DATE: February 24, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr., Chancellor

Subject: SPECIAL
Acknowledging and Commending the Asian Pacific American Student Success (APASS) Workgroup.
(Resolution No. 040224-S7)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Over the course of the last two (2) years, the College community has been engaged in a deliberative process of developing a new “strategic plan.” The entire College community, as well as representatives of the external community, were engaged in the process of identifying specific priorities that needed to be addressed in the future. Throughout this process, the key issues related to the expansion and improvement of basic skills instruction (and associated services), as well as additional retention strategies for underserved populations were identified as priority concerns. One particular area and special population group that was identified as in need of attention were Asian Pacific Islanders. For example, forty percent of the students on academic probation at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) are Asian Pacific Islanders (API). That statistic prompted students, counselors, faculty, administrators, and staff at CCSF to form a work group, the Asian Pacific American Student Success Workgroup, dedicated to devising a retention program for this population.

During the spring and fall semesters of 2003, the Asian Pacific American Student Success (APASS) Workgroup met monthly to assess the needs and identify possible methods to retain Asian Pacific Islander students. The Workgroup conducted six focus groups, each focused on the needs of a specific API group. Approximately 70 Burmese, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Indonesian, Pacific Islander, and Vietnamese students shared information about their experiences at CCSF. In addition to students, 30 instructors, counselors, staff and administrators attended the six focus groups.
From the results of the focus groups and Workgroup research and discussions, the Workgroup identified several issues that must be addressed to help the API student population achieve their academic goals. Included in the issues are the need for additional bilingual and bicultural counselors, instructors, and tutors; the need for more individual assistance with the English language; the need for more courses and programs devoted to ancestral homelands, culture, and politics; and additional explanation of the College’s various services, their locations, eligibility criteria, and contact persons.

A retention program to serve this population is consistent with and typical of City College of San Francisco’s Strategic Priorities that address and guide the entire College; with application to both credit and noncredit instructional programs and structures at the College, particularly as relating to student support services, retention activities, career pathways assistance, and transfer assistance; and that all Strategic Priorities provide for and promote diversity at all levels of the organization, purposefully contributing to a climate which fosters high morale, improved performance, and greater connectedness for all college constituencies and the community.

**SHARED GOVERNANCE REVIEW:**

Yes _____; No_X__; If yes, which committee: _______________________

Date of Review: ___________________________

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**RESOLVED:** that the Vice Chancellor of Student Development and the Chancellor work together to bring the Retention Proposal developed by the Asian Pacific Islander Student Success (APASS) Workgroup forward to the attention of various shared governance committees (Student Success and Planning and Budgeting Council) across the District for review and consideration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the APASS Proposal be considered and funded (as feasible) in order to initiate a retention program for this targeted population starting in the 2004-2005 fiscal year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the APASS Workgroup and in particular, its chairperson, Professor Laurie McClain, be acknowledged and commended for the excellent work and research associated with this proposed initiative; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Vice Chancellor of Student Development and the Chancellor and/or their designees are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the District to effectuate this resolution.

Dr. Natalie Berg, Originator

Rodel Rodis, Originator

Lawrence Wong, Originator

02/24/2004 – S6 Page 2