Date: May 25, 2000

To: Board of Trustees

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

Subject: GENERAL FUND

Engineering Consultation and Document Preparation related to FCC Low Power FM Station Applications
(Resolution No. 000525-B3)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently announced the availability of a new class of radio station license. These new frequencies, designated as Low Power F.M. Radio (LPFM), will be systematically assigned to educational and non-profit institutions. These LPR frequencies were created in response to many public interest groups lobbying the Commission for radio stations that provide more community-based programming. The new LPFM stations will be exclusively non-commercial. In addition, current broadcast licensees or parties with interest in other media (e.g., cable or newspapers) will not be eligible for LPFM stations.

The new LPFM service will consist of two classes of LPFM radio stations with maximum power levels of 10 watts and 100 watts. The 10 watt stations would reach an area with a radius of between one and two miles; the 100 watt stations would reach an area with a radius of approximately three and a half miles. The 100-watt stations will be authorized first.

Currently the CCSF does not have an over-the-air radio broadcasting station. The current radio station is sent out through the AT&T cable service only to subscribers who pay for radio service on their cable subscription. The LPFM station represents a unique opportunity for the District and the instructional program within the Broadcast Electronic Media Arts Department. Using a network of LPFM stations in different parts of the City, the College could provide radio broadcasts to most of the residents of San Francisco. The purpose of these LPFM stations is to provide radio broadcasts that directly serve the needs of the community. As the primary community-based adult educational institution, the College can make a strong case for these licenses.

In order for the District to apply for these licenses, several documents must be prepared including: (1) an engineering report prepared by a firm that specializes in providing the appropriate engineering surveys and documentation as specified by the FCC; and (2) an official application prepared in consultation with, and represented by, a law firm that specializes in FCC broadcast licensing.
RECOMMENDATION:

RESOLVED: That authorization be given to contract with Hammett and Edison, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in broadcast engineering, to provide a report on conditions for locating broadcasting equipment at up to six CCSF campuses and preparation of technical documentation for District applications to the FCC for Low Power FM stations, at a cost not to exceed $6,000 to be completed on or before May 30, 2000, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and/or their designee are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the District to effectuate this resolution.

Bruce Smith, Originator
with Francine Podenski and Cecil Hale