



ACTION

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: *November 16, 2022*

ITEM TITLE: 4.1b

CONTACT PERSON: *Laurie Popp, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education*

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 19, 2022

Session 1072

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on October 19, 2022, with an Executive (Closed) Session at 6:30 pm held in the President's Office, and a Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 pm, held in the Board Room (AC 2359) at Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark Street, Gresham, Oregon, and via Zoom.

1.0 CONVENE EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

Members present: Andrew Speer, board chair, Diane McKeel, board vice chair, Diane Noriega, Annette Mattson, LaVerne Lewis, Marie Teune, Kenney Polson

Additional Attendee: Lisa Skari, president

Speer called the executive (closed) session to order at 6:31 p.m.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S CONTRACT

The board convened a closed executive session in accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review the president's employment contract.

3.0 ADJOURN EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

The executive (closed) session was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

4.0 CONVENE REGULAR SESSION/CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Members present: Andrew Speer, board chair, Diane McKeel, board vice chair, Diane Noriega, Annette Mattson, LaVerne Lewis, Marie Teune, Kenney Polson

Additional Attendees: Lisa Skari, president, Jennifer DeMent, vice president, Finance and Administration, John Hamblin, vice president, Student Development, Al McQuarters, vice



president, Instruction, Al Sigala, vice president, College Advancement, Tambi Boyle, FTFA President, Christy Weigel, CEA President, Marilyn Pitts, PFTA President, Cheyenne Winchell, ASMHCC Representative.

Speer called the board meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and declared a quorum was present.

4.1 Approval of Agenda

Noriega motioned to approve the agenda. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5.0 PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

6.2 Bringing Adults Back

Hamblin provided a presentation on the Bringing Adults Back Grant. He presented an overview of the grant, which is focused on adult learners age 25 and up, and what impact the program hopes to have in bringing adult students back. This is a one-time grant in the amount of \$30,000 from New America/ECMC. The MHCC team, in consultation with Student-Ready Strategies (SRS) and New America, identified the project and grant goals. The project plans to assist 222 adult learners to return to MHCC, and has a reach goal of 420 students. Hamblin shared what has been accomplished to date, and the MHCC team will continue their work on planning and implementation over fall and winter terms. The students were surveyed and the major factors contributing to students leaving MHCC were due to campus closure, course availability and modality, mental health, limited entry program capacity, and financial policies and processes.

Hamblin shared the initiatives that SRS suggested to move forward with, and the top item that had over 50% of responses was free tuition for returning students. Additional items were free textbooks and learning materials/technology, course schedule (more evening and weekend), mental health counseling, staff focused on adult learners, and assistance with housing, basic needs, transportation, and food. The top initiatives that MHCC will focus on are as follows: website updates for returning students and info/guide; summer enrollment campaign review and modification to support more adult learners; developing an adult learner focused support path and messaging; enhance our balance reduction program and assess how we can improve and align more effectively with adult learners needs; continue our work on Student Basic Needs; and continue and expand our hours of operations to support adult learners beyond the 8-5 norm. Hamblin will send a copy of the report from Student Ready Strategies to board



members, and stated a future update would be given to the board after the implementation phase is completed. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes.

6.3 Presidential Evaluation 2021-2022

Speer reported the board completed the president's annual evaluation for Dr. Lisa Skari for 2021-2022. The presidential evaluation used the same evaluation form as last year, and the evaluation consisted of the president's annual goals and the following six key areas: leadership and strategic direction; institutional performance and educational outcomes; operations and financial management; faculty and staff relations; external and community relations; and board relations.

7.0 BUSINESS / ACTION

7.1 Consent Agenda: Approvals & Information

- a) Minutes – Board Regular Session 1070, September 21, 2022
- b) Monthly Personnel Report
- c) Monthly Financial Report
- d) Monthly Head Start Report
- e) COVID-19 Activity Report
- f) Approval to Utilize Goods and/or Service Contracts in Excess of \$150,000
- g) President's Contract Approval
- h) Letter of Support for ACCT Finance and Audit Committee

Mattson motioned to approve the consent agenda. Noriega seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7.2 Board Policy Review – Second Reading/Approval: BP 7360: Discipline and Dismissal – Employees

DeMent presented Board Policy 7360 for board review and approval. The board conducted a second reading of Board Policy 7360: Discipline and Dismissal – Employees and proceeded with a board vote.

Lewis motioned to approve Board Policy 7360: Discipline and Dismissal – Employees. Teune seconded the motion. There was a roll call board vote and it passed unanimously.

7.3 Board Member Vacancy

Speer acknowledged the resignation of LaVerne Lewis from her position as board member of the MHCC Board of Education At-Large Position 7 effective October 31, 2022. In accordance with Board Policy 2110, the board must declare the seat vacant due to the resignation. The board discussed the two options to consider for the vacant seat due to the resignation: (1) to appoint using an open application process; (2) leave the position vacant. Skari stated she met with Traci Simmons, who came up with a recommendation for the application process and a



few questions for the candidates, and they developed a form for the candidates to complete. The board discussed both options and shared their thoughts on the timing and impact of each option. There was board consensus for option one to appoint using an open application process for the board vacancy. Speer and Mattson agreed to work with Dr. Skari regarding the board appointment process.

Noriega motioned to move forward with option one to appoint using an open application process. Lewis seconded the motion. There was a roll call board vote and it passed unanimously.

8.0 BOARD MEMBER & COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Board members shared their report of board committee and liaison activity since the last board meeting.

9.0 CLOSING REPORTS

9.1 ASMHCC Representative

Cheyenne Winchell (ASMHCC) – she reported ASMHCC has added five new team members, and the elections for ASMHCC President and Vice President will be held the week of November 28. This year ASMHCC set aside \$5K for textbook scholarships, and they awarded 11 scholarships to students for fall term. During the first three weeks of fall term, Barney’s Pantry had 1762 visits for food boxes, snacks, and coffee, compared to 273 visits in the first three weeks of summer term. ASMHCC continues to partner with Amazon with help from the MHCC Foundation, and they restarted a partnership with Oregon Food Bank to serve our students. They plan to hold a pantry food drive and winter coat drive throughout the month of November. Winchell shared that ASMHCC has been encouraging students to register to vote, and highlighted the upcoming annual Trunk or Treat event on October 31.

9.2 Advisory Representatives

Tambi Boyle (FTFA) – on behalf of the full-time faculty, she thanked LaVerne Lewis for her service to the college. The faculty are excited about the many initiatives that are happening at the college, and they look forward to getting involved in the initiatives.

Christy Weigel (CEA) – she shared that the AVID/LSC Center served 173 students in the first week of summer term, and 724 students in the first week of fall term, which was a 318% increase in student demand with no increase in staff. The CEA has been donating \$250 every term to Barney’s Pantry to assist in their needs for students. She added that the increase in visits to Barney’s Pantry as shared in the ASMHCC update was a 545% increase in students needing food assistance. She stated the date of the next board meeting on November 16 is Education Support Professionals Day, which is a nationwide day that honors support staff in both K-12 schools and higher education institutions. She encouraged everyone to please remember to thank all the MHCC support staff that day.



Marilyn Pitts (PTFA) – did not attend.

9.3 Executive Leadership

John Hamblin (Student Development) – he shared that students are back on campus this fall in big numbers, and he has seen life come back to campus that he has not seen in a few years, and the energy from staff has been amazing. In regards to the pantry, they have been putting together grab and go snacks for students and have had a hard time keeping up with the demand. They have a campaign coming up in November with the MHCC Foundation to raise additional funds for Barney's Pantry.

Al McQuarters (Instruction) – he highlighted the MHCC Manufacturing Day at the college, and that MHCC coordinated with high schools in our district (Centennial, David Douglas, Gresham, Sam Barlow, Springwater Trail) and a number of manufacturers for an opportunity for students to go to the manufacturing work sites to see how they manufactured their products, and then come back to the MHCC Campus to see our programs, work with faculty, and see our campus facilities. He thanked all of the faculty, staff, and administrators that were involved in coordinating the MHCC Manufacturing Day for students.

Jennifer DeMent (Administrative Services) – she stated the food services are back on campus, and Riverview has moved into the space next to the library where Black Rock Coffee was previously located. She thanked Riverview and Junki Yoshida for their efforts to provide food service to our campus. She provided an update on the search for the Head Start Executive Director position. They have two finalists coming to meet with the Head Start staff on Friday, and with the Head Start Policy Council next week. She thanked LaVerne Lewis for her service to the board and college.

Al Sigala (College Advancement) – he shared that the college partners with Toyota in a co-branding effort during the summer to take part in a variety of community events, and he is working on a continued co-branding effort for some upcoming holiday events. He is excited to continue this partnership and to be present in our community.

9.4 President's Report

Lisa Skari provided her President's Report to the board:

Four weeks into the term, things are better than we have seen in the last couple of years and we are very happy about that. We continue to be a little bit soft in our for-credit tuition bearing courses, we are down about 3.5%, but our total enrollment numbers are up about 6.5%. Most of this increase is coming from our non-credit areas of Apprenticeship and Adult Basic Skills. It is so significant that Adult Basic Skills programs are at pre-pandemic levels, so our enrollment levels there are where they were beforehand. Now, you might be wondering what does the 3.5% drop in tuition bearing enrollments mean for our budget? You may remember, we actually planned



for a 5% decline going into this year, so we are still trending ahead slightly than what we had planned and will continue to watch it. Also, it appears we are faring better than some of our neighboring institutions. We are excited and enjoying all that energy. One of the things we were looking at as we dig into the data is looking at the students we lost. Our Analytics and Research team has been looking at the populations to see if there are any characteristics that are similar. What we are seeing is there is an overrepresentation of white women 30+, (12% of student population but close to 30% in the group of dropped students), a slight overrepresentation of black students (6% vs 4%), and an overrepresentation of students placed in developmental courses. We did not, however, see any difference in modality so that did not seem to be a factor in why students left. We will continue to dig into this more.

Related to student outcomes, the HECC has produced their Snapshots which are out, and they are by college, all community colleges, and then by public institutions. I have a printed copy of the MHCC Snapshot for those of you here, and I will email them out to those of you online. In general, MHCC has a higher percent of students unable to pay for college, but only 14% of our students fill the funding gap with loans, which is good. We are 10 percentage points lower than the community college average, and this suggests fewer of our students are carrying debt. You might also find it interesting how balanced our key mission areas of the college are: 33% of our students are enrolled in lower division transfer courses, 31% in Career & Technical Education (CTE), and 34% in non-credit only. This differs a bit from the state as a whole, where about 50% of enrollments are in transfer and 16% in CTE. I see this balance being a strength of our college, and likely a reason we are holding our own on enrollment. Again, this is something we will continue to track.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Lewis motioned to adjourn. Noriega seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The board meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Clerk

Board Chair

Minutes recorded by Laurie Popp, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education.

Bringing Adults Back

Dr. John Hamblin



What is the Bringing Adults Back Grant?

- New America, in partnership with Student-Ready Strategies and with support from ECMC Foundation, is supporting six community colleges in Illinois, Louisiana, and Oregon in efforts to bring adult students back, reversing the enrollment declines experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant is focused on adult learners age 25 and up.
- In Oregon, MHCC and SWOC are participating
- Colleges receive in-depth technical assistance and unrestricted grant funding to further these efforts.
- The college was awarded \$30,000 in grant funds from New America/ECMC to advance this work



What impact do we hope to have?

- Overall enrollment declines prior to and throughout the pandemic have been substantial. This work is an additional effort to reverse these trends.
- Our team, in consultation with SRS and New America have identified both project and grant goals for this work
 - Grant and institutional goals of a 3% increase in enrollment for adult learners at MHCC-(over the 18 months of the project, ending Fall 2023)
 - Identify strategies, funding, and policy level changes needed to increase access and support for adult learners.
 - Overall the project plans to assist 222 adult learners to return to MHCC and has a reach goal of 420 students.



What have we accomplished to date?

- SRS and New America have conducted research about our students who had left the college over the past four years
 - Additionally, these teams interview dozens of college stakeholders, staff, faculty, administrators, and students.
 - SRS has analyzed this data and provided the college with a framework and identified strategies to explore as a team
 - MHCC team has reviewed these concepts and formalized the recommendations into actionable strategies, aligned with both the Colleges Strategic Plan and Strategic Enrollment Plan.
 - Over the Fall and Winter our MHCC team will progress on the planning and implementation of this work.



What did we hear from our students and college?

- Major Factors that lead to their departure from MHCC-
 - Campus Closure
 - Course Availability and Modality
 - Mental Health
 - Limited Entry Program capacity
 - Financial Policies and Processes



12%

OF STUDENTS CITED INSUFFICIENT FINANCIAL AID AS A REASON FOR STOPPING OUT

12%

OF STUDENTS HAD AN ISSUE THAT PREVENTED THEM FROM GETTING ANY FINANCIAL AID AT ALL



21%

OF STUDENTS CITED MENTAL
HEALTH CONCERNS AS A
CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THEIR
DECISION TO STOP-OUT



What initiatives did SRS suggest we move forward with?

- Free Tuition (course or term) for returning students
- Free Textbooks and learning material/Technology
- Course schedule (more evening and weekend)
- Mental Health Counseling
- Staff specifically focused on their return
- Assistance with; Housing, Basic Needs, Transportation, and Food



What initiatives will MHCC focus on?

- Website updates for returning students and info/guide
- Summer Enrollment Campaign review and modification to support more adult learners
- Developing an Adult Learner focused support path and messaging
- Enhance our balance reduction program and assess how we can improve and align more effectively with adult learners needs
- Continue our work on Student Basic Need
- Continue and expand our hours of operations to support adult learners beyond the 8-5 norm



Questions?

