

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SUMMARY

April 2, 2024

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Superintendent's Report: SMC Superintendent/President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery's report consisted of the following, with contributions from various administrators/area leads:

Enrollment Update. Highlights were as below (see the [full report here – PDF](#)):

- **Spring 2024 enrollment:** Total headcount is up 2.28 percent from last spring; credit FTES are up 3.02 percent from last spring; and nonresident FTES are up 7.90 percent from last spring.
- **Current Progress [Toward SEM goals](#):** Credit FTES are up 3.06 percent (target is 3 percent annual growth); noncredit FTES are up 15.32 percent (target is 5 percent annual growth); and nonresident FTES are up 10.08 percent (target is 5 percent annual growth).

The Corsair Wins National and Regional Awards. SMC's student-run media outlet *The Corsair* and its staff brought home a total of 35 awards from the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), the California College Media Association (CCMA), and the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC). The awards were announced at the end of a joint conference held March 7-9, 2024 in La Jolla, California. For the list of awards and more details, [read this March 15, 2024 press release](#).

Artist in Residence Stanley Clarke. In his role as BroadStage Artist in Residence, Grammy-winning bassist, composer, and recording artist Stanley Clarke has been a guest teacher and mentor all year for SMC Jazz Ensemble and SMC Applied Music Program students (in addition to jazz students from Samohi). On Saturday, March 30, an evening show at BroadStage featured performances by SMC students. Varad Sahasrabudhe, an SMC international student in his third semester, was the talented young guitarist selected by Stanley Clarke from the applied jazz ensemble program to perform as the opening act—a life changing opportunity.

California Community Colleges Board of Governors Meeting, April 29-30, 2024 at SMC. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office reached out to SMC about the possibility of hosting a meeting of the Board of Governors on our campus. Planning is underway to host this two-day event, April 29-30, 2024, to include a variety of activities including a meet-and-greet, a campus tour, the Board of Governors meeting, and meals. There will be opportunities for SMC's Board of Trustees to participate. Plans will be confirmed the week of April 8.

Consent Agenda Items: Among consent agenda items approved were the following: four new courses (Emeritus Human Development E00, Introduction to Emeritus Program; Emeritus Political Science E50, Technopolitics: Exploring the Intersection of Technology and Governance; Film 3, Introduction to Documentary; and Media 310, Race, Gender, and Computing); two course revisions; and five courses for distance education delivery. Also approved or ratified: several consultants and contracts including a contract not to exceed \$100,000 for Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation to facilitate Blue Economy and Climate Action Pathways (BECAP) partnerships between the 13 LA region colleges (including SMC) and key companies within the Blue Economy and to identify labor market demand and supply gaps for community colleges to help bridge; \$10,000 for Mt. San Antonio Community College District, Los Angeles Center of Excellence which will provide technical assistance and research support for the LARC regional Blue Economy and Climate Action Pathways (BECAP) project, aligning with California's climate action goals and addressing emerging employment needs in ocean-related labor markets in Los Angeles as outlined in national and state reports; and \$50,000 for the Milken Institute, whose work on the LARC Regional Blue Economy and Climate Action Pathways (BECAP) project focuses on further developing strategies for the Blue Economy in Southern California (a Milken Senior Advisor will coordinate efforts, align resources, and convene leaders to enhance career education, implement employment pathways, and strengthen regional competitiveness in this sector). These contracts are funded by monies designated for the purpose.

Several grants were also accepted/ratified. Among these were a \$746,449 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Certificate of Homeless Service Work grant from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority which has partnered with SMC to create a credit-bearing certificate program consisting of five courses, and will include coursework, wraparound services, and essential hands-on fieldwork experience (the grant will be used to facilitate a marketing and media plan to increase enrollment, organize activities for the industry-based program, facilitate workshops, and create paid internship opportunities for students); a \$565,217 Student Transfer Achievement (AB 928) grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to support the implementation of Assembly Bill 928 (AB928) provisions under the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act to help colleges auto-enroll students on an Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathway when a student declares a goal for transfer on their mandatory education plans; and a \$607,895.79 UMOJA Campus Program award from the Chancellor's Office to support SMC's Black Collegians Umoja Program which actively serves and promotes student success for all students through a curriculum and pedagogy responsive to the legacy of the African and African American Diasporas, and to help close achievement gaps (there was a delay by the UMOJA Campus Program in awarding grants—in addition to the fiscal year 2023-2024 funding, SMC is also

receiving fiscal year 2021-2022 and fiscal year 2022-2023 allocations); and a \$568,776 Basic Needs Services—Student Food and Housing Support grant from the Chancellor’s Office made possible by Assembly Bill 132 to expand the availability of basic needs services available to California community college students to be distributed over three phases. These funds are intended to support students to address food insecurity, assist housing-insecure students, establish data collection and evaluation infrastructure, promote basic needs services and provide direct aid to students.

Resolution, Community College Month: The Board moved unanimously to adopt a resolution recognizing April as Community College Month along with community colleges across the nation. Among other things, the resolution stated that Santa Monica College has been a proud part of the community college tradition since 1929, serving students with a wide array of educational opportunities including transfer education, career education, basic skills education, lifelong learning, and a Bachelor of Science in Interaction Design degree; that the College provides for the cultivation of “global citizenship” through knowledge of cultures beyond one’s own; is a safe environment for all students and employees; enjoys a special partnership with business, industry, and government that benefits the regional economy; and is a rich resource for its community including through cultural programming, educational and career counseling, and special events. To read the full resolution, [see page 28 of the agenda \(PDF\)](#).

Resolution, Sexual Assault Awareness Month: The Board unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, declaring April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and April 24, 2024 as “Denim Day” at the Santa Monica Community College District. (Everyone is urged to wear denim on that day to communicate that there is “no excuse and never an invitation to rape”.) The resolution stated, among several things, that every 68 seconds, someone in America is sexually assaulted, and approximately one in five women and one in 33 men have experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime; and nationwide 81 percent of women and 43 percent of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime; and, among *many* such facts, that domestic violence hotlines nationwide receive more than 20,000 phone calls, and that sexual violence disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and LGTBQ+ communities. The resolution also included a reminder that both “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Denim Day” were instituted to provide a special opportunity to educate everyone about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators. To read the full resolution [see page 29 of the agenda](#).

Resolution, Environmental Review of Proposed SMC Facilities Master Plan: The Board moved unanimously to approve a resolution—following discussion and review of the proposed SMC Main Campus Facilities Master Plan 2024 Update—to direct the SMC Superintendent/President to conduct an Environmental Review of the proposed Plan and to return to the Board with the completed Environmental Review and Facilities Master Plan for Board consideration for approval and adoption as appropriate. The proposed SMC Main Campus Facilities Master Plan 2024 Update is the principal planning document for SMC’s Main Campus. As the key planning resource, it defines and sets the direction for the ongoing development of the campus environment that supports the mission, core values, and heritage of the institution. The focus of the plan is about optimizing the existing campus over the next ten years through recommendations related to land use, open space, and infrastructure. Key goals include modernizing academic and student spaces, replacing or renovating buildings in critical condition, demolishing temporary and modular buildings, improve public access and public safety along Pearl Street, and more.

Highlights:

- 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.
- Upgrading the Veterans Success Center.
- Constructing a Santa Monica College Police Department sub-station.
- Replacement of the Student Activities Building to provide improved and additional resources for the Student Health Center and for student basic needs programs, including food resources and mental health.
- Providing a consolidated center for Facility Maintenance and Operations.

Following Board approval, SMC staff will be conducting an Environmental Review of the proposed SMC Main Campus Master Plan 2024 Update in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). When complete, any findings or mitigations identified by the Environmental Review, the final Environmental Review document itself, and the SMC Main Campus Facilities Master Plan 2024 Update will be brought to the Board for its subsequent actions. For more information, view the following:

- Link to: [SMC Main Campus Facilities Master Plan 2024 Update](#)
- Link to Website: [Proposed Facilities Master Plan for SMC’s Main Campus](#)
- Link to: [Presentation at Board Meeting](#)

Agreement with Big Blue Bus: The Board of Trustees unanimously authorized the SMC Superintendent/ President to execute a two-year agreement with the City of Santa Monica Big Blue Bus for amounts and terms as follows: Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – \$629,000; and Fiscal Year 2025-2026 – \$629,000. The City of Santa Monica’s Department of Transportation, known to us as Big Blue Bus, and Santa Monica College have partnered since 2008 to provide unlimited bus access to any student, staff, or faculty member utilizing the Any Line, Any Time unlimited ride program. Under the agreement, Big Blue Bus charges SMC a fixed annual amount for all SMC customers with a valid, activated SMC identification card bearing a current semester sticker to ride the Big Blue Bus. SMC’s current contract with the City ends June 30, 2024. According to Big Blue Bus, SMC ridership is projected to increase 31 percent in the current year (2023-2024) as compared to the prior year (2022-2023), totaling approximately 572,000 boardings. Big Blue Bus has offered to extend current year funding of \$629,000 for each of the next two years. The agreement is contingent on authorization by the Santa Monica City Council at a future meeting. The agreement may be terminated without cause by either party by giving 30 days written notice. The Board’s approval extends the Any Line, Any Time program for its 17th and 18th year.

CCCT Board of Directors Ballot: There are seven seats up for re-election on the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board of Directors with seven incumbents running. Each member community college has one vote for each of the vacancies. SMC’s Board voted unanimously for the following ballot: Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg (Kern CCD); Hortencia Armendariz (Imperial CCD); Barbara Calhoun (Compton CCD); Yvette Davis (Glendale CCD); Greg Pensa (Allan Hancock CCD); Bernardo Perez (Ventura County CCD); and Deborah Ikeda, (State Center CCD). All the candidates on the SMC trustees’ ballot are incumbents.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned in memory of **Kuhda Gau**, father of Ming-Yea Wei, Marketing and Design Coordinator in the Marketing and Design Department. The next regular meeting of the Santa Monica Community College District Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6 p.m. (5 p.m. if there is a closed session) in the SMC Board Room (Business Building Room 117), on SMC’s Main Campus, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, California. The meeting will also be conducted via Zoom Webinar for members of the public to participate remotely. The agenda is published on smc.edu/BOT typically the Thursday before the meeting and contains information on how to participate remotely.