chair Louise Jaffe announced that the Board, in closed session, voted unanimously to affirm an administrative decision dated Oct. 21, 2009 that had been appealed in response to an unlawful discrimination complaint. In taking the action, the Board reviewed the original complaint, the investigative report and the administrative determination.

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