The following is a summary of the highlights of the SMC Board of Trustees meeting of Feb. 2, 2010. 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.

SPRING SESSION ENROLLMENT: Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Shimizu reported that less than two weeks from the start of the spring semester, classes are already 97 percent full. Compared to the same time a year ago, enrollment is up by 11 percent on a fulltime-student-equivalent (FTE) basis, 6.5 percent by headcount, 7 percent in online classes, and 7 percent by out-of-state students, he reported.

ACCREDITATION VISIT: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that preparations are under way for the accreditation team visit scheduled for March 8-11. The full accreditation self-study report can be seen at http://www.smc.edu/apps/comm.asp?%241=253.

BUDGET: President Dr. Chui L. Tsang reported that when Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed last month 2 percent growth funds for community colleges in the 2010-11 budget, college officials statewide were “ecstatic.” But recent briefings by state officials have revealed that the 2 percent growth proposal is unlikely to materialize because of a projected property tax shortfall statewide and doubts that federal stimulus money will come through to pay for the growth.

RECOGNITION OF OFFICER MARK KESSLER: The Board recognized SMC Police Officer Mark Kessler, who recently received the Santa Monica Elks Lodge Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The award winner is selected from the five nominated by Santa Monica Police Department, FBI, Los Angeles Sheriff’s Office, UCLA Police Department and SMC Police Department.

ENERGY SAVINGS CONTRACT: The Board voted unanimously to approve a contract with The George Yardley Co. to implement energy-saving measures in the Science Complex. The contract is for $392,274 but with an incentive of $180,077 from Southern California Edison Co., the final cost for the college is $212,197. The savings from this project over the next 10 years is estimated at $1.367 million, and the college is expected to break even on the contract in just over 1½ years. The contract is funded by Measure S, the 2004 bond measure.

2008-09 AUDIT REPORT: The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2008-09 Audit Report, which expressed an “unqualified opinion,” the best opinion the auditors can give on the college’s financial statements. The report by the auditing firm Vicente, Lloyd and Stutzman LLP also contained no findings and no deficiencies and concluded that all prior year findings have been corrected and implemented. This is the first time in recent history the college has not received any findings.
SMC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER: The Board heard a report that the Performing Arts Center, less than halfway into its second season, has been a big success, with performances by high-caliber artists such as Mikhail Baryshnikov and Placido Domingo; excellent reviews in the Los Angeles Times; and ticket sales running an average of approximately 85 percent of capacity. The full written report can be seen at http://www.smc.edu/projects/32/Trustees_Meeting_Information/Board_of_Trustees_Meetings/2010/2010-02-02-Agenda.pdf (page 13).

RECOGNITION OF PERSONNEL COMMISSIONER KAREN BANCROFT: The Board presented outgoing Personnel Commissioner Karen Bancroft a certificate of recognition for 10 years of “exemplary” service. Bancroft’s last meeting as commissioner is Feb. 17.

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RELOCATION: The Board voted unanimously to approve a $140,000 contract with CO ARCHITECTS to redesign the Library Village complex to house Information Technology, which is currently located in Drescher Hall. College officials say Drescher Hall does not have proper infrastructure for computer servers and is scheduled for major renovation that could affect electrical and data network feeds and could disrupt critical computers. Consequently, Information Technology will be moved, joining the Media Center and telecommunications network to create a single technology infrastructure at the south end of the Library complex. The contract with CO ARCHITECTS is funded by Measure AA, the 2008 bond measure.

REFINANCING OF CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION: The Board voted to approve a resolution that refinances the certificates of participation (which are similar to loans) that the college had previously issued to cover the cost of construction for SMC’s parking structures. The certificates are financed by parking permit fees, but the college has run a 12 percent deficit for the past four years. By refinancing, the college estimates it will be able to balance the payments, build up a reserve for future funding deficiency, and save more than $1.4 million.

“APPLAUSE AWARD:” SMC Management Association President Erica LeBlanc said that Dean of Campus Security, Student Health and Safety Al Vasquez and his team are the winners of the “Applause Award” for January.

QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT: The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the 2009-10 Quarterly Budget Report for the quarter that ended Dec. 31, 2009.

CLOSED SESSION ACTION: The Board announced that it had taken two actions in closed session: the suspension without pay of one classified employee for five work days and the suspension without pay of one classified employee for eight work days.

###