

PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PO BOX 19000 - Portland, OR 97280

SPECIAL SESSION

December 20, 2016
Sylvania Campus
12000 SW 49th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Denise Frisbee, Deanna Palm, Vice Chair Kali Thorne-Ladd, Michael Sonnleitner and Molly Walker

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Thorne-Ladd called the business meeting to order at 9:37 am.

INFORMATION SESSION

Sanctuary Campus—Mark Mitsui

President Mitsui presented a proposal for consideration by the Board of Directors to designate Portland Community College as a sanctuary campus. The proposal was read by the President and discussed by the Board Members. Vice Chair Thorne-Ladd thanked folks for their hard work on this topic. She also noted the board had heard from many students and wanted to be responsive to their demands, therefore she called for the Special Session to address the topic. Molly Walker noted there were differences in the demand from the students and what is being proposed.

The proposal read as follows:

During the last several weeks, many members of the PCC community have expressed concern about the impact of potential changes in federal immigration policy for the college's undocumented and documented immigrant students—and about potential changes in federal laws and policies that protect individuals from discrimination and harassment. While it is difficult to predict future federal policy changes or effects, it will always be imperative that every member of our PCC community feels safe and welcomed. It is also critical that we take this moment to affirm a fundamental obligation to support all students and safeguard their privacy rights. At the heart of Portland Community College is a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. These values are essential to the college's mission, to our accreditation themes, to the Board's goals and objectives, and to the college's strategic plan. Indeed, one key intention within PCC's strategic plan is to "create a nationally renowned culture for diversity, equity and inclusion.

In keeping with these values, I submit this proposal to the Portland Community College Board of Directors to apply the term "sanctuary college" to PCC. For the purposes of this proposal, the use of this phrase means the following:

- 1) PCC will continue to uphold our legal obligation to protect the privacy rights of all students by observing the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). We will not release non-directory student information unless legally compelled to do so and will continue to offer FERPA workshops to students to increase awareness of their rights under this law.
 - 2) PCC public safety officers do not and will not enforce federal immigration laws as they do not have the legal authority to enforce such laws. Instead, they will remain committed to working to make PCC safe for all.
 - 3) PCC will continue to engage the federal delegation representing the Portland region and Oregon state as well as federal and state agencies such as the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the Oregon President's Council, the Oregon Community College Association, and national associations on these key issues.
 - 4) PCC provides in-state tuition rates to all students who otherwise satisfy PCC's residency guidelines.
 - 5) The PCC Foundation seeks to assure that all students in our region have access to an excellent education at PCC regardless of their ability to pay. Foundation staff will speak to and work with donors interested in providing philanthropic support for the PCC DREAMers Scholarship for first generation, low income students who are ineligible to apply for federal financial aid.
 - 6) PCC will work with appropriate community partners to foster access to support services for undocumented immigrant students.
 - 7) PCC will continue to sponsor events, workshops and listening sessions to connect students to the resources and information they need. We will also research the feasibility of establishing resource centers, offices or sites for undocumented students. PCC will redirect resources to the Office of Equity and Inclusion to increase the capacity of this office to expand its diversity, equity and inclusion training programs for PCC employees and students. Departments, councils and student groups will also continue to offer a variety of learning opportunities.
- PCC will continue to build the college's capacity for respectful and challenging dialogue across differences.

While it is important and responsible to acknowledge that the term "sanctuary college" has no legal status and does not confer legal protection to students or their families, it nonetheless offers a powerful statement of support to some of our most vulnerable students and their families at this time of uncertainty. It is also important to note, however, that PCC strives to be a catalyst for change and hope for our entire student body—a place that values dialogue, civic engagement and learning. By taking the steps outlined above and

by enhancing pathways for equitable success across the college, we hope to help all students meet their full potential. This is the promise of educational access and opportunity that defines Portland Community College—now and always.

Respectfully submitted with a recommendation for approval: Mark Mitsui

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Sanctuary Campus: Rylie Wolff (read by Molly Walker)

BUSINESS MEETING

Deanna Palm made a motion to accept the proposal from President Mitsui to designate PCC as a Sanctuary Campus. Michael Sonnleitner seconded the proposal. All board members present were in favor of the proposal.

Vice Chair Thorne-Ladd proposed approval of Resolutions 17-057. Palm/Frisbee

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.


Kali Thorne-Ladd, Vice Chair


Mark Mitsui, College President

Prepared by:

Jeannie Moton, Executive Coordinator

Minutes approved on January 19, 2017.