MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

February 12, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING/STUDY SESSION
Room A-218
4:00 pm

MacDougall Administration Center
Santa Barbara City College
721 Cliff Drive

The Office of the Superintendent/President, Room A110 in the MacDougall Administration Center is the location where documents that are public records relating to any item under discussion on a Board agenda (including documents distributed with the agenda and those distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board within 72 hours prior to a Board meeting) are available for public inspection.

Board agendas and supporting documents are also posted on the college website at http://www.sbcc.edu/boardoftrustees/.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

President Alexander called the meeting to order.

1.2 ROLL CALL

Members present:
Dr. Alexander, President
Dr. Dobbs, Vice President
Mrs. Green
Mr. Jurkowitz
Ms. Livingston
Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Villegas
Mr. Knotts, Student Trustee

Others present for all or a portion of the meeting:
Dr. Andreea M. Serban, Supt/President and Secretary Clerk to the Board of Trustees
Alarcon, Ignacio, President Academic Senate
Ehrlich, Sue, VP HR/LA
Erickson, TK, SPA Student Life
Dr. Friedlander, Jack, Executive VP Ed Prgms

Garey, Tom, Theater Arts
Griffin, Leslie, Controller
Dr. Partee, Ben, Dean Ed Programs
Scharper, Alice, Dean Ed Programs
Spaventa, Marilynn, Dean Ed Programs
Dr. Stark, Lynne, President IA
1.3 WELCOME

President Alexander extended a cordial welcome to all.

1.4 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 3, 2008 AND JANUARY 8, 2009

Upon motion by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Ms. Livingston, the Board approved the minutes of the special meeting of December 3, 2008.

Upon motion by Mr. Jurkowitz, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, the Board approved the minutes of the special meeting of January 8, 2009. Ms. Livingston abstained.

1.5 HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizen expressed an interest to address the Board.

2. STUDY SESSION

2.1 Report on the Legislative Conference attended by trustees Des O'Neill, Luis Villegas and Sean Knotts

Sean Knotts reported that he enjoyed attending the Legislative Conference, a lot of the subject matter discussed was very stimulating and the speakers were prominent individuals. Enjoyed going to the Capital and meeting with the aides of Tony Strickland and Pedro Nava. Got to hear from some really great speakers, enjoyed hearing from the members of the Legislator who are very in tuned to community colleges and very supportive of them and they are also working on putting together a community college caucus.

Luis Villegas reported that this was a good conference overall. Unfortunately there was a lot of doom and gloom regarding the budget. The speakers did mention that it will get worse before it gets better. There was nothing new presented regarding the budget. It was noted that the Legislators are in favor and do view community colleges as part of the solution, the challenge is getting everyone else to understand that. Mr. Villegas also reported on his trip to Washington, DC, he spent a lot of time in sessions and listening to updates. Was able to visit with legislators and congress representatives to discuss the issue of the House version of the bill vs the Senate version in terms of the stimulus package and also the American Opportunity Act that President Obama has put forth, which is the Hope Tax Credit for Students, which will increase the tax credit for higher education. Also discussed was the House bill that would increase the maximum of Pell grants by $500.

Des O'Neill noted that it is becoming evident that former community college trustees are now serving on the assembly and state senate.

2.2 Update on the mistake in the calculation of the full-time faculty obligation for Fall 2008

Superintendent/President Serban reported that attachment 1 was a memo written to Ignacio Alarcon and Lynne Stark to provide background information and a statement regarding the mistake in the calculation of the full-time faculty obligation. Reported that the Academic Senate was extraordinarily supportive of the proposal, both for Fall 2009 and then moving forward in Fall 2010.

Thanked Ignacio Alarcon, Jack Friedlander, the Deans and the Academic Senate for supporting this proposal.
2.3 Change in parking fees for credit students

Vice President Sullivan reported that a proposal to increase parking fees beginning in Fall 2009 has been presented to the Student Senate. The cost of a parking permit would be $33.25 if ordered on-line and $35.00 if purchased from the cashier’s office. The cost difference is to provide an incentive for people to purchase their permits on-line to reduce the lines and reduce the demand on the cashier’s office.

Superintendent/President Serban reported that there has not been an increase in parking fees in over ten years and our parking fees are lower than any other coastal college parking fees.

Sean Knotts reported that the Student Senate has been providing information regarding the increase to the student body. Most students do not seem concerned with the increase; their concern is if a student purchases their permit late, that they be allowed to use their printed receipt until they receive their parking permit.

Superintendent/President Serban noted that this item would be presented for Board approval at the February board meeting.

2.4 Profiles of credit students Fall 2004-2008 and Spring 2004-2008 - Highlights of trends and changes in credit students.

Superintendent/President Serban reported that Fall 2008 was a significant departure in some important areas from prior terms, being a record high enrollment of 19,544 students and it’s also the first time there has been an increase of almost 2,000 first-time and first-transfer students, which is almost unheard of. These figures reinforce what has been discussed regarding the cuts being made to UC and CU’s and the down turn in the economy has made more students attend community college than there has been in the past. It is also important to note that the significant increase occurred in the number of on-line only students, which does not impact the campus directly. Dr. Friedlander also noted that the not only is the increase of students in the on-line courses, but also there has been an increase in Dual Enrollment classes that are offered off campus that accounts for 69% of the increase.

Superintendent/President Serban noted that for the first time in a long time the number of international students on student visas is slightly above 5%. This discussion is taking place to ask the Board to consider raising the percentage rate to 6%. Executive Vice President Friedlander spoke on the reasons for the international student increase. There are a variety of factors that affect the take rate, of those students who apply to come here and how many actually show up.

- Students’ ability to get a visa on time. Now students are getting their visas a lot quicker.
- Students who are referred by an agency that is recruiting students to community colleges are more likely to show up. Students often apply to multiple institutions, however, when they go through an agency it is pretty well targeted as to where they will apply. There has been increase in students using agencies, rather than going it on their own.
- The currency rate fluctuation. There was while where the dollar was weak, so that made coming to the US much more attractive.
- This year more students returned for a second year.

There was an enormous effort made to recruit and attract international students to colleges and universities to help with revenue. This could result in a reduction of international students attending community colleges.
Superintendent/President Serban reported that all community colleges complete an annual survey on international students and the latest report for 07-08 shows that Santa Monica was at 10.4%, DeAnza 9.2%, Diablo Valley 6.7% and Foothill 6.2%. What is being presented today for discussion is the concept of a margin rather than a hard count of 5% because of the reasons that were mentioned earlier and it’s hard to hit the exact 5%. By increasing the figure to 6% it would allow the college some wiggle room. We are all aware of the sensitivity of this issue in the community; however, on the other hand we also have to look out for the interest of the college.

Ms. Marilynn Spaventa reported that the program has been very successful the last two years, but it’s all very fragile, all we would need is a stock market crash in one country, a SARS alert and our numbers could drop dramatically. We keep trying to be as successful as we can and we are really proud that for a number of different countries we are the college of choice in California and or the United States. We work hard for diversity of our population that’s important to us in terms of the education on the campus.

Superintendent/President Serban requested that the Board provide some guidance on this matter. Dr. Serban wanted to make sure that she had the Board’s concurrence on this increase. A poll of the board members showed that they would support the 6% increase. This item would be placed on the board agenda for approval.

2.5 Report on budget principle #2

Budget Principle #2: "The faculty, staff and administrators are one of SBCC's greatest resources. Layoffs of regular certificated and classified employees will be avoided if possible. In the event of funding shortfalls, positions that become vacant may not be filled, and reassignments may be necessary."

Superintendent/President Serban reported that this information was provided to describe the situation regarding current vacancies and how they are being dealt with. It was pointed out that staff is standing by the commitment to maintain core instruction programs and continue the employment of regular employees, which are our first priority. A number of vacancies have occurred and some of them have been frozen pending finalization of the 08-09 budget. As positions become vacant they are reviewed one by one and there has been an impact by not filling positions, as can be seen by the data provided in the attachment. Some positions cannot stay vacant for too long because of the significant impact and some have required re-distribution of assignments among existing employees. This also provides an opportunity to see how the organization has evolved, what are the needs of the organization, and engage in discussion to see if that position needs to be filled. Moving forward, program reviews will be used to identify new positions.

2.6 Recruitment for the position of Dean of Continuing Education

Superintendent/President Serban reported that the recruitment for the position of Dean of Continuing Education has begun. This item has been discussed at the Ed Policies meeting and Study Session in October. Superintendent/President Serban wanted to have the Board’s concurrence that this process should continue. The Board concurred.

2.7 Membership of the Board Facilities Committee and scheduling of walk-through of Schott and Wake centers
would like the Board to explore, there are a number of things that have come up and she feels that the Board does not have enough knowledge on the current realities of housing. Ms. Livingston is active in the Plan for Santa Barbara and feels that as a partner in the community we should have up-to-date knowledge of what is happening to our employees in terms of where they live and how long they commute to work. Ms. Livingston would also like to have another survey conducted with SBCC employees regarding their housing needs. Information provided by the previous Superintendent/President regarding options for the college to engage in partnerships with contractors was insufficient and it was not clear why and based on what information were those discussions taking place. None of those proposals came to fruition.

Superintendent/President Serban noted that the information regarding where employees live and how long they commute can be easily provided since we have the addresses of all employees. It does not require a survey of all employees. She also noted that conducting another such survey will unnecessarily raise expectations about the ability to provide affordable housing. The last such effort with the Santa Fe seven affordable condominiums is on hold as the contractor has stopped construction due to the state of the economy. Having another Board committee on this topic at this time would require staff time and we have a number of key priorities that must be completed by June. Nothing substantial has changed since the Board has had an ad-hoc working group with members of the Foundation that spent time trying to come up with solutions for affordable housing for SBCC employees.

Board members concurred that at this time this committee does not need to be created. Ms. Livingston agreed faculty/staff housing and transportation trends be revisited in a year.

3. CLOSED SESSION

3.1 Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b)(3)(B) 1 matter

Upon motion by Mr. O’Neill, seconded by Mrs. Green, the Board approved convening to Closed Session.

Upon motion by Ms. Livingston, seconded by Mr. O’Neill, the Board approved reconvening to Open Session.

President Alexander reported that the Board gave direction to its labor negotiators.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. O’Neill, seconded by Ms. Livingston, the Board approved adjourning this meeting. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in A211. A Study Session will be held on March 12, 2009 in A218.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON March 12, 2009

President, Board of Trustees

Superintendent/President
Secretary/Clerk of the Board