

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
12000 S.W. 49th Avenue - Portland, OR 97219

**MINUTES**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS SESSION  
Cascade Campus, Moriarty Art Center, Auditorium  
April 17, 2008

**BOARD ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Present:

Denise Frisbee, Jaime Lim, Marilyn McGlasson, Harold Williams

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board of Directors convened an executive session for Real Property Transactions in accordance with ORS 192.660 (1), (e) at 6:50 PM, adjourning at 7:35 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Frisbee called the business meeting to order at 7:45 PM and invited all present to introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The March 20, 2008 business meeting minutes were approved as published.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

**INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Cascade Campus Update

Dr. Algie Gatewood, Cascade Campus President, said the campus' reputation for academic excellence continues to grow along with a strengthening and deepening of bonds with their neighbors. He noted that many Cascade students are performing at very high academic levels. Eli Herr, a Cascade Campus student was recently honored at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Convention as Oregon's New Century Scholar USA Academic All American. Mr. Herr will also be honored on April 18 by Governor Kulongoski as an Oregon community college scholar along with Delinda Martin and other students from each Portland Community College (PCC) campus. These honors included scholarships of \$2,000 and \$1,000. Additionally, Mr. Herr

was recently notified he will receive a full scholarship to Lewis and Clark College. Dr. Gatewood said another student, Genté Traylor, has been crowned Miss Black Oregon USA and she will compete at the national level in Las Vegas, Nevada in June. He noted that faculty and staff are the backbone of the campus in providing opportunities for these and other students to learn and excel. Debbie Covert is a dedicated staff member who recently retired after working at PCC for 40 years. Dr. Gatewood said enrollment at Cascade is steadily increasing with 6% for Winter Term 2008, 5.1% for Spring Term 2008, and had the highest growth increase for FY 2007 of all of the District comprehensive campuses. He believes students choose Cascade Campus in part because it offers a diverse population of faculty, staff, students and neighboring residents creating a rich learning environment. He said this past Winter Term the Mentoring First Generation Students Program was successfully launched to help first generation students be successful. Summer 2008 the Open Doors Program will be launched to help reduce the achievement gap for the largest student at-risk group nation-wide, males of color. Success of these programs will provide the means for students to experience success for generations to come. He reported the Emergency Services Department held an open house that included a simulated roll-over crash with serious injury where Emergency Services students demonstrated skills they learned to deal with this situation. The audience included representatives from the Oregon State Police, the Oregon Disaster Team, the Portland Bureau of Emergency Communications and U.S. Homeland Security. Director Frisbee noted this was an impressive list of events. President Pulliams congratulated Dr. Gatewood on accomplishments that come, in part, from the great support of campus' faculty and staff but also for his leadership in engaging the community that are often written about in the newspapers.

#### Goal 6, Community

Dr. Christine Chairsell, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs reported that Goal 6, Community Development, is the fourth report this year on institutional effectiveness and asked Laura Massey, Director, Institutional Effectiveness, to highlight the report's findings related to PCC's Service Learning Program and the College's economic impact in communities within PCC's district. Ms. Massey said Service Learning is not just about volunteerism but also about the student development and learning that occur as a result of the reflection activities and the in-class assignments that draw from students' community service experience. She noted that last year over 1,400 PCC students participated in a wide variety of service learning projects providing almost 15,000 volunteer hours in areas related to their course work. These projects allow students to see how what they are learning can be turned into a valuable asset for themselves and their community. Ms. Massey then described another important benefit of education, financial gain. Using an elaborate model it was determined that for every credit hour completed, students earn an additional \$94 over their lifetime. It is estimated that current and former PCC students have completed 17.2 million credit and non-credit hours. Using the model this translates to roughly \$1.8 billion in additional income being generated by

students. Other important benefits an educated citizenry provides to the community include: improved health, reduced crime, less unemployment, and fewer welfare claims. Director Williams said he would like this information provided to the public because they need to know about the positive impact the College has on the entire District. President Pulliams agreed, saying he was at a Portland Business Alliance Board meeting with business CEOs and executives who were discussing whether or not to support PCC's Bond Initiative. Their discussion was followed by thirteen spontaneous testimonials from business leaders who spoke about working with PCC in the past. He noted that most often people's perception of PCC comes from how the College has impacted them individually. Dr. Pulliams suggested that the information from this report be incorporated into bond presentations. Dr. Chairsell then recognized Jennifer Alkezweeney, Service Learning Coordinator for mentoring community colleges in Ohio and California and for recently making presentations to the AACC.

#### General Education Development (GED) Update

Dr. Pulliams explained this update is in response to the Board's request for information about the benefits and budget impact of the GED program. His findings indicate that less than 1% of the general fund budget is used for this beneficial program. He then introduced Dr. Christine Chairsell, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs and asked her to provide the update to the Board. Dr. Chairsell said the GED test consists of five subsets: Language Arts/Reading, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts/Writing, and Mathematics. She reported that 23% of the people moving to Oregon do not have a high school diploma and that regardless of the quality of K-12 education there will always be a need for GED. She also said currently 9% of Oregon's young adults have a GED, a very high percentage for that age group. Dr. Chairsell said at PCC 75% of students that prepare for the GED pass all five sections and that these students are also integrated into the adult basic skills program so they are not only being prepared to take GED tests but to be successful in life. Following successful completion of the GED program, including all five tests, PCC offers 12-credit tuition waivers to degree seeking students who have completed 50 hours at PCC with an 85% attendance rate and have met enrollment eligibility. Each year about 125 students use these tuition waivers with most enrolling in core lower division transfer classes that provide them with good writing, reading, and basic mathematics skills that will open doors on their journey through life. She then asked Judy Voth, PCC faculty member to introduce two students who will share stories about how earning a GED has impacted their lives. Ms. Voth introduced Leah Rapoza saying she is a 3.51 GPA student who will graduate this Spring with an AA degree. She then introduced Saara Hirsi who graduated last Spring with a 4.0 in ESOL classes. Director Frisbee welcomed and congratulated both women.

Ms. Rapoza said she attended GED classes in Fall 2003 after being home schooled since kindergarten. She said that without the GED program she wouldn't have gotten a high school diploma or an equivalency and would have

been considered a dropout statistic. She said that although she was apprehensive about attending the classes doing so changed her life in positive ways. Ms. Rapoza said the instructors cared about her education and helped her learn as she strived to succeed. She learned that writing is the most important skill college students can have because all classes, including math require writing skill to succeed. She said that when she began the program she had very low math skills and no writing skills. In the GED program she was able to acquire these skills and now her papers never receive grades lower than "B". In addition to the GED program she worked with a YES counselor who told her about the Gateway to College Program. Staff in the Gateway to College Program helped her realize she has abilities and she will graduate in Spring term with an Associates of Arts degree and her high school diploma. Ms. Rapoza has been accepted into Portland State University for Fall term with plans to earn her Bachelor and then Master's degree in Education and plans to use that education to instill the same enthusiasm for learning in students that PCC staff and faculty instilled in her.

Saara Hirsi came to the United States from Somalia after living almost 11 years in a refugee camp where there were no education opportunities. When she came to the United States her English vocabulary was limited to "yes" and "no". Her education began with ESL classes at PCC followed by the GED program. Completing GED helped her believe in herself and that belief and a lot of hard work helped her know she can succeed and will help her earn a bachelor degree. She said that while in the GED program she did a Service Learning Project for the Right Connection, an organization that teaches people new to the United States how to use public transportation. Her job was to translate for the Somali community. As a result of working on that Service Learning Project she now works as a translator between parents and teachers for the school and the Headstart program.

Director Frisbee and President Pulliams thanked both women for sharing their stories. Dr. Chairsell added that having a successful GED program is one of the key performance measures identified by the Oregon Legislature. She added that many of those completing their GED go on to earn Associate and higher degrees making GED the key that unlocks the door to a more productive and successful future for themselves and their families. She said grant funding allows PCC to provide needed support for student programs such as YES, MAP and others. Two new initiative programs, the First Year Experience and Mandatory Advising, designed to increase retention for at-risk, first term students will soon be in place. She concluded her report by saying PCC believes the GED is only the beginning of a journey for these students who have so much potential for success.

Director Williams complimented the report and reiterated the need for continued interaction with business to assure that the education the College offers produces a workforce with the skills that are needed to compete in world markets. Dr. Chairsell acknowledged his request. Director McGlasson also

complimented the report and noted that her experience as a former school superintendent clearly showed her that traditional education does not always meet high school students' needs and having GED and other programs that offer alternate pathways is important for them. She asked if the College has outreach programs to connect students to GED, where testing sites are located, if there is a competitive nature among institutions offering GED, and if testing sites are easily available throughout the district. Dr. Chairsell replied that GED is offered through other institutions district-wide with testing that is normed to provide consistency but that PCC integrates GED into Adult Basic Education so it builds a culture of organizational skills with the goal of retaining students and encourages them to continue on with their high school or college education. Dr. Chairsell said that with 23% of the incoming district population do not having a high school diploma creates ample need for GED to be offered by both service districts and community colleges without being competitive. Director Frisbee said she too appreciated the report and looks forward to hearing more about the two new initiatives designed to increase student retention for new, at-risk students. She also noted that she agrees with Director Williams that there is a need for the College to continue working with business partners to assure the College is providing training that is truly needed for the workforce.

#### Issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Wing-Kit Chung, Vice President, Administrative Services, said if the Board approves Resolution 08-080 it will give President Pulliams authority to refinance outstanding debt on the 1997 bond sale because current reductions in interest rates make doing so a prudent financial option for the College as well as tax payers. In the past ten years Mr. Chung said bonds have been refinanced three or four times and to do so now will save tax payers about four percentage points in interest the College pays on the bonds. Cherie Chevalier, Associate Vice President, Finance said if the Board approves Resolution 08-080 the College's financial advisors will work with a variety of groups to put together a preliminary official statement, distribute that for bids; then on May 13 bids will be opened and assuming interest rates are still good the closing of the bonds would take place on May 29 and refunded on July 1.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Director McGlasson proposed approval of Resolutions 08-076 through 08-081. The motion passed unanimously.

### *Other Reports:*

Michael Dembrow, Faculty Federation President, expressed his pleasure that Norma Jean and Henry Germond are being recognized for their longstanding service to the College. He noted that Ms. Germond has worked tirelessly through challenging as well as good times. He also remembered that from the beginning of her service as a Board member Ms. Germond was not only a great PCC Board member but also a State and National leader for community college issues and a valuable friend to faculty, staff, and students.

Eli Herr, ASPCC Student Representative said some of the things that have been said about the value of GED are clearly illustrated to him. Each year two or three ASPCC student leaders come to PCC from the GED program including the 2007-2008 Cascade Campus Phi Theta Kappa President and that many of these students go on to become community leaders outside the College. Mr. Herr said that the district-wide ASPCC has not reached consensus on supporting the College's bond initiative but will do so when they receive requested information. He said each campus ASPCC will participate in Earth Week. He noted the recent club fairs at each campus were successful and have created increased student participation in the clubs. In partnership with the Oregon Students of Color Coalition, ASPCC is conducting the Register, Educate, Vote campaign. He concluded his report saying the selection process for next year's student government is underway and a smooth transition is expected.

### *Board Reports:*

#### *District President Report:*

President Pulliams noted that contributions to the PCC Foundation are nearing \$1 million for 2007-2008. He also mentioned the *Oregonian* editorial that urged making campuses tobacco-free and said the topic is being addressed and a workable solution sought through recommendations from campus presidents, the EAC, and others district-wide. He also noted the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) is seeking Board endorsement for the smoking policy statement that has been provided to Board members. Dr. Pulliams announced a new Welding Program has been launched at Southeast Center and concluded his report by announcing that Governor Kulongoski has appointed him to the Board of Higher Education for another year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next business meeting of the Portland Community College Board of Directors will be held on May 15, 2008 at 7:30 PM in Board's Conference Room at the Sylvania Campus.

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Jim Harper, Board Chair  
President

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Dr. Preston Pulliams, District

Prepared by:

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Lorna J. O'Guinn  
Assistant to Board of Directors

Minutes approved on May 15, 2008