Dear HCC community,

The SP team leaders and Cabinet sponsors have met with their respective teams throughout the semester and on Monday October 28 they had an opportunity to share their work on the Year 1 Action Items. Since the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE), has designated equity the top-level performance policy priority for public higher education institutions, it is important to note equity is the heart of our Strategic Plan and our work is focused on making HCC a culturally responsive institution that fosters success for all. This was recognized by the DHE who recently invited Robert Gilbert, Chair of the HCC Board of Trustees, to participate on a panel at the October 31 Higher Education Trustees Conference to discuss how equity is woven throughout the strategies, objectives, action items and measurable outcomes of our Strategic Plan. Commissioner of Higher Education Carlos Santiago reaffirmed the equity agenda when he presented to HCC administrators, faculty and staff on November 5, explaining the significant disparity in college performance outcomes between race, ethnicity and gender. As you read about the activities of our SP Teams, I encourage you to consider how their work is moving us toward equity. This week’s update will highlight:

**Team B: Course Offerings and Placement**

**Scheduling Initiatives**

**Late Start Pilot**
Subcommittee members are gathering data on the 12 week pilot courses offered this semester through outreach and surveys of the instructors and students who participated and those who were coded as Never Attending or No Shows. The director
of I.R. is designing data parameters to compare progress of the students in the pilot with students in traditional 14 week classes. Course completion and related data for this cohort will available from IR in April. For the spring 2020 semester, Team B has proposed a seven-week Intentional Module Accelerated Evening Pilot that targets adult students and will include blended, online and evening courses in two seven-week sessions. This will enable students to be enrolled full-time and give them access to general education classes. Team B is working with the deans to finalize the courses that will be offered, and collaborating with Marketing, Admissions, Advising, Student Records and non-credit to highlight these seven-week sessions.

One Year Schedule
The idea for a one year course schedule was shared by the Team B co-chairs during discussions with Cabinet and Cabinet+ on ideas the college could implement to increase enrollment and retention. The deans have met with Christine Holbrook and are working toward a streamlined production of the course schedule in Smartsheet to replace the current three-format production system. The FY 2021 schedule will be built by spring 2020.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)
Team B subcommittee members have engaged in professional development activities to learn more about PLA (Prior Learning Assessment), such as a PLA workshop on campus, Transferring PLA convening at Westfield State University, the MA Community College PLA Consortium and overview sessions on the program prioritization initiated through the Gray Associates report. They have reviewed the proposed 2020 statewide PLA Consortium grant and recommended HCC student Elizabeth Busker as our student representative to the PLA Consortium. They have coordinated with the Center for Excellence to offer CPL workshops for faculty. Subcommittee members continue to explore options for mapping certificates to degree completion and provide information on industry credentials, IB equivalency progress, the CPL 001 course, and MACC PLA Consortium progress. This work will be further enhanced when the program prioritization process is completed. The subcommittee is also working with Admissions and Marketing on a CPL messaging strategy and advising plan for non-credit to credit equivalency guide. Finally, they will be collaborating with SP Teams C & D on messaging, outreach, and strategies to promote CPL for Fall 2020 to students, faculty and staff.

Stay tuned for more highlights from our dedicated Strategic Plan Teams.

Kind regards,
K.C.

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