Chairperson K. Houston-Philpot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She called on Trevor Kubatzke to present the college’s online orientation. He introduced Terri Gould, Diana Gutierrez, Gary Brasseur, Tiffany Sheppard, Kristin Riggs, and Jessica Miller, who all worked on the project. He also thanked the Broadcasting and OIT departments for their help, and Judy Gonzalez for involving students from her theater classes.

Online orientation went live in September 2009. It reinforces and supplements face to face orientation, which continues to be offered although far fewer students sign up for it now. The team explained how the orientation works and showed representative examples of the program segments. Dee Dee Wacksman inquired when students get their student number and the team responded that it is when they are admitted. Bob Emrich asked about how students find their classes, and the team explained about the greeters in the hallways during the first week of classes, helping those students who are lost to find their classrooms.

Jean Goodnow and Scanlon Romer gave an overview of the Senate Handbook and policies, providing Trustees with a book of policies, along with graphic information on the status of review of policies and what the policies cover. Kim Houston-Philpot described the relationship of shared governance and policy governance and the Board’s prior requests for more information on these topics.

Jean Goodnow explained the delicate balance in which accountability is balanced with maximum participation. The key is broad, clear communication. When many are involved, the college prospers. The concept of shared governance is much broader than the Senate, extending to the Council of Chairs, the Student and Educational Services directors and staff meetings, the AQIP and Strategic Planning Steering Committees, the Budget Cabinet, Executive Council, and many others.

Dr. Goodnow traced the development of the Senate from 1961, when there were 52 faculty members, whereas now there are 212. Executive and then Administrative/Professional staff
were members early in the process, and Support Staff were added in Spring 2009. She noted that the Senate is unique and that it provides a strong foundation. She noted the first section of the Senate Handbook, Delta College Governance, which is particularly relevant for the Board of Trustees. It contains the College’s Vision, Mission, Ethics and Guiding Principles, as well as a definition of policy, and a Policy Statement on Government at Delta College. She also noted the upcoming Special Meeting of the Board with Dr. Mary Spilde, President of Lane Community College and of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), to discuss policy governance and shared governance.

Scanlon Romer went on to explain the remaining sections of the handbook and the process for writing and revising the policies that are proposed. Persons who wish to propose new policies, or revisions to policies, present their recommendations to the Senate Executive Board (SEB). SEB may then appoint an ad hoc committee, give it a specific charge, and give it a timetable and list of college groups which should be consulted in the process. Following the “rounds”, the policy comes back to SEB, which may then place it on the agenda for Senate Assembly discussion, followed by a Senate meeting at which the policy is voted upon. Policies approved by the Senate are then proposed to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting.

Kim Houston-Philpot inquired about the length of the process. Leslie Myles-Sanders noted that the Mission, Vision and Values were written in a process that started March 17, 2006 with approximately 450 people in the Pioneer Gym and concluded with adoption by the Board May 9, 2006. Scanlon Romer said that most take longer. Bob Emrich asked what happens when the Board is advised by counsel of a legal error in policy. Scanlon responded that the Senate can work with counsel to correct the error.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary