

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARY

March 5, 2024

View the [Full Agenda \(PDF\)](#)

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery's report included the following items, with contributions from various leads/administrators: **Professional Development Day, March 12, 2024.** With a theme of "Learning from Within: Sharing Our Why", Spring Professional Development Day explored the essence of our collective purpose, knowledge, and motivations and aligned seamlessly with the Caring Campus initiative. For more information, please refer to the Professional Development Day [website](#).

SMC Start Up Event, February 27, 2024. Approximately 1,000 students participated in a variety of activities designed to help them make connections with other students and faculty to help with their retention and success at SMC. The students received information on spring events, campus club awareness, midterm motivation college fairs and commencement. The event, held in the fall and spring semesters, is sponsored by the SMC Foundation and Community and Academic Relations.

Enrollment Update. At the time of the Board meeting, the following highlights were presented:

- **Spring 2024 enrollment:** Total headcount is up 4.29 percent from last spring; credit Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) are up 5.06 percent from last spring; and nonresident FTES are up 10.78 percent from last spring.
- **Current Progress Toward [Strategic Enrollment Management \(SEM\)](#) goals:** For 2023-24, credit FTES are up 3.86 percent (target is 3 percent annual growth); noncredit FTES are up 17.14 percent (target is 5 percent annual growth); and nonresident FTES are up 11.34 percent (target is 5 percent annual growth).

View the full report: [Enrollment Update \(PDF\)](#)

Budget Update. On February 20, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO)—which provides budget recommendations to the legislature—released an update of their projection of California's deficit for 2024-2025. Based on revenues in December and January, the LAO has increased their projected deficit for the state up \$15 billion to \$73 billion, significantly outweighing Governor Gavin Newsom's projected deficit of \$38 billion. Additionally, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is projecting a 3.55 percent deficit factor for the current fiscal year which, if implemented, translates to a reduction in funding for SMC equal to \$5.9 million. On July 1, 2022, SMC had \$43.9 million in reserves; if this deficit factor materializes, current projections indicate that SMC's reserves will be reduced to \$18 million. Senior Staff and the DPAC Budget Subcommittee—whose [members represent all of the college's constituencies](#)—are working to try to address the rapid decline in reserves. The deficit factor combined with the projected deficit (as of the end of the second quarter) would amount to a shortfall of \$15.8 million in revenue and would result in the Board of Trustees not being able to pass a budget with the State's recommended minimum reserve percentage of 5 percent. Over the next two months, updates will be provided regarding steps the college will take to stabilize its fiscal outlook.

Consent Agenda Items: Among consent agenda items approved and/or ratified by the Board were the following contracts and consultants: funded by Student Equity Achievement Program (SEAP) monies, a \$60,000 contract was approved for nonprofit [Black Lunch Table](#), for a nearly year-long residency which will include

activating programming across Santa Monica College including the Barrett Art Gallery (the college will collaborate with the artist to develop a timeline for events, with deadlines for various deliverables including supplemental programming and installations) as part of the SMC Art Department's ongoing efforts to promote equity and using college spaces like the Barrett Gallery to uplift marginalized voices. Additionally, several contracts were approved ranging from \$1,300 to \$3,000, also funded by SEAP monies, for Black History Month activities including an affirmation and drum making workshop and a keynote speaker, among other things.

And in grants-related items, an augmentation of \$50,000 was made to the regional share of Strong Workforce Program grant monies provided by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office which increases the total award from \$565,000 to \$615,000. The funding will continue building and strengthening the LA Game Design, Gaming Technology eSports (LA Game) project focused on developing and cultivating career pathways related to game design, game technology, and esports.

Board of Trustees Study Session (April 13, 2024): The Board of Trustees considered topics to be included for their study session to be held Thursday, April 13, 2024. State Senator Ben Allen (who represents [Senate District 24](#)) will be joining the study session to discuss legislative issues of importance to Santa Monica College and the statewide community college system. Possible topics to be covered during the study session include SMC's proposed Bachelor of Science Degree in Cloud Computing Application; support for a Bachelor of Science Degree Nursing Program; Hold Harmless; the Student Center Funding Formula (SCFF); student housing; and other legislative issues related to community colleges.

Revision to 2024-2025 Nonresident Tuition Rate: Following the Board's adoption of the nonresident tuition rate for 2024-2025 as \$406 per unit at their February 6 meeting, the Chancellor's Office issued a revision to the guidelines (a few days after SMC's board meeting), enabling colleges to set the nonresident tuition rate such that increases would be "gradual, moderate, and predictable" as outlined in California Education Code. As such, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a revised nonresident tuition rate of \$374 per unit for 2024-2025.

Decrease of Student Parking Fee: The Board unanimously approved a decrease of the student parking fee as follows: Regular Session (Fall and Spring): \$50; Intersession: \$25. Students receiving Promise Grants (former BOGG Waiver) or other specific financial assistance: Regular Session: \$18; Intersession \$10. In Spring 2020 SMC suspended the collection of parking fees due to the effects of the pandemic. With increased on-ground presence, the college believes reinstating parking fees in Fall 2024—to help offset costs related to the operation of the parking facilities, including parking security, maintenance, repair, and upkeep—is a prudent decision. The reduction in fees is possible due to lower costs achieved by the retirement of Certificates of Participation in Fall 2020. The parking fee can be used to cover various parking services including parking security, maintenance, repair, upkeep, and the Big Blue Bus "Anytime Any Line" program. SMC's fees fall below the maximum permissible fees.

SMC 2023 Faculty and Staff Diversity Report: The Board heard a detailed report and presentation on SMC's [2023 Faculty and Staff Diversity Report \(PDF\)](#) which is

developed to assist in monitoring Santa Monica College's progress towards achieving a workforce representative of the diverse populations within the County of Los Angeles, and which mirrors the students at Santa Monica College (which aligns with the Board's Ongoing Priority to support and hire a diverse and innovative faculty and staff). Both within the city of Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, SMC is a significant employer committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and vigorous learning environment to all, while being dedicated to its students and employees. To allow for comparisons, ethnicity, gender, and age data is displayed covering the most recent ten-year window (highlighting 2013-2023) from information collected on the first business day after the Labor Day holiday. You may [view the highlights of the report \(PDF\) here](#). Additionally, SMC's faculty/staff diversity reports for alternate years between 2009-2023 are listed on this webpage: [Faculty/Staff Diversity Reports - Santa Monica College \(smc.edu\)](#).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned in memory of **James Andre**, part-time faculty member in the SMC Business Department; **James Murphy**, full-time faculty member in the Physical Science Department; and **Joe Watts**, retired faculty member in the English Department. The next regular Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6 p.m. in the Santa Monica College Board Room (Business Building Room 117), 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California. This meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom Webinar to allow for remote participation. The agenda is generally published on [smc.edu/BOT](#) the Thursday prior to the meeting and contains instructions for remote participation.

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