The Honorable Tom LaBonge  
Council Member, District 4  
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 480  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Tom:

The LACCD Board of Trustees appreciates your special interest in Los Angeles City College (LACC) and our plans for the future of the campus and the community.

As you know, we have worked over the past decade on the passage and implementation of bond measures which have brought new buildings and opportunities to over 250,000 students served each year in the Los Angeles Community College District. The board supports the colleges in their decision making process of Shared Governance which allows for all stakeholders at the college to have their voice heard when making important decisions regarding the campus.

With the passage of Measure J in 2008, LACC went through an extensive update to the Campus Facilities Master Plan which has been approved and supported by the Board of Trustees. Please note that during the Facilities Master Planning process many different scenarios are presented and evaluated by the campus leadership. LACC’s Facilities Master Plan supports the Educational Master Plan at the campus, ensuring that construction aligns with the educational program of the students we serve. Los Angeles City College is one of the smallest in acreage of the nine campuses within the district and is a landlocked urban institution. Unfortunately, this situation creates challenges that some of the other schools that have multiple athletic fields do not have to face; LACC physically does not have the space to provide multiple fields.

In the past year LACC endured a budget deficit of $7.5 million that not only forced the college to temporarily suspend athletics but also required it to cancel the entire 2010 summer session. Dr. Moore worked tirelessly to ensure the college balanced its budget and still provided a quality educational program.

I hope you will reconsider your decision to withdraw your support of the Facilities Master Plan that the college has been working on since 2001. Given the major budget challenges and difficult choices you have had to make as an LA City Councilman, you know that we must make decisions based on the greater good for the majority of our 17,000 students attending LACC.
In these difficult financial times LACC, like the City of Los Angeles, has been forced to make difficult decisions to keep its doors open. The College has taken steps to address the physical education needs of our students; it is in the process of completing the following projects at Los Angeles City College:

- An athletic field, athletic track and softball field on the roof of the Lots 3 & 4 Parking structure.
- A new Health, Fitness, P.E. Building – complete with a new gymnasium, locker room, multi-purpose rooms, fitness center and new outdoor pool that will be breaking ground this fall
- The modernization of the South Gym
- The six new tennis courts in the area in question

In short, a great deal of resources of the bond measures have been directed toward the physical education facilities at LACC. As a graduate of LACC, I know you understand that a community college is designed to support the needs of the entire community, not just athletics/physical education. When the golf range is demolished in that very space the college will construct a new Student Union Building. Currently, there are limited facilities for the students of LACC to study, congregate and relax. The new Student Union will provide a location for a new food court, cafeteria, bookstore and other student services.

Once again, the Board of Trustees supports the direction the Shared Governance Council of the college has taken, as their decision will support all students. We are confident in the leadership of Dr. Moore and believe she will continue to work in the best interest of the college and the community to ensure that we adhere to our first and primary mission of providing quality educational programs.

It is my sincere hope that you will rethink your decision and decide to support the faculty, staff and students of LACC as the institution serves your constituents.

With all good wishes,

Georgia L. Mercer
President of the Board of Trustees
Los Angeles Community College District

cc: Honorable Eric Garcetti, President Los Angeles City Council
Members of Los Angeles City Council
Honorable Kevin de Leon, Assemblymember
Honorable Gil Cedillo, Senator
Dr. Daniel LaVista, Chancellor
Board of Trustees
Dr. Jamillah Moore, President of Los Angeles City College
Mattie Moon, LACC AFT Chapter President
Ken Sherwood, LACC Academic Senate President