

Portland Community College Board of Directors
PO BOX 19000, Portland, Oregon 97280

November 19, 2020
Via remote access

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Mohamed Alyajouri, Denise Frisbee, Jim Harper, Tiffani Penson, Dan Saltzman, Michael Sonnleitner, Alex Díaz Rios, Riley Turner

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board met in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2), (d) labor negotiations, (e) real property, and (k) school safety.

WORK SESSION

The board met in work session and received updates regarding PERS, strategic planning, board assessment, and elections.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Alyajouri called the Business Meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The November 19, 2020 agenda was approved as published. Saltzman/Penson
Alyajouri – Yes Harper - Yes Sonnleitner – Yes
Díaz Rios - Yes Penson – Yes
Frisbee - Yes Saltzman – Yes

The October 15, 2020 minutes were approved as published. Sonnleitner/Harper
Alyajouri – Yes Harper - Yes Sonnleitner – Yes
Díaz Rios - Yes Penson – Yes
Frisbee - Yes Saltzman – Yes

RECOGNITION

College retirement – Keith Furrow will be retiring after serving 40 years at PCC.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Preferred Future Task Force – Tricia Brand, Chief Diversity Office, Office of Equity and Inclusion and Traci Fordham, Program Administrator, Office of the President

The Preferred Future Task Force (PFTF) was created by President Mitsui in 2016 after the last presidential election in response to some of the intersectional concerns that we were seeing from our students and community members. Out of the last iteration of the PFTF came the board resolution for sanctuary college, for instance. A number of activities and initiatives were created from the PFTF. The overarching charge being for

us to pay particular attention to external sociopolitical variables that that may influence and impact on our communities. We did a number of things in 2016 and 2017 and then went on a bit of a hiatus and back in December President Mitsui re-upped, reconvened, and reimagined some of the work of the PFTF. It truly is a group of voices and talent from across the college. We each bring unique organizational purviews and perspectives. At the center of our work, undergirding our specific charge that has been given us by President Mitsui, is an understanding that community colleges play a key role in educating students to participate in democracy, to be informed and engaged civic participants. We're really committed to the meta-objective of our mission, which is to help our students become more engaged civic participants, locally, nationally, and globally. How do we do this meaningfully and inclusively in our current climate? How can we as educators advance diversity and democracy, or help to create a more inclusive democracy? And how can we do this given the collective anxiety about democratic process and discourse in this current moment? While our charge has been to proactively engage in the intersecting sociopolitical issues that impact our community, since early September we have been particularly focused on the 2020 General Election. We have a timeline for the General Election which represents, to some extent, how the 2020 General Election is uniquely perilous and protracted. We couldn't think about the election as a discrete time, but rather as a whole season of potential flashpoints, decisions and non-decisions, and keeping in mind the other intersecting crises that we are dealing with as a community. This is particularly challenging since we have been remote. We have been paying attention to the current discursive, political division, ongoing anxiety, tremendous stakes, fears of violence and electoral disruption, or possible constitutional crises.

We engaged in a number of forms of contingency and scenario planning. We engaged in tabletop exercises, we took ourselves through multiple, possible scenarios in terms of election season and in the context of Portland. Part of what we did in this planning was in the service of helping guide the College to consider and create responses. We really shifted from thinking about institutional communication writ large to really thinking about our communication in terms of community care. College communication, community care, emergency planning, and resource sharing were our areas of focus as we thought about our messages and how we engaged with the community in this moment in time. We are still engaging in many of these questions, we are in the thick of this timeline. A very important aspect of the work we are doing is working with our internal and external partners to share resources.

We've been very proactive in statements of support, not around political candidates, but around our values as an institution, around our values regarding democracy and civic participation, and what our responsibilities are as educators in this space. We provided access to Know Your Rights information. Members of our Task Force and our Communication Task Force created classroom management guidelines for facilitating difficult conversations within the context of this election season, and these are continuing to be well utilized. We've expanded our counseling and crisis care resources. We're also thinking about initiating other emergency responses if in fact there is localized violence. Particularly in Portland proper we've seen a lot and we're hoping that

more civic unrest doesn't happen, but we're preparing for it if necessary. We're trying to establish restorative spaces and affinity spaces for folks to process whatever is going to be coming up for them in regards to the election, the crises and anxieties that I think many of us are feeling right now. In terms of restorative spaces, we're looking at ways of engaging across differences in ways that are not inflammatory and incendiary, but that really engage our deepest values around intercultural communication and conflict mediation. We put a full call out to our instructors, support staff, and managers to consider flexibility in this moment. We know there is a tremendous amount of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty, not simply about the election, but about all of these intersecting public health crises that we're dealing with. We've asked folks to be flexible, both in terms of assignments and meetings, etc., and thinking about ways that we can be a more inclusive community in this external space. We're paying specific attention to multiple modalities of communication, whether they're email messages, office hours, or town halls; we're thinking about many more substantive ways of engaging folks in being able to communicate and to engage with one another. This notion of authorship is particularly important. We've had messages that have come from our Chief Diversity Officer from the Office of Equity and Inclusion, from our President, and the Board Chair. We continue to look for opportunities to bring other members of the community together to get involved, especially externally looking for community based partners to support some of our work. We wanted to target a specific set of activities; we had a limited amount of resources available in terms of human resources, but knew that we wanted to be very thoughtful about the way in which we considered engaging with the community. In regards to college messaging leading up through and past election week we really wanted to take a strategy of cascading communications. We began with a very substantive all college message from President Mitsui ahead of the elections that was followed by a joint message from the Chief Diversity Office, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Vice President of Student Affairs to talk to faculty and staff and stress preparedness, and to provide resources for them, including a resource that the PFTF created on our own. We adapted some really amazing guides for faculty to think about how they could create some discourse in their classrooms and we developed something called navigating difficult election conversations. We wanted something in front of our community as early as possible and something they could revisit for what could be weeks, if not months, in this election cycle. We also wanted to express our support. Students received a message, specifically from our four Deans, which is amazing for them to come together across the district and to talk about all of the stress that students were experiencing close to midterms, knowing that we do have these converging crises and there's so much pressure and such a strong message in the community about how important their voting behavior was going to be, and to take some of the load off and talk about the fact that resources existed at PCC for them.

We had over 500 unique views from the Facilitating Difficult Conversations PDF guide within a 7-10 day period and 389 visits to the PFTF web page. Viewers included members of the Oregon legislative community who have lauded us for our thoughtful preparation and resource development. The election isn't entirely over and regardless of where we are in this current cycle, our work continues. We know there is still a long way to go until January, but there are broader threats to continue to protect a more inclusive

democracy. Those issues still persist. We've decided to expand and deepen an approach that will organize our work from a response team model. We have identified a couple key areas to engage the Task Force work through the remainder of the year. Focus areas include confronting nationalism, immigrant and international justice, civic engagement, gender and sexuality civil rights, public health and community safety. We also want to continue to meet as regularly as possible in hopes that we can develop ways in which we can establish opportunities to continue to enhance and create a community of belonging for everyone. It's our role to support the ways in which our community can think about how we come together across difference. Areas and divisions represented on the Task Force include Public Safety, Human Resources, Office of the President, Office of Equity and Inclusion, Community Relations, Government Relations, Faculty and Faculty Department Chairs, District Student Council, Artist-in-Residence, Dreamers Resource Center, Office of International Student Services, Disability Services, Academic Advising, Academic Affairs and Students Affairs Deans, Workforce Development/Pathways to Opportunity, and Advancement. It's a really amazing, diverse group of folks who are committed to this broader mission and we're grateful for their ongoing support.

MWESB Update – John MacLean, Manager, Planning & Capital Construction; Mike Mathews, Manager, Purchasing; Stephanie Phillips, Specialist, Purchasing; Amy James Neel, Workforce Equity and Diversity Outreach Manager, Planning & Capital Construction (Pre-recorded)

The board received an update via pre-recorded video. Linda Degman introduced Amy James Neel, Workforce Equity and Diversity Outreach Manager, Planning and Capital Construction

Facilities Planning 2 Update – Rebecca Ocken, Planning Manager, Planning & Capital Construction; Ken Pirie, AICP CUD, LEED ND Principal, Certified Planner, Walker Macy; Michael W. Zilis, Principal, Landscape Architect, Walker Macy; Brodie Bain, FAIA, ACIP, LEED AP, Principal, Planning and Strategies, Perkins & Will (Pre-recorded)

It's been challenging to do this work in a remote environment because we want as much engagement as possible. It's hard to replicate the level of engagement we had in Phase 1. Phase 1 was an assessment of our existing conditions. We looked at our 60+ buildings and determined what type of state they were in. In Phase 2 we are actually assessing how much development capacity we have and how we can grow as a college. Project goals include ensure necessary space at each location, integrate with Strategic Plan, integrate with Pathways, evaluate college physical design, use land efficiently and responsibly, support surrounding neighborhoods, promote sustainability and resilience, collaborate and inform, elicit and incorporate input, apply Critical Race Theory.

Grants Office Update – Vanessa Wood, Director, Grant Development (Pre-recorded)

The Grants Office helps PCC faculty and staff navigate the grant-seeking process. The Grants Office manages grant development district-wide, including exploration of funding opportunities, assistance with funder guidelines, collaboration with faculty and/or staff to develop proposals, coordination of institutional approval, and support with post-award

grant management. The grants we develop are to federal, state, and local agencies. Funding sources include the National Science Foundation, US Department of Education, Worksystems Inc., State of Oregon, and US Department of Labor. Over 5 years, the Grants Office submitted nearly 170 grants, with a 61% success rate. In the most recent fiscal year they submitted a record of 35 grants with an 80% success rate. In those five years, the Grants Office has brought in nearly \$40 million in grants funds for the College. Most of our large grants are awarded on a four to five year cycle. Workforce Development is the largest category by funding amount and one of the largest in number of grants. The majority of this work is supported solely by grants. Active grants are grants that PCC has been awarded and are currently implementing. The number of active grants has increased by more than five times in the last five years. The amount of grants funds being managed has increased nearly fourfold over the last five years. Recent award highlights include a \$2.25 million, five-year grant from the US Department of Education, which will assist PCC with building out academic pathways and integrated student guidance to increase student success and support a thriving regional economy; a four-year grant from Worksystems, Inc WorkSource Portland Metro, \$5 million for Beaverton/Hillsboro and \$2.75 million for Tualatin to continue to provide contracted workforce services at Willow Creek Center and at the Tualatin WorkSource Center.

COVID-19 Update – Mark Mitsui, President

OSHA has created new temporary rules that have already come into effect, and they influence everything from ventilation to barriers to facial covering requirements. OSHA has made it clear that they do apply to higher education institutions. These are layered on top of the HECC standards. We've already assessed and provided comment through OCCA, they did take some of those into account, and made some adjustments. We are now in the process of implementation. At the Oregon's Presidents Council meetings, we have had discussions about thresholds for retuning to remote online instruction. Angela McMahon has been organizing state COVID coordinators. Six to eight campuses have responded and they have already begun to exchange information.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Shawnese Kraemer.....21-076 BP 3506 Resumption of In-Person Classes
 Amy Peden.....COVID-19 Reopening
 Marie Montgomery.....21-076

BUSINESS SESSION

Director Sonnleitner requested a vote to approve his run for the Oregon School Board Association's Board. Chair Alyajouri called for the motion to approve a vote for Director Michael Sonnleitner for Position 17 on the OSBA Board of Directors. Díaz Rios/Penson
 Alyajouri – Yes Harper - Yes Sonnleitner – Abstained
 Díaz Rios - Yes Penson – Yes
 Frisbee - Yes Saltzman – Yes

Chair Alyajouri proposed approval of Resolutions 21-064 to 21-079. Harper/Frisbee
 Alyajouri – Yes Díaz Rios - Yes Frisbee - Yes

Harper - Yes
Penson – Yes

Saltzman – Yes
Sonnleitner – Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Isabella Eloise Delacosta.....Vet Tech Program, Class of 2021
Kelly Henrickson.....VT Program
Mari Coryell.....Veterinary Technician Program

REPORTS

PCC Federation of Faculty and Academic Professionals: Frank Goulard, President
We are finishing the ninth week of the term, which means finals are right around the corner. This is normally a source of anxiety for any term, but particularly this term due to COVID, election season, the wildfires. There is a lot of anxiety out there and I hear it from my students, as well as part-time faculty and classified staff worried about job security or income issues. We are in constant communication with administration folks in HR, Finance, and other folks talking about our CTE programs, contract administration meeting issues that come up, which we address in a good, collaborative way. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission had our meeting just last week. In a week and a half we will have the Governor's Recommended Budget for the next biennium. We anticipate her Community College Support Fund to be somewhere in the range of \$641-667 million. The current budget for this biennium is \$641 million. If we're in that range we will be pleasantly set. Normally the Governor has a low ball figure and then the legislature almost always raises that, depending on our lobbying efforts. I want to say that in the last few years, between Emma Kallaway driving us, Mark Mitsui, myself and Jeff Grider, that's helped a lot. The legislature recognizes community colleges as the leading forces of economic first responders for our state. They play a key role, therefore, let's not limit their gains too much.

Board Members:

Director Díaz Rios

Thank you for the different format for this meeting. Thank you for everyone that spoke tonight. I did want to mention a measure in Washington County that we could potentially support. I'm working with our Board Chair and Vice Chair to send out some information for individual support at this time for each board member that is similar to the Portland children's levy.

Director Harper

I wanted to take the time and express my appreciation for the job you're doing in this very tough time. Thank you for all you've done.

Director Sonnleitner

It has been an exceptionally busy month for me. I have attended eight board meetings, besides our own. One tidbit that really stands out from last night's Corbett School Board meeting. They have data that indicates their freshman throughout the county doing distance learning, over half have an F in one or more classes. There are severe issues with distance learning delivery in K-12. This may very well have a rippling effect for us.

Student Director Turner

On behalf of the District Student Council (DSC) I want to give a brief update. We are still in deliberations with regards to the student activity fund increase and/or restructuring in the next biennium. We are still analyzing funding minimums. Where do we need to be to maintain the level of service we provide now? And how do we develop a level of service in a remote learning environment? We are hesitant to make decisions with incomplete information. We are waiting on the Governor's proposed budget to see where college funding falls moving into fiscal year 2021. In the midst of all this, we've made strong efforts towards maintaining the sort of attitude of acceptance and development of community despite remote instruction. When we discuss the way that the DSC fits itself into the broader strategic plan of the college, we have a unique position and I believe a duty to develop the welcoming community, and level of acceptance, we see day to day at PCC. These days, via our remote connections, it's important that we maintain a level of welcoming atmosphere and acceptance despite this digital barrier that we have to work around and through. I think if we set the systems up now to continue to improve the services that we provide our community, the education we provide our community, we can be ready and we can respond to the needs of Portland and the broader community of Oregon.

President Mitsui

We're looking forward to the Governor's Recommended Budget and a lot of foundational discussions have been had with legislative fiscal office staff and Governor's Office. It's been great to think through and begin planning the legislative strategy coming up, in concert with our own brilliant Emma Kallaway, who has already lined up a new bill that would pay for and put a Benefits Navigator and each community college and university campus. I wanted to touch on the congressional and federal picture around funding. There is a possibility of a stimulus bill in the lame duck session. The question will be whether or not the White House will sign it. The Democrats are pushing for as high as \$120 billion in the next stimulus package for higher education. By comparison, the CARES Act provided 16 billion. The Senate Republican number for higher education is \$29 billion. I wanted to give a big shout out to the Foundation and Advancement and a big thank you to Anne Naito-Campbell for her generous \$1 million donation to Pathways to Opportunity to expand access to federal benefits. I also wanted to thank Bank of America as we were recipients of the Neighborhood Builders award for \$200,000 each. We will use that money to create an opportunity center at the Willow Creek Center and we are looking forward to that work. Thank you again to the Board for passing the resolution regarding naming for the third floor at the Fourth and Montgomery building. Willamette Dental has also signed a very generous gift agreement of a million dollars that will support part-time dental students. Thanks to Crystal Froembling and the whole Foundation crew for their great work in shepherding that agreement. Thanks also to Dr. Eugene Skourtes, the founder of Willamette Dental, for his ongoing support for PCC and our students.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Mohamed Alyajouri, Chair

Mark Mitsui, President

Prepared by:

Jeannie Moton, Executive Coordinator

Minutes approved on December 17, 2020.