

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Holyoke Community College

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM to May 26, 2026 at 8:00 AM EST

Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present in Person: Trustee Julius Dixon, Trustee Patricia Samra, Trustee Ivonne Vidal, Trustee Aaron Vega, and Chair Vanessa Smith

Trustees Remote: Trustee Sonia Dinnall (until 8:35 a.m. – in person), Trustee Yolanda Johnson (until 8:36 a.m.-in person), Trustee Nayroby Rosa (until 8:08 a.m.-in person), Trustee Todd McGee, and Trustee Charlie Epstein

Routine Invitees Present: Angela Cardenas, Dr. Katherine Douglas, Jeffrey Hayden, Jennifer Kerr, Narayan Sampath, and Dr. George Timmons

MEETING

I. Call to Order – Chair Smith called the 448th Meeting of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees to order at 8:06 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call:

YES: Trustee Dinnall, Trustee Dixon, Trustee Epstein, Trustee Johnson, Trustee McGee, Trustee Rosa, Trustee Samra, Trustee Vega, Trustee Vidal, and Chair Smith.

III. Consent Agenda

- A. Consideration of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of April 28, 2026.
- B. Report of Personnel Actions dated May 26, 2026
- C. To empower the President of the College to approve all personnel actions prior to the next meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Samra and seconded by Trustee Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YES: Trustee Dinnall, Trustee Dixon, Trustee Epstein, Trustee Johnson, Trustee McGee, Trustee Samra, Trustee Vega, Trustee Vidal, and Chair Smith.

IV. Trustee Spotlight - Trustee Nayroby Rosa presented her personal story, highlighting her early life, educational background (which included HCC), and professional journey, tracing academic and professional accomplishments.

V. Committee Reports

A. By-Laws and Governance Committee Update
Vice Chair Vidal reported that the committee is preparing for the June 1-2 Board retreat.

B. Presidential Evaluation Committee Update

Vice Chair Vidal indicated the Presidential evaluation is kicking off; Liz Denny, the consultant HCC engaged for the evaluation last year, will support the evaluation again this year. An early step in the process is to distribute a survey to key stakeholder groups, and this is anticipated to occur in late June or early July.

C. Foundation Board Update

Chair Smith reported on the scholarship committee meeting held last week. Chair Smith extended gratitude and congratulations to the IA/HCCF team that hosted the very successful scholarship reception on May 14. HCC awarded 438 scholarships totaling over \$400,000. Grads on the Go, a digital giving campaign across social media platforms for the class of 2026 to celebrate their paths forward with an opportunity to make a gift in their honor, was officially launched. Trustees were invited to join the online celebration and support the campaign. The Tabor Art Gallery will present Constellations, an exhibit of alumni work, August 3 to 21. There is a reception planned for August 6 from 5 – 7 p.m. On June 1, HCC Foundation Board members were invited to join HCC Board of Trustees for a joint reception at the Delaney House. This is the second annual event intended to bring the Trustees and Foundation Board members together to enhance our collective work on behalf of the College. The Vice President of Institutional Advancement and the Executive Director search is underway and being led by the search firm Gonser Gerber. They are conducting outreach and will send a vetted list of candidates to the search committee, which will meet in the coming weeks.

VI. Report of Chair Smith

Chair Smith reported that she and Trustee Samra were provided with a campus tour with two incredible student tour guides, Acianna Bethea and Sunny Sanchez. Chair Smith continued that she regularly meets with President Timmons and is working with the retreat facilitator, Mary Spilde, on planning the upcoming Board of Trustees retreat. Chair Smith reminded Trustees about Commencement on May 30.

VII. President's Report

President Timmons reported that HCC hosted the annual employee awards and recognition ceremony. Kudos to all the winners of the awards. Patty Sullivan was the Marieb Award winner who will speak at Commencement. HCC retirees were recognized and a reception was held afterwards. The Daily Hampshire Gazette Reader's Choice Awards is open; HCC has been the best 2-year institution for 12 consecutive years, with the hope that it will be 13 years. He encouraged everyone to vote. A fireworks celebration to commemorate the 4th of July will be held at HCC on June 26, and Trustees are invited to attend. HCC has held a number of graduation events that highlight some of our affinity groups on campus, including the first ever campus lavender graduation to celebrate at LGBTQIA+ graduates. Other celebrations for ALANA Men in Motion, El Centro, SAMP, and TRIO were held. Additionally, over 100 students were recognized at the student awards and honors night. HCC congratulated 40 nurses at the ASN pinning ceremony and honored inductees to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. HCC officially launched its AI Task Force. The President spoke at the College for a Day event for adult learners, where 92 potential HCC students attended, some of whom are new Americans and justice-impacted individuals. HCC is partnering with Western Mass CORE and the Hampton County Sheriff's Office to develop a series of workshops and sessions to offer a 3-credit class at the Hamden County Correction Center. June 5 is the annual Gateway to College graduation at 2 pm at the Leslie Phillips Theater. Additional accolades were given to the IA and the Foundation teams for a successful scholarship

reception. On June 8 and 9, NECHE will be on campus to review non-credit courses and programs for a quality assurance evaluation. Chair Smith will attend on behalf of the Board. President Timmons thanked Dr. Kate Douglas for spending the last year as interim Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at HCC.

A. Presentation – Strategic Plan 3.0

HCC’s executive leadership team presented a review of the development process, the frameworks and the objectives, and shared information about implementation of SP 3.

A motion was made by Trustee Rosa and seconded by Trustee Johnson to approve Strategic Plan 3.0 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

YES: Trustee Dinnall, Trustee Dixon, Trustee Epstein, Trustee Johnson, Trustee McGee, Trustee Rosa, Trustee Samra, Trustee Vega, Trustee Vidal, Chair Smith

VIII. Board Engagement Opportunities (see attached)

VIII. Executive Session

The Board of Trustees will enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(1): To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual. Discussion will include a request for review and approval of executive session minutes of March 24, 2025, and a determination if the provisions of this subsection warrant continued non-disclosure.

A motion was made by Trustee Dinnall and seconded by Trustee Rosa to enter Executive Session for the reasons stated above.

Roll Call Vote:

YES: Trustee Dinnall, Trustee Dixon, Trustee Epstein, Trustee Johnson, Trustee McGee, Trustee Rosa, Trustee Samra, Trustee Vega, Trustee Vidal, and Chair Smith

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. and did not return to open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela O. Cardenas
Board Professional, Board of Trustees

Approved: Vanessa L. Smith
Chair, Board of Trustees

Approved: Ivonne Vidal
Secretary, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees