Present: Pegi Ard, Cathy Broggoitti, Doug Deaver, Renee Kilmer, Brian King, Victoria Lewis, Gary Meyer, Joe Nugent, Luis Sonsino (for Karen Groppi), Nikki Oneto, Bob Owen, Michele Rivard

Absent: May Chen, Rick Graziani, Rock Pfotenhauer

Guests: Peter Stoll, Solar Partners and Cabrillo alum; Phil Boutelle, Cabrillo alum

Pegi opened the meeting at 3:03 pm.

The minutes of January 29, 2009 were approved with one abstention (Meyer).

Pegi reported that the Board received the Space Allocation concept at the March 9, 2009 Board meeting with a commitment to making adjustments as needed.

I. Solar Update:
Doug gave a brief history of the solar project on the Aptos campus. Solar Power Partners appears to have some solutions for Cabrillo’s criteria at this time. Another extension of the PG&E grant is under consideration. Solar Power Partners proposes covered parking for a total of 1 megawatt of power. A copy of a photo of covered parking installed in Vacaville was distributed. The solar panel shown is standardized and can tilt in any direction. Pegi asked how lighting is provided. LED lights. Michele asked if a two-storied Parking Lot L will be considered again. Not at this time. Peter noted that it is decidedly more expensive to mount panels on top of multi-storied parking. Pegi clarified that if the rebate timeframe is extended, the new proposal and other locations on campus will be considered further.

Luis submitted a proposal from his work with Construction Energy Management (CEM) students over the wintersession to Joe this week and suggested using the yearlong energy analysis and collaborating with a coordinator at UCSC. Once the energy needs, payback and retrofit costs are known, Luis suggests a collaborative effort with a private company and students to complete the electrical integration, if legally possible. If racking and converters are properly broken into modules, this could work as a long-term project. Luis wanted to discuss proposal with Joe first.

There was in significant discussion on potential funding/rebates. Peter noted that when this idea was discussed four years ago, there was a similar impression of needing to make a rushed decision. Doug reviewed that an application for the
PG&E grant was filled out on behalf of Cabrillo to secure available financing then a solar system was to be designed to fit Cabrillo’s parameters. It ended up that the companies involved could not deliver the project within the available funding. Likewise, other groups in the county have had problems funding their solar projects. Bob noted that he does not believe ample funds will be available in the future to fund projects like solar; that there is a funding opportunity now with the PG&E rebate. Doug noted that, having studied the solar project for several years, covered parking is the preferred location. Luis reported that he makes a living doing estimates for solar projects. The California Solar Initiative (CSI) can assist in securing funding; another funding source is the nationwide DSIRE program. Cabrillo staff does not need to spend time to secure funds. Luis does not recommend making a decision without more data. Bob recommended seizing the available funding opportunity.

Pegi summarized a couple of issues: that there may be good reason to reclaim Parking Lot S for instructional programs. Michele reminded the committee that at one point Parking Lot L was planned to be a two-story structure; an idea that could be revisited. Motorcycle safety classes are taught in Parking Lot M. Solar panels in the quad may be questionable. If Doug is to continue to devote time to this project, locations need to be determined. Twin Lakes Church would consider solar panels over parking. The question, then, is how to divide the project. Peter Stoll, Solar Partners, noted that the plan is purely conceptual at this point and that he is not here to sell a solar system; it will happen, if not now, in ten years. Solar costs have come down markedly in last six months. The PG&E rebate is still worth what it was three years ago, but costs are less. It was agreed that the consideration of the solar project has been a very deliberate process at Cabrillo.

Joe asked if generating additional power is possible. The PG&E rebate pays for one megawatt. Luis agreed that the process has been deliberate and rational, but does not advocate moving forward without more research. Pegi noted that this project is not an all or nothing opportunity. Bob noted that there is a comprehensive energy plan proposed for Cabrillo; the benefits of doing the solar project could be to reduce our carbon footprint as well as be a demonstration project for the community.

It was agreed that Pegi will review the values and suitable locations with Doug. If PG&E does not extend the rebate, that would answer one question. Renee and Gary asked about other location considerations. It was noted that staff wants to work with faculty and students; the question remains whether Solar Power Partners can engineer a system what will work on the Apts campus. Phil Boutelle offered to be a resource to collaborate with Peter Stoll and Luis Sonsino; he sees that the PG&E rebate is the way schools can have a solar project without allocating funding to it.

II. Energy Plan:
A summary of the many projects that Cabrillo is working on in the energy plan was sent out to the committee. Goals are to reduce consumption and improve efficiency
by 10-15% by 2012, evaluate mechanisms to save energy consumption, such as turning off lights off in parking lots at night, sustainable building practices for future projects, and temperature set points. Rebates that have not been pursued will be, such as those for having sleep mode on computers. The energy plan framework has been reviewed by FPAC once before; it will also be presented to CPC and then to the Board. Luis noted that a comprehensive energy plan takes more research and more people: one general manager and two or three engineers are needed for a successful outcome rather than trying to add to workload of existing staff. Brian noted that some returns on investment are immediate, some long-term. The solar project would break even but reduce the carbon footprint. Joe needs help to achieve that. Reducing lighting in parking lots has a tiny payback, but makes a statement. Cathy asked if the solar project does go forward, could that light parking? Joe explained that the energy harnessed goes into a grid and the collector gets a rebate.

Doug noted that a budget is needed in order to reinvest energy savings back into the college and that it requires more than available Scheduled Maintenance funds. The Facilities Master Plan target is to reduce 10-15% by 2012, 5 cents per foot. Joe noted that energy savings accomplishments are not free. The Energy Plan will need a budget before it goes to CPC. Brian noted that one time allocations will be revisited. Victoria noted that, similar to the technology plan, there is never a good time to do it and it makes sense to harness any available matches or rebates. It was agreed that the plan is good, that reallocating one time funds is a good idea, and that the priority will be projects with the greatest return. The plan will be presented to CPC and then the Board in May at the earliest.

III. Campus Signage
Doug reported that signs for handicapped accessibility have been installed; some adjustments are needed. Kiosks signs are being manufactured now and will be installed March/April. The remaining piece is signs on the buildings. Pegi and Doug will present options to the committee at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.