



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Holyoke Community College

April 22, 2025 at 8:00 AM EST

Remote and In Person, Frost 309 Conference Room

Attendance

Trustees Present:

Sonia Dinnall, Julius Dixon, Yolanda Johnson, Nayroby Rosa, Interim Chair Vanessa Smith, and Ivonne Vidal

Trustees Remote:

Todd McGee

Trustees Absent:

Charles Epstein, Ted Hebert, and Evan Plotkin

In Person Guests:

Pesha Black, Josh Cornehlson, Jodie De Alencar, Gelin Delva, Kseniia Dromova, Jeffrey Hayden, Albania Hernandez, Olivia Kynard, Michele Mariani, Sharale Mathis, Neissa Mentor, Mahamat Nour Moussa, William Reyes-Cubides, Narayan Sampath, Polly Silva, Amanda Sbriscia, George Timmons, Marlowe Washington, and Chris Yurko

Remote Guests:

Teresa Beaudry, Beth Breton, Cassandra DaSilva, Karen Desjeans, Veena Dhankher, Kermit Dunkelberg, Judy Gregoire, Liza Hurley, Anna Marie Hernandez, Mark Hudgik, Jane Lerner, Jennifer Kerr, Kris Ricker-Choleva, John Sieracki, Renee Tastad, and Sandra Womeldorf

MEETING

- I. Call to Order: Interim Chair Smith called the 437th meeting of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees to order at 8:08 am.
- II. Roll Call
Roll Call Vote:
YES: Julius Dixon, Yolanda Johnson, Todd McGee. Nayroby Rosa, Ivonne Vidal, and Interim Chair Vanessa Smith.

Sonia Dinnall entered in-person at 8:32 am.
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. Consideration of the Minutes for the Board of Trustees Meeting of March 25, 2025.
 - B. Report of Personnel Actions dated April 22, 2025 (*See attached*).
 - C. Report of Recommendation of MCCC Change of Rank dated March 18, 2025 (*See attached*).
 - D. To empower the President of the College to approve all personnel actions prior to the next meeting.

Roll Call Vote for Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Vidal and seconded by Trustee Rosa to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

YES: Julius Dixon, Yolanda Johnson, Todd McGee. Nayroby Rosa, Ivonne Vidal, and Interim Chair Vanessa Smith.

IV. Trustee Spotlight – Student Trustee, Julius Dixon

Trustee Dixon presented the following about himself:

" Hello, I'm trustee Julius Dixon. I wish I could say my journey to HCC was an easy one, however, it was not. I have Autism and ADHD. I know by looking at me, no one can tell. But having these two disorders has made my learning journey at HCC a bit challenging, to say the least. Sometimes without even realizing, I forget things and don't realize it until later. During my time as a student trustee, I can say that the amount of learning that has taken place for me in this role has truly been life-changing. With the widespread support of my learning team, I have been able to adapt new ways of learning that I didn't think possible.

My support team has been amazing and has truly helped me improve; Alanna, Trio, and OSDDS have been central to my success. When I have emotional problems or stress, I never used to share, but with their grace and reassurance of being safe, I have opened up. I also receive encouragement even on my bad days. They let me know it's okay to not know everything and to look into things for a better understanding. One method I use for comprehending is to take a step back, sit, and think. I know to some that might sound odd, but to me, it works. I'm able to really take the time to digest the information at hand and realize, okay, I understand it, or with help from my tutors, I would think, so that's what my instructor means by doing it that way. Now, being in the know, it's not a dig at anyone, but more of a redirect, so that way, I'm understanding more of what is being asked and expected of me, allowing me to do the work at hand."

V. Committee Reports

A. Audit & Finance Committee Report

Vice President Sampath said there was no report, and that the committee was meeting the second week of May.

B. By-Laws and Governance

Trustee Vidal stated that the Summer Retreat planning is ongoing. The Committee is working on the details over the next few weeks, focusing on two goals: Education for the new trustees, and reshaping ways to do things. Trustees will be working with a consultant from The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). The Board Retreat dates will be June 25 and 26, 2025 at the Delaney House and D-Hotel right here in Holyoke.

C. Equity Committee

Trustee Johnson stated the committee met on April 9, and that work focused on the equity statement as a transformative process to align with who we are as a board, in order to reflect the culture and climate to support inclusion in higher education. Dr. Washington stated they hope to have a public facing statement by summer.

D. Foundation Board Update

VP Amanda Sbriscia stated that they would be hosting the first Taste of Gratitude at the Culinary Arts Institute to acknowledge donors, faculty and staff. She also stated that the Foundation is focusing on the review of policies and practices on guiding principles of the 501(c)(3)B.

E. Nominating and Presidential Evaluation Committee

Interim Chair Smith stated that the work continues, and the Committee is planning to launch a survey in the next several weeks.

F. Strategic Planning Committee

Trustee Rosa reported that the committee has not met recently, but they are planning to meet before the end of the semester. There is nothing new to report.

VI. Report of the Interim Chair

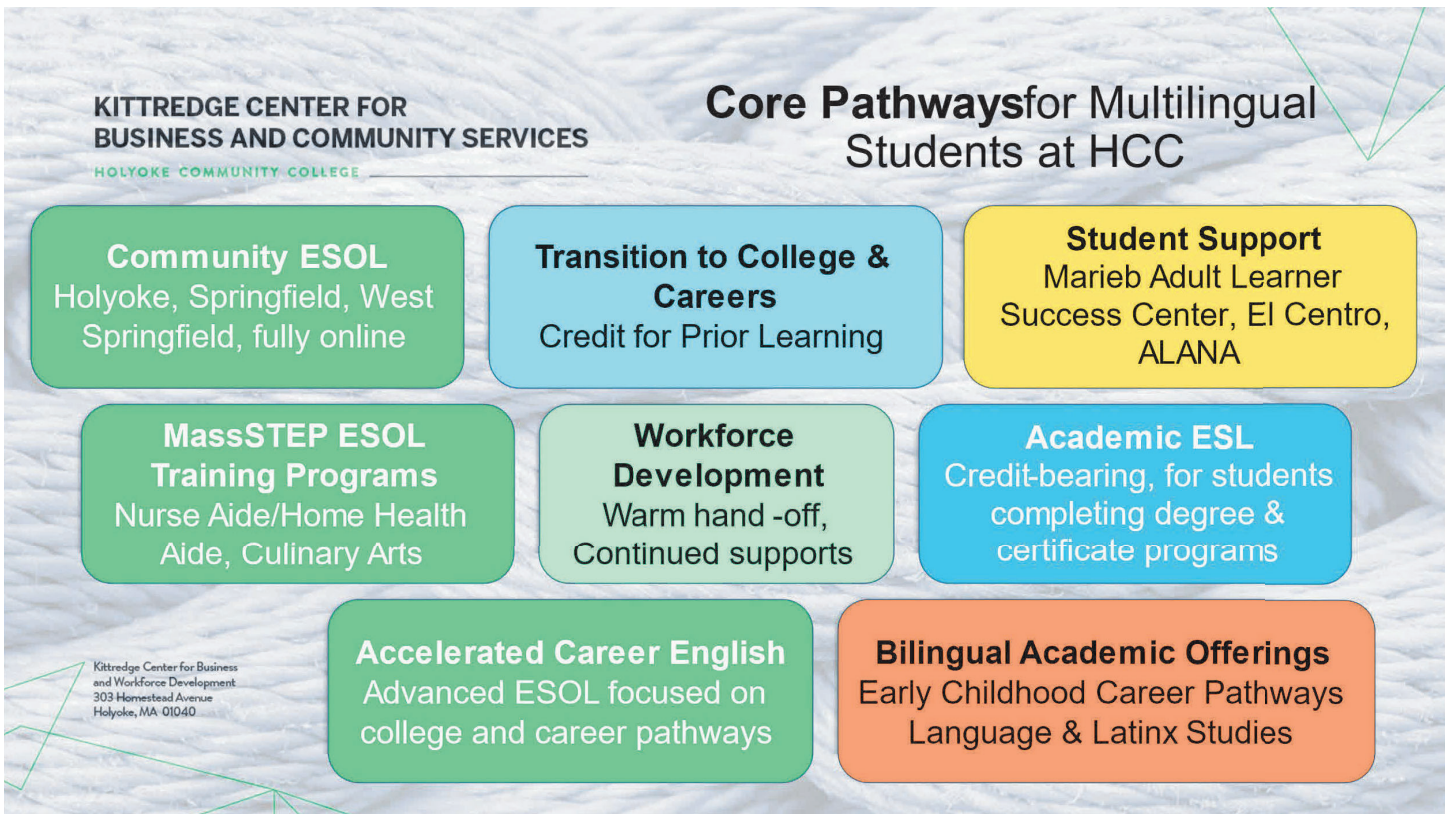
- Interim Chair Smith stated that regular meetings with Dr. Timmons continue, and those are going well.
- She also stated that she attended the AGB Conference on Trusteeship from March 31 to April 2. She gave highlights on the various sessions that focused on challenges in higher education, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and financial challenges faced by student issues.
- She spoke about the principles of how Boards conduct themselves as ambassadors of the college and work strategically with the President and the cabinet to remain true to the mission and serve the students we have to ensure that our students succeed.

VII. President's Report

A. President Timmons gave the following updates:

- He attended the AACC conference in Nashville last week and attended a panel for the CEO Academy, and was impressed with the College having four presentations at this conference.
- On March 26, he met with Vice President Mathis and President Dumay from Elms College to discuss strengthening collaborations between the colleges with the current landscape in higher education. It was a very productive meeting.
- He announced that on April 29, 2025, the Strategic Plan kickoff event would take place via Zoom giving highlights of what would be presented regarding the strategic priorities and themes. There is a call for volunteers from the college community to work over the next year on the strategic plan.
- With respect to Community Engagement, a meeting was held with Vice President Hayden, Tom Stewart, John Sieracki, Gary Rome and Cesar Ruiz for an introduction to the HCC Athletic Facilities and plans to work together as a sports complex for Amateur Athletic Union athletics.
- A meeting was held on April 8 with John Sieracki and C&D Electronics for a tour and lunch in crafting a concept for the Career Readiness Academy. Discussion centered around potential pathways and financial support with follow-up meetings to come.

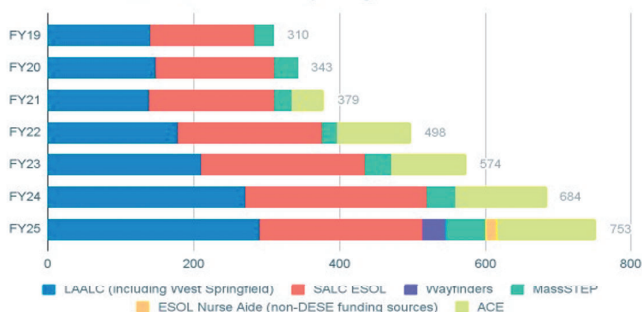
B. Presentation: "We're Building a New Massachusetts:" Multilingual Learners of English at HCC - Presenter: Pesha Black and VP Jeffrey Hayden.



KITTREDGE CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cumulative ESOL Enrollment by Program



Partnerships

Enlace de Familias, Wayfinders, MassHire Holyoke, Tech Foundry's Tech Hub, Tech Goes Home, Alliance for Digital Equity, Juntos Collaborative, West Springfield Public Library, STCC

Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040

Community ESOL: Possibility Rich Programming

- Public Adult Education – all are welcome! **10 DESE Student Ambassadors**
- **Holistic advising** that touches all students through classroom workshops, Next Steps programming, individual and small group support
- Intentional bridge from **ESOL to AESL**
- Coordinated **assessment** and curricular units; Instructional leadership and **coaching**
- Regional and statewide leadership (*Juntos Collaborative, DESE ACLS, SABES PD system, UMass Center for Educational Assessment*)



MassSTEP Affirming Career Pathways

- 66% increase in offerings for FY26 to match strong demand
- Regional provider: Hampshire & Hampden counties, multiple referral sources
- Focus on international healthcare professionals
- Relentlessly affirming community of students, staff, and alumni
- Strong pathway to TCC and college healthcare tracks



KITTREDGE CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Accelerated Career English: Enriching Pathways through Partnership



Kittredge Center for Business
and Workforce Development
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040

- Goal: Immigrant and multilingual adults transition into skills - aligned careers: assets to their families, communities, local economies!
- Core partnerships:
 - **African Bridge Network**: Orientation sessions, 2-way referrals
 - **Upwardly Global**: Tailored software platform and free upskilling certifications (eg Coursera, CISCO, Microsoft, eCornell, etc.)
- Pay for Performance model (\$1.4M over 3 years):
 - Increased flexibility in program design – over \$38,000 scholarships to alumni to date (FY21 -25)



Student Panel

Introductions

- What programs have you been a part of with HCC?
- What are your future goals?

Motivation and Strengths

- What motivated you to come to HCC?
- What have been the best parts of your experience?
- What have you learned about yourself? What has surprised you?

Challenges

Holyoke Community College aspires to be a college of academic excellence known for helping students overcome barriers to success.

- What can HCC do to better support immigrant students and students learning English?
- What advice would you give to other immigrant students?

KITTREDGE CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Kittredge Center for Business
and Workforce Development
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040

- ESOL on-site for Wayfinders clients (July-February)
- Commonwealth Corporation **ESOL for Employment** program for English learners in the Emergency Assistance family shelter system – in partnership with Wayfinders, Tech Foundry, MassHire
- Student support needs

New Developments



Upcoming Opportunities to Connect with **ESOL Students & Staff**



- **Orientation for Internationally Trained Professionals**, in partnership with African Bridge Network

May 10 –[details and register](#)

- Volunteer as a **Mock Interviewer** for Accelerated Career English (email pblack@hcc.edu)
- **ESOL Spring Ceremonies & Celebrations**
 - Virtual Ceremony 6/2
 - In-person Ceremony & Celebration 6/4

Questions and conversations took place between the Board and the Student Panel.

VIII. Board Engagement Opportunities

Interim Chair Smith gave an update on all of the upcoming Board Engagement Opportunities.

IX. Adjournment

Roll Call Vote for Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Dixon and seconded by Trustee Rosa to adjourn the 437th meeting of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees at 9:40 am.

YES: Sonia Dinnall, Julius Dixon, Yolanda Johnson, Nayroby Rosa, Ivonne Vidal, and Interim Chair Vanessa Smith.

Todd McGee left the meeting at 9:15am.

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. George Timmons, President

DATE: March 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Personnel Updates

Non-Unit Professional Appointments

Name	Title/Area/Funding	Date of Hire
Cassandra Da Silva	Talent Acquisition Coordinator/People and Talent/State Funded	03/30/2025
Walter Pfau	Manager of Student Tech Center/Information Technology/ Grant Funded	02/23/2025

MCCC Faculty Reappointments (based on Article 11.02 of the MCCC Collective Bargaining Agreement) for the Academic Year 2025 – 2026 (State Funded)

Name	Title
Karyn Briand	Assistant Professor of Nursing/ADN Program
Michele Cabral	Assistant Professor of Accounting
Tracy Carter	Instructor of Culinary/Baking & Pastry Arts
Ernest Corbin	Instructor of Human Services
Charlene Cross	Instructor of Education
Edgar Fisher	Instructor of Mathematics
Adina Giannelli	Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
Raishad Glover	Instructor of Visual Arts
Joshua Hatch	Assistant Professor of Veterinary & Animal Science
Johanna Kasidi	Assistant Professor of Nursing – ADN Program
Alexandra Loughrey	Instructor of Nursing – ADN Program
Dorothy Shannon	Assistant Professor of Nursing – ADN Program
John Sirois	Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Wendy Tatro	Assistant Professor of Medical Assisting Certificate Program/Coordinator
Cynthia Tetreault	Instructor of Nursing – ADN Program
Loel Tronsky	Assistant Professor of Psychology
Elizabeth Wheeler	Instructor of Nursing

MCCC Unit Professional Reappointments (based on Article 11.02 of the MCCC Collective Bargaining Agreement) for the period July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026 (State Funded)

Name	Title/Work Area
Tiffani Ashline	Senior Special Program Coordinator/Student Records
Sintique Carrillo	Senior Special Program Coordinator/El Centro
Althaea Carroll	Senior Special Programs Coordinator/Marketing & Communications

Danielle Clough	Academic Counselor/Admissions
Morgan Curtin	Senior Special Programs Coordinator/ALANA Men in Motion
Ebone Donawa	Recruitment Counselor/Admissions
Heidi Elmer	Learning Specialist Disability Services/Office of Disabilities and Deaf Services
Marilyn Glazer	Senior Special Program Coordinator/ESL
Freddie Hernandez	Special Program Coordinator/ALANA Men in Motion
Kyle Higney	Academic Counselor/Advising Center
Elizabeth Hurley	Academic Coordinator/Admissions
Tina Lengieza	Special Program Coordinator/Student Ambassador Mentorship Program
Sheyla Martinez	Learning Specialist Disability Services/Office of Disabilities and Deaf Services
Sullynette Ortiz	Academic Counselor/El Centro
Benjamin Ostiguy-Finneran	Special Programs Coordinator/THRIVE Center
Lindsey Pare	Coordinator Student Activities/Student Activities
Kim (KL) Pereira	Librarian/Library
Megan Pereira	Grants Writer/Institutional Advancement
Jennifer Rivers	Coordinator of Instructional Technology/Planning Curriculum & Assessment
Angelique Rodriguez	Community/Outreach Counselor/Admissions
Maylene Rodriguez Scott	Senior Financial Aid Counselor/Financial Aid
Diana Rosado	Senior Financial Aid Counselor/Financial Aid
Derick Santos	Special Program Coordinator/Financial Aid
Michael Suckau	Special Programs Coordinator/Health, Education, Culinary Arts & Human Services
Robert Truskowski	Senior Staff Assistant/Planning, Curriculum & Assessment
Miguel Velez	Special Programs Coordinator/ALANA Men in Motion
Dee Westcott	Coordinator of Learning Resources (10-month)/Health, Education, Culinary Arts & Human Services
Kristopher Wiemer	Coordinator of Instructional Technology/Planning, Curriculum & Assessment
Lauren Woodard	Academic Counselor/Advising Center

MCCC Unit Professional Reappointments (based on Article 11.02 of the MCCC Collective Bargaining Agreement) (Grant Funded) for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Name	Title/Work Area
Shannon Glenn	Academic Coordinator/Gateway to College
Dionne Walker-McCraven	Special Programs Coordinator/Gateway to College
Momina Sims	Coordinator of Career Planning & Placement/Elaine Marieb New Directions Adult Learner Success Center
Amy Woody	Academic Coordinator/Elaine Marieb New Directions Adult Learner Success

SUGGESTED MOTION: To approve the personnel actions listed above for the above Non-Unit Professional Staff, MCCC Unit Professional Staff, and Faculty.

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. George Timmons, President

DATE: March 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Tenure

In accordance with Article XI of the MCCC/MTA Collective Bargaining Agreement, unit members who serve six full years, at least three years of which have been in that unit member's current job function and have received satisfactory on their most recent summary evaluation may be considered for tenure. Unit members are eligible for the grant of tenure at the beginning of their seventh year of service (Academic Year 2025-2026).

The following faculty is eligible for consideration for the grant of tenure:

Adina Giannelli - Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

In concurrence with the Unit Personnel Practices Committee and Dr. Sharale Mathis, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, I am pleased to recommend the candidate listed above for tenure.

SUGGESTED MOTION: To approve the recommendation for tenure as presented.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES BOARD ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES - FY 2024/2025

APRIL 2025

- April 2, 2025 Assessment Day (8:30am-Details TBD)

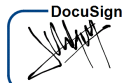
MAY 2025

- May 21, 2025 Celebration of Faculty & Staff (am) and Honors & Awards Night (pm)
- May 31, 2025 **HCC Commencement at MassMutual Center 10-12 pm**

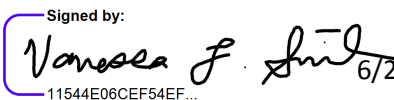
JUNE 2025

Potential Dates-June 17 and 18, 2025 or June 25 and 26, 2025
Summer Retreat (Details TBD)

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

CDAC0916A5464E4...
Ivonne Vidal
Secretary, Board of Trustees

6/19/2025

Signed by:

11544E06CEF54EF... 6/21/2025

Approved: Vanessa L. Smith
Interim Board Chair, Board of Trustees