

Committee Briefs....

FROM THE MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mt. SAC May 29, 2008....

At its meeting on May 29, the College welcomed committee member Ron Wood to his first meeting of Citizens Oversight Committee. Prior to the meeting, committee members Chang, Mendoza, and Smith participated in a walking tour of the Science Complex.

Committee members received an update on construction projects in progress and those scheduled within the next few months. There committee also discussed Measure R projects that will not be completed because of increased construction costs. Staff was asked to prepare a summary, by project, of the budget, cost to date and estimate to complete, along with justification as to why the College couldn't complete them. Committee members also requested information related to facilities utilization data, to make sure that usage/student demand justifies future projects.

An in-depth discussion was held on the proposal to place a bond measure on the November ballot. While this doesn't fall under the purview of the Citizens Oversight Committee, Dr. Nixon explained that committee members are influential in the community, and he appreciates their insight into how best to present our case to the community.

The principal charge of the Citizens Oversight Committee is to inform the public at least annually through a written report on the expenditure of the bond proceeds. Last year's report to the community was reviewed, and committee members were asked to offer input on how they want this year's report produced. It was pointed out that this isn't the only information shared with the community - regular updates are provided in each college class schedule and catalog, as well as on the college website. After discussion of various options, committee members decided to prepare a document similar to last year's report. It was suggested that Committee Chair Mendoza provide an opening statement on Measure R and the promises made to the community. Sections could be broken down into what has been completed, what is currently under construction, and what's planned for the future. It was suggested that Dr. Nixon could provide information on what lies ahead. While committee members want the report to include information from the beginning of the bond, the emphasis should be on explaining the differences between 2007 and 2008, rather than its history.

President Nixon provided a brief update on the financial status of the College. While education funding is facing several difficult years, and expects much the same next year, Mt. SAC is continuing to grow at nearly 3% per year. During difficult economic times, the demand for programs and services grow at community colleges. In an effort to control the budget situation, the College won't be expanding the number of classes offered, although internal adjustments can be made based on demand.

Sylvia Mendoza, Chair

Committee Briefs are provided as part of the ongoing communication program to keep the public informed of the use of Proposition 39 Bond funds and the independent review process of the Citizens Oversight Committee. Questions should be directed to Dr. John Nixon, President/CEO, Mt. San Antonio College (909) 594-5611 x4250, or Sylvia Mendoza (909) 262-4489.