MINUTES
Santa Barbara Community College District
Board of Trustees
Study Session
Thursday, January 22, 1998

All Board Members were in attendance including Student Trustee, Michael Warnken. Bill Hamre, Associate Vice President for Information Technology, was present for the discussion related to Project Redesign and Marketing of the SBCC Software Suite.

1. District Counsel Selection Process

The Superintendent/President discussed the necessity of Mr. Tom Anderle’s resignation as District Counsel because of his appointment as a Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge by Governor Wilson. In discussing how to replace Mr. Anderle, it was recognized that the Counsel must work very closely with the Superintendent/President and other staff members of the College; thus, the primary consideration is a judgment regarding the effectiveness and capability of the Counsel to provide sound, timely and affordable legal advice for District-related matters and then the capacity to work effectively with the Superintendent/President and College staff members.

The Superintendent/President’s intention is to work with a few attorneys over the next few months and discuss with others their capabilities and the needs of the College. Board members offered sound advice regarding this process. The Superintendent/President will keep the Board of Trustees apprised of progress in this area.

2. Project Redesign

a. Marketing of “SBCC Software Suite”

There was concurrence with the objective of determining whether the software package developed by Santa Barbara City College had the potential through sales to other colleges to return SBCC’s substantial investment of time and dollars in developing that package. It was recognized that the key element in the package is the Student Information System. That system is in the initial stages of development and is not scheduled for completion until November 1998. The Superintendent/President stated it is neither advisable nor possible with current staffing for the College to take on a marketing responsibility for a software product. There is little, if any, probability that the College could develop a capacity to market, provide implementation support, service or upgrade and maintain the product. Thus, the most desirable method to determine if there could be a return on the investment is to have a company take on marketing, implementation and ongoing support responsibilities.

Because of the long-term and positive working relationship with George Tamas, CEO of Governet, and his intimate knowledge of and belief in the product, the Superintendent/President felt Governet would be the appropriate entity to take on the responsibility.

The initial draft of what would constitute a business relationship with Governet was discussed. Board members requested that the Superintendent/President obtain
appropriate background information on Governet to verify its capability to carry out this role. It was felt important to obtain counsel to assess whether it is necessary for the College to provide other companies with the opportunity to be involved with the marketing role. Further, any contractual terms should have the advice of counsel as well.

The idea of the College obtaining a return on the investment was verified and the process that the Superintendent/President would follow was acknowledged.

b. **Review of Expenditures for Project Redesign and Conversion**

Associate Vice President Bill Hamre presented the Board with information on the cost of Project Redesign for the last three years. College expenditures have averaged approximately $175,000 per year for three years including 1997-98 ($525,000 total). In addition there has been grant support from the FIPSE Grant. The database conversion project is proceeding as projected with a cost of $2.9 million spread over a five-year period.

These amounts, though significant, are viewed as being relatively moderate for the scope of Project Redesign and what is involved in Project Redesign implementation and the conversion project. The key is to bring the projects to successful conclusion. The Superintendent/President felt there would be little criticism of the expenditures if the implementation/conversion is successful. The projects have received the broad-based endorsement of campus groups, there has been extensive involvement of college faculty and staff in the change effort, and the changes are seen as desirable. However, a lack of criticism will be dependent upon accomplishing the objectives.

3. **Foundation for Santa Barbara City College**

Reviewed with the Board were the status of the endowment held by the Foundation for Santa Barbara City College, the legal guidelines that relate to the operation of the endowment, and the assumptions regarding the commitment of portions of the endowment income to partially support the operation of the Foundation (approximately 25 percent of the operating budget).

The Board’s focus was on the issue of how decisions to support college programs are made when allocating the funds received through the Foundation. At the base of this discussion is the assumption that allocating funds for College programs is a responsibility of the Board of Trustees and may not be a responsibility that can be delegated. Thus, the answer to this question is important to ensure the Board of Trustees is legally fulfilling its responsibilities. At present the Superintendent/President is involved in the accepting of major gifts. The Superintendent/President’s responsibility is to ensure the gifts support the mission of the College. In addition, there is general notification to the Board regarding gifts received. The consensus supported clearer and more timely information to the District’s Board of Trustees regarding the gifts received and the allocations made. The Superintendent/President will work in two directions:

- To obtain and present to the Board on a consistent basis a listing of all gifts received by the Foundation and the intended purpose of those gifts in regard to support for College programs or services.
Expenditures made from the general endowment will also be brought to the Board’s attention.

This approach will be followed for the next few months and then the matter will again be reviewed by the Board of Trustees to ensure responsibilities are being fulfilled.

4. **Campus Facilities Development**

a. **Revision of the College’s Long-Range Development Plan**

   Board members concurred in the stated intent of the Superintendent/President to update the long-range development plan by including four potential sites for new buildings. Specifically, a building on the West Campus, the Gymnasium addition, a new building in the area adjacent to the Physical Science/Humanities/Campus Center now occupied by the Community Services Building, and a site east of the Student Services Building. It was clear that these represent potential building sites and that a decision to locate the area as a site does not imply a decision to build. It identifies the area as a site if college enrollment and program demands require additional space. The decision of when to build will be made at a later date based upon such institutional needs.

b. **Schott and Wake Centers Facilities Planning**

   The previous decision to proceed with an architect (Mr. Don Ziemer) to assess the need for improvements in the Schott and Wake Centers was acknowledged. This assessment will include the potential of additional; i.e., new classroom space at the Wake Center. It is the President’s intent to bring these plans back to the Board near the beginning of June 1998. A decision will be made at that time regarding how to proceed.

c. **Development of a New Children’s Center**

   The Superintendent/President is working with College’s ECE staff, Vice President Friedlander and the Foundation to develop a new Children’s Center. The purpose will be to focus on an Infant/Toddler Program. It is recognized that the site in the Montecito Street area may still have potential. A downtown site will also be pursued. This project is dependent upon private funding to be obtained through the Foundation.

d. **Funding Options**

   It is recognized that the probability for State funding for future College building projects is low. The possibility of a 50+1 majority for local bond issues represents the best alternative. This option is now being considered by the Legislature. Because of our building needs and the perception of strong community support for Santa Barbara City College, we will be most interested in what happens to this measure in the Legislature.

5. **Qualifications for Benefits**

   The Superintendent/President discussed some changes in eligibility for benefits and the general direction was understood.
6. **State Budget**

   The State Budget had been reviewed at the Board of Trustees meeting. The Board received an outline on the State Budget. There were no questions at this point regarding implications for SBCC. All Board Members recognized that this is a proposal. The final budget will be determined through the legislative process. The present budget outlook is a positive one for the California Community Colleges.

   The major financial concern for SBCC is the sharp drop in spring credit enrollment. The ramifications will be presented to the Board at a later date.

7. **Student Trustee Issues (Vote & Compensation)**

   The Student Trustee, Michael Warnken, presented his views on having the student advisory vote presented as the first vote when the Board is considering a resolution. The rationale being that if the student's vote was advisory it should be noted prior to the vote of individual Board members. In that way, the members would have the Student Trustee's view prior to casting a vote. The procedure was acknowledged as being reasonable. In regard to student compensation, a thorough discussion was held on this topic. There was no change indicated; however, the matter will be discussed further.

8. **Information**

   a. **Student Preferences and Planning for the Earth and Planetary Sciences Program**

       The Board Members were apprised of changes that might be made in that area of the curriculum due to a low student demand.

   b. **Computers In Our Future**

       Expenditures that have taken place to support that program through the Continuing Education Student Fund were acknowledged.

   c. **Supply/Demand—Housing Impact on Santa Barbara City College**

       The Superintendent/President reviewed his discussion with Gail Marshall from the Board of Supervisors regarding Santa Barbara City College support for a housing inspection program proposed for implementation in the Isla Vista area. Ms. Marshall recommended that SBCC consider helping to support the inspection program because of the number of SBCC students (approximately 1,450) that reside in the Isla Vista area. It was agreed that this was a matter to discuss with the Facilities Committee.

       In considering options to help provide support in terms of the availability of student housing, the idea of contacting a management company to manage a property was reviewed. There was no objection to the Superintendent/President's intended direction to achieve this with the understanding that the management company would give priority to SBCC students. Any role for the District providing a financial guarantee for a certain number of students was deferred for fuller discussion at a Facilities Committee meeting.
d. **Citizens Commission for Higher Education/Partnership for Excellence - Governance Issues**

The report from the Citizens Commission for Higher Education chaired by Dr. William Pickens outlines a tentative recommendation to do away with local Boards of Trustees. Shared with the Board was a response to those recommendations from the Chancellor’s Office, also the recommendations from a report developed by CCCT. It was acknowledged that any action by the Santa Barbara Community College District at this point would be premature. There is a need to study the issues further and gain an understanding as to the Commission’s final recommendations. However, all Board Members concurred that the Commission’s recommendation regarding local Boards and other areas have the potential for significant impact on the viability of the College.

There was strong support for how local Boards of Trustees enhance the effectiveness of the local college. Though recognizing this is certainly true in the Santa Barbara area, it is also recognized that other community college districts have serious problems emanating from Board/CEO relationships, collective bargaining issues and governance problems that essentially cause a gridlock in the College’s decision making processes. An area explored as potential by the Board was the Charter College route. It was recognized that presently legislation does not exist for that option; however, that should be a matter for which alternative action can be contemplated at a future date.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:14 p.m.

[Signature]

Peter R. MacDougall
Superintendent/President
Secretary to the Board of Trustees