

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Equity Committee
(Joint Meeting with Student Senate)**

Minutes of April 22, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT	Yolanda Johnson, Chair Trustee Gi Robert W. Gilbert, Jr. Suzanne Parker
MEMBERS ABSENT	Charles Epstein
ALSO PRESENT	Christina Royal, Karen Desjeans, Olivia Kynard, and Clara Elliott, and ten students from the Student Senate
	The Board Equity Committee was invited to join the Student Senate Meeting for a discussion centered around equity. The meeting started at 2:34 pm and was conducted remotely via Zoom. Chair Gilbert joined at 2:42 pm
	<p>Students shared their work this year, which included supporting the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee’s proposal for a new Vice President position; forming an Adult Learner’s Club; forming a Child Watch Sub-Committee; and focused efforts on digital equity.</p> <p>The Committee shared their appreciation of these activities and the commitment of these efforts. There was further discussion around students who need resources and connecting them to these important resources.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Board Equity Committee meet with the Student Senate once or twice a semester. The Student Senate also provided the Board Equity Committee the following Commitment to Diversity Statement and asked for feedback.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HCC Student Senate Commitment to Diversity - DRAFT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The HCC Student Senate stands together against systemic racism, bigotry, and hatred of any kind. We recognize that traditionally underrepresented groups such as Black, Indigenous, People of Color, women, formerly incarcerated people, people with differing abilities and members of the LGBTQIA+ community have been continually affected by social injustice, institutional racism, and a systemic disregard for life and humanity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We commit to align with HCC’s initiative towards a Culturally Responsive Pedagogy to increase equity, inclusivity, and positive representation. As elected</p>

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	<p>representatives for the student voice, this includes adequate representation on the Student Senate based on the demographics of the student body. We commit to actively recruiting students of diverse backgrounds by reaching out to campus identity and affinity groups and working with faculty and staff to promote the Student Senate and encourage student government engagement.</p> <p>We commit to encouraging linguistic diversity and accommodating students of different language backgrounds.</p> <p>We commit to anti-racism work and to educating ourselves about our biases. We acknowledge the intersectionality of identities and the compounding of oppression faced by each identity. By featuring underrepresented groups and celebrating the variety of our identities regularly at Senate meetings we will empower and validate students with marginalized identities. We also recognize that celebrating diversity drives students of non-marginalized identities to acknowledge their privileges and have an equitably comprehensive view of the world.</p> <p>We commit to including trauma-informed practices, frequent feedback, and other strategies in order to promote equity. This includes offering various ways of taking student feedback to better represent the voice of the student body as to share the privilege of power that comes with being a Senator.</p> <p>We commit to continually support Black, indigenous and people of color, and other marginalized students by standing in solidarity with them against injustice and racism. We recognize the inequities within our community and our Student Senate, which we are committed to continually learning about and rectifying.</p> <p>We commit to proactively check on students of marginalized identities to request feedback and foster a safe environment conducive to offering feedback. We acknowledge that feedback isn't a personal attack, but an opportunity for insight, and that privileged identities often prevent open and healthy dialogue about oppression.</p> <p>We commit to upholding the ideas in this statement to promote an inclusive environment for all students.</p>
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Desjeans,
Board Liaison to Chair Johnson