Members Present: Ignacio Alarcón (Chair), Jessica Aparicio, Armando Arias, Barbara Bell, Susan Broderick, Cathie Carroll, Esther Frankel, Jack Friedlander, Tom Garey, David Gilbert, Kathy Molloy, Kim Monda, Marcy Moore, David Morris, Mimi Muraoka, Dean Nevins, Kathy O’Connor, Jan Schultz, Ana María Ygualt, Oscar Zavala
Members Excused: Curtis Bieber, Stephanie Durfor
Guests: Kenley Neufeld, Andreea Serban

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Information

2.1 Reminder: Division representatives to the Committee on Online Instruction needed. COI meets 2nd and 4th Fridays of the Month, 12:00, in room BC 214.
Update to Senate Committee Bylaws to be discussed in February.
Ignacio Alarcón reminded everyone that in the next few weeks the Senate would be talking about updating the Senate Bylaws and, in particular, the new COI bylaws. Kenley Neufeld, the committee chair, would like full division representation so please remind your divisions and appoint a division rep to this new Senate committee.

3.0 Hearing/Discussion

3.1 Superintendent/President Andreea Serban and V.P. Joseph Sullivan will explain options regarding the immediate lack of matching State funds for the renovation of the Drama/Music Building. (College Planning Council special meeting about this item on January 27.) Handout and chart

Andreea Serban attended the meeting. V.P. Joseph Sullivan was not able to attend due to illness. Dr. Serban reported that there was an upcoming meeting with the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee and that she would like to present to them the proposed solution to our current difficulty with the state matching funds for the renovation of the Drama/Music Building. It is for this reason that she requested an extraordinary Senate meeting for consultation on the issue.

Dr. Serban mentioned that the state has sold only 1/3 of their bonds in the recent offerings. SBCC’s bonds sold very well. To meet the Drama/Music timelines we would need to use $13 M of Measure V funds. If state money does not materialize it will impact other projects. It is premature to be concerned with SOMA. However, something is very clear: SOMA may not be built without state funding and construction would not begin without such funds. In the immediate future, we need to be concerned with the Drama/Music renovation. The preparation that has gone into making this happen has been extensive.
The information in the handout has been condensed but will offer further help in understanding what is happening. The state promises you money that is not actually there. There is a board for reimbursement of capital projects. When they sold bonds to replenish the fund only 1/3 were sold in the extremely difficult economic environment. Dr. Serban provided the schedule for the Drama/Music building renovation.

The actions are: If we continue with the state projects, there is nothing to be gained or lost. We would not be relinquishing our right to request reimbursement. There is a very slight possibility that we may not be reimbursed.

We want to proceed with a number of Measure V related projects, like Drama/Music renovation and deferred maintenance projects. There has already been a great expenditure to prepare the alternate classroom/office sites and to move everyone from the Drama/Music building. There would be a severe impact programmatically to the college and to the public if we were to wait to start construction until we have state funds. This could be a year or more.

It is important to have a decision made in order to keep the schedule rolling and in order to articulate to the Citizen’s committee in February how we want to proceed. We expect quite a few questions and concerns. After all they are there to ensure that the way we use this money is appropriate and in accordance with what the voters voted for and that we meet our commitment. We want to be able to convey to the Oversight Committee the importance of this and that we have full support of the college.

Dr. Serban was asked if she anticipated that the 14 billion dollars the state of California will supposedly get as a result of the “stimulus package” will improve California’s credit rating enough so the state bonds are sold. Dr. Serban said that this would definitely help. The credibility relates to the current situation of not having a final 08-09 budget and the uncertainty about the 09-10 budget.

Dr. Serban was asked how this would not impact the smaller projects and only impact the larger projects, as she mentioned. Have these projects been identified? Dr. Serban said that big projects that would be impacted are the Wake Center and the Humanities Building. These projects that were listed in Measure V – the state matching cannot be assumed. The project rating would have a lot to do in determining when a project would be considered for state matching, The Wake Center would not be considered for a number of years and the same goes for the Humanities Building. They are both currently ranked very low.

The positive note out of this is this is the best time to go out for a bid. All estimates for work, material, equipment, are coming in at greatly reduced lower rates. Clearly if there is not going to be a reimbursement for Drama/Music there will not be one for SoMA.
There was a big concern expressed: we presented Measure V to the community with a certain plan and now we’re changing that plan. Are there legalities involved? There is also a public relations aspect that we need to be mindful of. Dr. Serban said that we are entirely within the legal boundaries. We have not actually committed to all Measure V projects. It was a very general statement. The problem is not the legality of our actions, but the perception in the community. Measure V was based very strongly on the message of possibilities: the 92 million from the state was never really assured. The only matching funds projects that were approved were Drama/Music and SoMA. The rest of the matching project money was hopeful and not guaranteed. Those projects may never come through and they might never be rated high enough to be approved in the next 15 years.

It was asked what the role of the Citizens Oversight Committee was. Dr. Serban said that this committee is not an approval committee. They can question and express doubt or concern. Our Board of Trustees is the only legal authority and approval entity.

Comment on the campaign for Measure V: most people came around during the process and voted for the measure based on support of and for Continuing Education. The community perceives our Adult Education Division as a community treasure. That component of Measure V was strongly advertised.

Dr. Serban said that the matching of funds for the Schott Center may have a good chance of approval, which is not true in the case of the Wake Center.

Another constraint is that we do have legal limitations on how long we have to spend the bond money that has been redeemed already. We have to spend 80% of the first 47 million in the next three years.

Comments and justification for going forward without guaranteed matching state funds: The benefits are so great to continue with Drama/Music. If the Drama/Music project were put on hold it would have a very big negative impact on the community, and the impact to programs would be unacceptable.

M/S/C To move agenda item 3.1 to Action (Broderick/Molloy)
M/S/C To recommend the adoption of Option A (Molloy/Broderick)

4.0 Adjourn