

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER MEETING**

Minutes of September 24, 2019

The 380th meeting of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, in the John T. Hickey Conference Room, Chair Robert Gilbert presiding.

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| MEMBERS PRESENT | Robert Gilbert, Chair Charles Epstein Marley Friedrich Yolanda Johnson Lucy Perez Evan Plotkin Julie Pokela |
| MEMBERS ABSENT | Jose Delgado Ted Hebert Suzanne Parker, Vice Chair Ivonne Vidal |
| ALSO PRESENT | Michele Cabral, Karen Desjeans, Veena Dhankher, Mary Dixey, Amy Dopp, Clara Elliott, Bill Fogarty, Curt Foster, Jeff Hayden, Nicole Hendricks, Kim Hicks, Olivia Kynard, Clare Lamontagne, Moira Maguire, Marcia Mitchell, Ed Murch, Lea Occhialini, Mary O'Connor, Mary Orisich, Monica Perez, Kristine Ricker Choleva, Christina Royal, Rachel Rubinstein, Tony Sbalbi, Amanda Sbriscia, K.C. Senie, Adrienne Smith, Idelia Smith, Michele Snizek, Linda Szalankiewicz, Renee Tastad, Madeline Torres, Chris Yurko |
| CALL TO ORDER | Chair Gilbert called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m. |
| APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES | On a motion by Trustee Pokela and seconded by Trustee Epstein, it was VOTED to approve the meeting minutes of August 27, 2019. |
| APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS | On a motion by Trustee Plotkin and seconded by Trustee Pokela it was VOTED to approve the September 24, 2019 personnel actions reports for Appointments and Reappointments, for Non-Unit Professional Staff, and Unit Professional Staff. On a motion by Trustee Perez and seconded by Trustee Johnson, it was VOTED to empower the President of the College to approve all personnel actions prior to the next meeting. |
| REPORT OF THE CHAIR | Aside from several phone calls with President Royal, Chair Gilbert also participated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/28 Provided remarks at the Professional Association Meeting. • 9/9 Participated in the HCC Foundation Golf Tournament. Ms. Sbriscia informed the Board that the HCC Foundation Golf Tournament raised \$20K. • 9/10 Met with President Royal to set the agenda for today's meeting. • 9/16 Attended the Legacy Luncheon with longtime HCC Board members. |
| PRESIDENT'S REPORT | General Updates President Royal announced this would be Monica Perez, Interim Vice President of Academic and Student affairs last meeting. President Royal provided a brief overview of Ms. Perez's career highlights and thanked her for her dedication and commitment to the students, staff and faculty at HCC. President Royal introduced Rachel Rubinstein, Vice President of Academic |

and Student Affairs. Dr. Rubinstein's first day is Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

The Strategic Plan In Depth Presentation: Second Chances: Sabbatical Presentation by Professors Nicole Hendricks and Mary Orisich

Professors Hendricks and Orisich provided a brief overview of their sabbatical work to develop an HCC Correctional Education Program. This work has created the groundwork for Western Mass Corrections Opportunities Re-Entry Education (CORE) at HCC. The goal of the program is to develop a program for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, along with the support of HCC to:

- Share resources.
- Provide a place and space for students to mentor each other and provide support.
- Offer intentional targeted support once they have reach HCC campus.
- Build and strengthen currently existing relationships with four year institutions.
- Develop strong ties with criminal justices institutions in the valley.

This works aligns with our Strategic Plan Strategy #2, Working with the communities we serve to increase equity, and Strategy #3, Aligning programs with workforce demands, student needs for transfer and employment opportunities. Developing this pathway will expand enrollment for non-traditional students.



Our sabbatical objective

As outlined in our sabbatical application,

"In our region of the state, and at our own college, there is currently no larger institutional home for strategic approaches to provide greater access to a pathway to a two or four-year degree for those currently and/or formerly incarcerated. Our intent is to build such a pathway. The objective of this sabbatical is the creation of an **HCC Correctional Education Program.**"

Our sabbatical work

- [Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium \(MPEC\)](#)
- WCC Bridges-to-College WAGs course
- Western Mass Correctional Education Working Group
- Inter-institutional course with UMASS Amherst, Spring 2020
- Pilot course @ WCC projected for Fall 2020
- New Western Mass CORE @ HCC



Corrections
Opportunities
Re-entry
Education

Western Mass CORE @ HCC

- Inter-institutional partnerships
- Partnerships with community-based organizations
- Sharing resources
- Developing pathways and pipelines
- Student support/retention
- Example: [Seattle Central College Re-entry Navigator](#)

The National Scope

- [Corrections to College California](#)
- Second Chance Pell
- [Mount Wachusett Community College](#)
- The FIRST STEP Act
- Community College partnerships with private institutions (Wesleyan University CPE)



Why? Why at Community College?

- **400 percent** return on investment for taxpayers over three years
- “Meeting students where they are at”
- An institutional home

Why at HCC?

- Serving ALL students
- Our location
- Enrollment challenges
- Already-existing successful models @ HCC
- Innovative and cutting edge
- **Educating, inspiring, and connecting.**

Data from our community

- **1190** sentenced released to the street (865 males, 325 females)
 - Most common age for women is 27, for men 29.
 - Almost half of the women were 18-30
 - Most males from Hampden Co. (85%), while only a third of the women were from Hampden Co.
 - 55% of people from Hampden County gave a residential address in Springfield, 17% Holyoke and 10% Chicopee.
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Student reflections

"I crave more and [have] decided to do so once released. The cookies and pizza were great, but **the most rewarding part of these six weeks was the knowledge**. I enjoyed every moment of it." - Iris

Would you take more courses? "Oh my gosh, yes!! **I think we are underestimated based on our incarceration**. Expectations aren't set too high. Some of us have taken college courses and have some experience." - Jessica

"During the course I learned the meaning of feminism and about fighting for women's rights. Thank you so much. **I want to learn more and I hope to see you both at HCC.**" - Carey

Our work and HCC's Strategic Plan Equity & Inclusion

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: INCLUSION & STUDENT SUCCESS

Strategy #2: Work with the communities we serve to increase equity.

Objective 2.1: Increase student success through a holistic approach addressing underrepresented students' academic and life challenges.

Objective 2.2: Improve college readiness by collaborating with new and existing community-based organizations, local school districts and adult education programs.

Our work and HCC's Strategic Plan Career & Transfer

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRANSFER

Strategy #3: Align programs with workforce demands, student needs for transfer and employment opportunities.

Objective 3.1: Take a college-wide, systemic approach to developing and implementing training, certificate and degree programs to address existing and emerging industries and expand enrollment by non-traditional students.

Objective 3.2: Increase the number of underrepresented students who achieve job placement and academic transfer by building and strengthening programs and partnerships.

Next steps

- Resources
 - Development opportunities?
 - Institutional funds
 - Grant funding
- Connections
 - Continued work with HCSD
 - Formalize pathways with four-year institutions
 - Engage with professional associations

bell hooks said, "The enemy within must be transformed before we can confront the enemy outside." How true that statement is. I may not be able to change others, but I can change myself. The way I see things and the way I think can always be overhauled. I can choose to be accepting and loving, to meet people wherever they are at in life. **I can keep educating myself.** Now that I see the world as it truly is, I want to help make a change. It starts with me. That's where I will begin.

- Erika

Thanks and appreciation

HCC Sabbatical Committee

Monica H. Perez, J.D., Interim Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs

Dr. Moira Maguire, Dean of Social Sciences

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department

Dan O'Malley, Ed. D., Director of Education, HCSD

The Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center (WCC) - Staff and students


The Massachusetts Prison Education Consortium (MPEC)

Professors Hendricks and Orisich thanked the Board for their support as they continue collaborating with various community partners to expand this work.

HCC Center for Cannabis Education Update provided by Jeff Hayden, Vice President of Business & Community Services.

Mr. Hayden provided an overview of the Center for Cannabis Education and its focus on providing training and job readiness. Both Mr. Hayden and President Royal stated that there will be no cannabis on campus. On the job training will be provided on simulations and hands on internships at companies post training.



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| |  <p>Key Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Economic and Workforce Development Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Already in Holyoke – 13 companies, 21 applications to the CCC, \$6+M in real estate transactions, estimated \$55M in private investment; 420 committed jobs, and significant increase in tax revenue ▶ No Cannabis on Campus – focus on simulations and hands on internship training at companies post training; ▶ Connection to Cannabis Companies through 501C3 ▶ Partner: Cannabis Community Care Research Network (C3RN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Internships ▶ Public Benefit Corporation and 501c3 ▶ Occupational Training – Job readiness (46 hours) Occupational Skills (50), Internship approximately 100 hours; and, ▶ It is all about jobs! <p>Discussion ensued regarding community partnerships, internships and job readiness.</p> |
| | <p>President Royal mentioned planning is underway for the college’s 75th anniversary which is calendar year 2021. More information will be provided at a later date.</p> |
| <p>ADJOURNMENT</p> | <p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am</p> |

Respectfully submitted,

Marley Friedrich
Board Secretary
HCC Board of Trustees

Approved: Robert Gilbert, Chair, October 22, 2019