BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARY
March 1, 2022
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Superintendent's Report: Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery's report included several college updates, touching upon the following topics with contributions from various leads and administrators. Spring 2022 semester and COVID-19 protocols: The Spring 2022 semester began February 14 with more students back on campus and on-ground services increasing. Los Angeles County continues to experience decreases in all categories related to the pandemic, especially hospitalizations, at the time of the meeting. While the County has relaxed outdoor masking requirements and certain indoor masking requirements, SMC continues to require masking indoors and when individuals are within six feet of each other outdoors. Weekly asymptomatic screening testing is required for all students and staff who are not up-to-date on their COVID vaccination status, which includes anyone who has not completed a primary COVID-19 vaccine series, and anyone who is fully vaccinated and due for a booster dose but has not yet received it. Only positive cases need to be submitted. The Emergency Operations Team (EOT) leads are working to update the SMC Roadmap to Recovery in accordance with latest updates and recommendations from the CDC as well as best practices at sister colleges. Maintenance and Operations staff has worked hard to ensure SMC buildings and grounds are welcoming for students and colleagues returning to campus, and continue to align their operations with Los Angeles County Public Health recommendations on enhanced cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting, along with the installation of Plexiglas barriers as necessary and monitoring mechanical systems to ensure adequate ventilation. The EOT continues to focus on campus safety as a top priority and continuously looks to regulatory agency information to stay current on any new safety guidelines from federal, state, and local governments. Safety protocols for classrooms are being monitored and safety controls are in place and being utilized. Personal Protective Equipment, such as surgical masks, KN95 and N95 masks—as well as hand sanitizer—are available and regularly replenished, high-touch points are being sanitized, and students are wearing face coverings in class. More spaces are opening on campus to support the student population as well as more gatherings, special events, performances, and sporting events. Each of these will have safety plans in place. The COVID-19 booster requirement for students was communicated several weeks ago and 1,000 submissions had been received by the time of the Board meeting. The new requirement stems from the county's order, which states that students who come to campus (for classes or services) must submit their COVID-19 booster, if eligible, by March 15. Failure to submit the booster will not result in a student's spring classes being dropped, however students will not be able to enroll in future semesters without an approved booster (if, eligible) on file. Students with medical exemptions who come to campus are testing for COVID-19, and those tests are being reviewed.

All SMC employees received an email notice from Human Resources the prior week addressing the booster requirement. The deadline for staff to submit proof of a booster to Human Resources is April 15, 2022. Until proof is submitted, eligible employees will test weekly if they are not yet boosted. Currently, employees only need to submit positive COVID test results. Human Resources is focusing efforts on working with instructional faculty, counselors, and librarians who are on-ground during Spring 2022 but who have not submitted proof of vaccination. All employees approved for an exemption are excluded from the vaccination program and booster requirement at this time.

Dr. Jeffery also highlighted three February performances at the Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center: Iphigenia, an original opera commissioned in part by The Broad Stage; Heartbeat Opera's Fidelio which also involved a collaboration with the Art department and the Dance department; and Sacre by Circa.

The enrollment update included data from 2014-2015 to 2020-2021, pre-pandemic to current year projections, and a Spring 2022 enrollment update. You can view the presentation here: Enrollment Update

Support for students impacted by Ukraine conflict: As indications grew that Russia would invade Ukraine, the SMC International Education Office initiated support efforts to Ukrainian students studying at SMC. Of the 12 on F-1 visas, 11 are in the United States. The students have been contacted to determine their needs, including wellness, emergency reduced course loads, and financial resources. The SMC Foundation has created an emergency relief fund. The college has also reached out to the 25 Russian students and the students from Belarus who are studying here to acknowledge how difficult this must be for them and to offer support as well. [Editor's Note: Read Dr. Jeffery's March 4 memo encapsulating College resources and actions in support of those impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.]

Consent Agenda Items: Among consent agenda items approved were several contracts and consultants including Blackboard, whose contract was increased by $15,000 (total not to exceed $2.9 million) to continue providing a comprehensive marketing and enrollment lead qualification and transfer services to support the consortium of 19 community colleges in Los Angeles County, manage marketing campaigns and social media spending, and provide specialized training, and more, funded by Strong Workforce Program monies; TourCoach whose original contract was amended by $37,000 for a revised amount of $123,265 which will cover additional Spring trips for Athletics events through June 2022, and an addition of $3,500 to a recurring contract agreement between SMMUSD and SMC's Dance Department for a total of $73,000 (SMMUSD will reimburse SMC for the Dance Department to offer two training programs, one to 4th graders and a second to 5th graders in efforts leading to a culminating event; the agreement covers 13 instructors and the revised agreement includes additional class trainings in the Malibu schools).

Also among consent agenda items approved were the ratification of grants-related items including three actions related to Strong Workforce Program funding (granted by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the largest of these included an award of $1,828,840 in round five of regional funding, which requires colleges to collectively increase specific metrics that include the quantity of career education enrollments, job placement, wage gains, and more, while also improving the quality of career education; SMC was approved to lead two regional projects and participate in six more); and a Radio Community Service Grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting augmented by $36,879 for an amended award amount of $1,236,879.

Legislative Update: Dr. Dale Shimasaki, CEO of Strategic Education Services, provided updates on legislative activities related to SMC's key state budget priorities, and other legislation under consideration of interest to the college. Topics included proposed and requested base adjustments to the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), the Governor's proposal for extending revenue protections beyond 2024-2025 (hold harmless), PERS/STRS employer contributions, funding for student housing, inequities in capital outlay funding, implementation of AB 928, and other legislation of interest. [Editor's Note: SMC has also added support for AB 1856, raising the maximum part-time load for faculty.]

The full update is available here: Legislative Update.

Proposed Bond Measure: SMC Superintendent/President Kathryn Jeffery introduced for Board discussion and input a proposal for a $375 million facilities bond measure to be placed on the November 8, 2022, election calendar. Presenting the item were Vice-President of Academic Affairs Bradley Lane and Senior Director of Government Relations and Institutional Communications Don Girard. Assisting in the presentation were Vice President of Business and Administration Chris Bonvenuto, Director of Facilities Planning Charlie Yen, Manager of Special Projects Shari Davis, and SMC consultant Denny Zane.

The presentation acknowledged that for SMC, the most critical work today is achieving equitable outcomes for our students. The Board of Trustees has prioritized and institutionalized this effort in multiple ways, including through "guided pathways" and innovative diversity initiatives, aligning the work with the California Community College "Vision for Success". Having facilities that support this effort will help ensure that SMC can serve students and the community at the levels to which SMC aspires.

The proposed measure would fund such projects as:

- Replacement of temporary classrooms—built in the 1950s, 1970s, and 1990s, these facilities are past their useful life.
- Replacement of a shop-lab building designed to train students for obsolete industrial jobs in the 1950s and 1960s with modern classrooms where students can learn today's career skills. The State has identified this building as needing replacement and has placed it in line to receive partial State funding.
- Upgrading the Veterans Success Center.
- Expanding the overcrowded respiratory therapy program and adding facilities to support new pathway programs in Health and in Home Health.
- Constructing a Santa Monica College Police Department sub-station.
- Providing a local match to State and private funds for constructing Student Housing for full-time students who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Helping to fund joint use projects such as supporting enhancements to SMC's institutional presence in Malibu in partnership with a Malibu-serving public agency and making streetscape improvements, including street lighting and street furniture, to Pearl Street in collaboration with the City of Santa Monica.

The replacement buildings will support SMC's guided pathways initiatives, will accommodate hybrid learning, and will meet new standards in particulate air filtration. Central to guided pathways is the full engagement of the classroom teacher in concert with support staff in promoting student success. Building design, including faculty offices designed for student engagement, specialized project and seminar rooms, group study rooms, flexible classrooms, and small kitchen facilities will increase student-teacher interaction and promote student success.

Based on Board of Trustees discussion and input, the college and its legal counsel will develop a Board resolution, the full text of the measure, and the 75-word ballot question. SMC and its bond consultant TBWBH Propositions & Measures will begin additional public outreach, including a web page, public feedback surveys, and invitations to stakeholders for campus tours. The deadline for the Board of Trustees to adopt a resolution calling for an election is no later than August 12, 2022. SMC staff recommended that a resolution be brought forward for consideration at the Board meeting on June 7, 2022.

Increase of Student Health Fee: The Board unanimously approved an increase of $2 per semester or intersession. Starting this summer, the student health fee will be $20 for summer and winter and $23 for fall and spring. The California Community College Chancellor's Office had previously authorized an increase in the maximum fee for student health services. The recommendation for the fee increase is based on additional services and resources provided to SMC students including contact tracing for COVID-19 required by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination program, an increase in mental health support services for the Student Equity Center's Pride Center, basic needs support, and more.

First Reading, Board Policy Chapter 4 (Academic Affairs): The Board conducted a first reading of Board Policy Chapter 4, Academic Affairs. This update is a continuation of the District's transition to Community College League of California policy and procedures templates. It includes updates of current language to ensure legal compliance and to address recent changes in law and accreditation standards. The chapter was reviewed by Vice-President of Academic Affairs Bradley Lane in consultation with Academic Senate President Jamar London and the Academic Senate Executive Committee in October 2021, the Board of Trustees subcommittee (Chair Louise Jaffe, Trustee Susan Aminoff and Board Secretary Lisa Rose) in January 2022, and reviewed and approved by senior administrative staff and the Superintendent/President in February 2022. Read the chapter for yourself, here: Board Policy Chapter 4, Academic Affairs.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned in honor of the lives lost and expected to be lost in the Russian Ukraine crisis. There will be a special meeting and Board Study Session held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5 p.m. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6 p.m. (5 p.m. if there is a closed session). The meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar, and the agenda is published at smc.edu/BOT the Thursday prior to the meeting (with instructions on how to access the meeting contained within).

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