

Committee Briefs....

FROM THE MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mt. SAC August 6, 2009....

Prior to the meeting, interested Committee members toured the Agricultural Sciences Complex. For most, this was the first time they had been in this area of campus and they were surprised at the agricultural offerings available to students.

Vice President Gregoryk provided a brief summary of where we are related to issuance of Measure RR bond funds. He reported that because the district's assessed valuation has dropped 2.1%, the College will not be able to sell bonds at this time. Committee members were reminded that the College promised voters that we would keep their costs of both Measure R and Measure RR to \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Because construction costs are currently low (the Child Development Center bids came in 20% under budget), the College is very interested in moving forward with projects. Committee members encouraged the College to move forward with construction if at all possible. The College is looking into something called bridge loans, which is a low-cost way to borrow money against future bonds.

Committee members were presented with and reviewed a detailed financial report and schedule of current Measure R projects.

As we begin closing down Measure R, Director Nellesen shared information on claims filed by either the College against contractors or by contractors against the College on Measure R projects. The College filed four claims against contractors for either a delay in the project, a defect claim, or a specific issue (i.e. roofing). Of those, three are still pending. Of the six claims filed by contractors against the district, four have been settled.

President Nixon reported that, due to the economic downturn, the College reduced its summer session by 50%, and minimally reduced the fall semester. The College's budget is being reduced by 9% (\$11 million). Noting that the College's budget is 85% salary and benefits, Dr. Nixon said he doesn't believe that lay-offs can be avoided. Vice President Gregoryk said the College has already been warned to expect mid-year cuts.

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.