MINUTES

Santa Barbara Community College District

Tuesday, January 9, 2001
Board of Trustees Study Session

All Board Members were present. Others in attendance included Dr. Peter MacDougall, Superintendent/President; Mr. Brian Fahnstock, Vice President for Business Services; Ms. Susan Ehrlich, Vice President for Human Resources & Legal Affairs; and, Ms. Kate Mcissac, Channels Reporter.

1. Governor’s Budget Proposal – 2001-02

The Superintendent/President reported no details were available on the Governor’s 2001-02 budget proposal at this time. The Governor delivered his State of the State Address last evening and higher education was not included except as it pertained to helping the State’s energy crisis. Budget details are expected on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2001. There is hope that there will be strong support for the California Community Colleges’ budget.

2. Brown Act – Update on Interpretations

Ms. Susan Ehrlich, Vice President for Human Resources and Legal Affairs, presented each Board Member and the Superintendent/President with a notebook on the Brown Act. She also reviewed nearly two pages of excerpts to focus on issues related to the Brown Act.

Significant among the points discussed was the use of electronic means for communication among members of the Board, specifically, e-mail. E-mail can be used to share general information and communicate among Board Members, however, such communication should not be used to draw conclusions or share a vote on issues appearing before the Board. Ms. Ehrlich also highlighted recent cases which interpreted the Brown Act.

Board members expressed appreciation for having the materials and being updated. There was concurrence that periodically having such a session with the Board was important. All Board members concurred that it is vital to the Board’s operational effectiveness to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and that regular updates are important to ensure a level of awareness that will prevent inadvertent transgressions.

3. Santa Barbara Community College District

a. Discussion of Trustee Areas and the At-Large Election of Trustees

At present, the Santa Barbara County Committee on School District Organization is considering a petition submitted by former Student Trustee and SBCCD Board Candidate Michael Warnken. Mr. Warnken’s petition calls for the Committee to
endorse a proposal in which the District elections would be by Trustee area that would be approximately equal in population.

Board members reviewed the rationale for the present structure, specifically, the alignment with elementary school boundaries, and the general effectiveness of the Board since the present structure was put into affect in 1965. Positive points included the consideration that an at-large election ensures a focus on district-wide concerns and programs, and that accountability is for the District as a whole. The District is compact enough in areas to ensure relatively easy program access. There was a general consensus that the present alignment has served the District well.

The position of the Trustees established in earlier discussions is to support the present system. No comments were made to would indicate a change in that direction.

Having a representative from the Santa Barbara Community College District Board to serve on the Santa Barbara County Committee on School District Organization was seen as advisable.

4. **Proposition 39 and Implications for SBCC Facilities Planning**

Context for the discussion of this item was the passage in November 2000 of Proposition 39. Prop 39 lowered the voter approval requirement from 66.7 percent to 55 percent for bond issues of K-12 and the California Community Colleges.

In November 1999 the Santa Barbara Community College District asked District voters to approve a bond of approximately $44.8 million to develop facilities to meet the needs over the next decade and a half. That measure did not pass, but received a 55 percent voter approval. The purpose of the discussion was to explore pros and cons of going back to the voters and if so the magnitude of the Bond Issue that would be proposed.

One option was to take no action. The Superintendent/President noted the consequences include exacerbating the already strained campus facilities conditions. Specifically, there is a need currently to use a number of temporary buildings to conduct the educational programs of the College. In addition, the District invested approximately $5 million this fall to provide offices for faculty and staff. There were insufficient offices to meet basic needs of the College faculty and staff. The inability to house programs heavily dependent on technology was resulting in operational inefficiencies and did not fully capitalizing on these high technology study programs. Thus, if the option of doing nothing was pursued, there would be a continuing deterioration in the capability of the College to accommodate additional students and effectively carry out the delivery of its academic and student service programs.

The second option was to go with a bond similar to the bond presented in November 1999. It was recognized that the bond was not approved by 55 percent. The issue of accommodating growth as opposed to providing for basic needs was a primary point
advanced in seeking approval for the last bond. Growth is not perceived favorably by district voters. Few comments, if any, were indicative of support for a bond comparable to size of the one in November 1999.

A third option was to present the voters with a bond at the next general election, but to have the bond focused on a high technology building for the Main Campus and some development of the Wake Center on Turnpike. The advantage of this approach would be that voters would recognize such an action is required by the strain on present facilities and the ability to develop a building that would support high technology program vital to the local economy.

There was a full discussion on the relative merits of the options. The Superintendent/President stated he will follow up and prepare a recommendation related to option three, a modified bond and to fully define how the approach would meet the District’s short-term needs.

5. Miscellaneous

a. Spring Enrollments

The Superintendent/President reported present enrollment indicates a slight increase in students over spring 2000. The overall enrollment for the year is projected to be such that the District should be funded for all students who participate in the College’s programs (no unfunded FTEs). Growth is continuing, but at a moderate pace.

b. Construction Projects

The project highlighted was the LSG Remodel. The cost of that project is over $8 million and it is projected to be fully funded from the State of California.

Another project reviewed with the Board was the Cosmetology Program facilities at the Magnolia Shopping Center. A ten-year lease had been affected for expanded facilities that will accommodate an expansion of the Cosmetology Certificate Programs. The project is estimated to cost approximately $600,000. County permits will be required. It is hoped the renovation will be complete by September 2001.

Other items discussed include naming of the Health Tech Center, development and funding of parking facilities to comply with the College’s LRDP.

Note: Dr. MacDougall needs to follow up and come up with a proposal for increasing the student portion of the parking fee, identify the maximum the fee can be increased and understand how much revenue which would be produced.

c. Foundation Fundraising – Update

A copy of an overview of the Foundation for Santa Barbara City College’s progress in reaching fundraising goals for 2000-01 was distributed. Highlighted
in the report was the achievement of gifts totaling $3.2 million as of December 31, 2000. This compared with a gift total of $2.3 million for a comparable period in the previous year. Highlighted among these gifts was a $1.0 gift for the Teaching Program, a recent annuity gift funded through the donation of income from a sale of property and a gift from the estate of Louise Lowry Davis intended to develop a student gathering place on the campus.

Board Members acknowledged the progress being made and expressed appreciation for the fine work of the Foundation.

d. State Issues and Legislative Conference

It was noted that three Trustees (Board President Joan Livingston, Mr. Luis Villegas and Dr. Kathryn Alexander) along with the Superintendent/President would be attending the Legislative Conference over the weekend of January 20, 2001. It was recognized how important this meeting is in updating Board Members on the key legislation and particularly the budget for the California Community Colleges. Efforts will be made to ensure we are well prepared to advance the community college budgets with our legislative representatives.

e. Technology Issues

The Superintendent/President outlined with the Board members the significant steps taking place in the area of technology and the hard work of the IRD staff, the College administration and members of the faculty. Specifically, the conversion continues to be a key point of focus, both in regard to how critical a successful conversion of new administrative applications is and how large and substantial an undertaking such a process is.

Considerable work underway to field test a student portal. The student portal will represent a means to fundamentally change the systems by which communication takes place with students, how students can access College services, and how the faculty of the College can supplement their approach to enriching education by use of the Web and in carrying out numerous administrative processes.

Considerable work also took place in enhancing the College’s network capabilities during the Winter Break. These efforts will enable the system to expand its capacity and increase operational efficiencies. Also highlighted was the work taking place to develop a Web Plan during the coming year to implement the plan.

The Superintendent/President stated what is being done is challenging. He expressed the opinion that what we are doing is sound and will position the College well for the future. He also stated he was proud of the leadership and extra effort being made by members of the College community in advancing our capabilities in this area.
There was a general discussion with Board Members on what is occurring and the implications and challenges.

f. Other Matters

There were general discussions on items important to members of the Board and Superintendent/President.

6. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.9(c)

A closed session was held on a matter of anticipated litigation. The Board of Trustees provided direction to the Superintendent/President and Vice President for Human Resources and Legal Affairs.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

January 22, 2001

Date

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