



ACTION

MT. HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE: *March 17, 2021*

ITEM TITLE: 4.1c

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

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 28, 2021

Session 1025

A meeting of the Mt. Hood Community College District Board of Education was held on January 28, 2021, with a Student Town Hall with the Board at 4:00 pm held via a Zoom meeting.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

Additional Attendees: Lisa Skari, John Hamblin, Amber High, Doctor Ayeliya, Felisha Brewer, Rozina Lethe, Nicole Johnson-Moses, Sarah McDonald, Truc-Lan Le, Bakr Alkarawi, Jirehla Dushime, Kelly Moua, Kenia Perez-Correa, Thao Pham, Thomas Silk, Val Johnhowd, Randall Chapman, Lisa George, Mary O’Dea, Brad Le, Daniella Young, Emily Pham Lee, Lily Liu, Chris Barney

Noriega called the student town hall to order at 4:07 p.m.

2.0 STUDENT TOWN HALL WITH THE BOARD

Diane Noriega introduced board members and welcomed everyone to the student town hall. Nicole Johnson-Moses welcomed students and shared the dates of several upcoming student events and activities. Board members engaged with students in a discussion to hear about their experiences at Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC). Students provided comments to the following questions:

- 1) What do you see as Mt. Hood Community College’s biggest selling point to students, and what brought you to MHCC?
 - That it was okay to explore other options while continuing their education
 - The amount of available support at MHCC



- The tuition is more affordable than the university
 - The diversity at MHCC and that it is very inclusive
 - The many resources available to students
 - The diverse and original programs at MHCC that are not offered at other community colleges and universities (i.e. Broadcasting)
 - The second language aspects of the college
 - The Black Rock Coffee Bar on campus
 - The GED and Student Success programs
 - It is a tight and welcoming and empowering community
 - The support and encouragement from the MHCC community to push you higher
 - The student advisors were very responsive, supportive, and welcoming
 - The services and classes are on one campus
 - The variety of unique backgrounds that come to MHCC
 - The Mechatronics program at MHCC
- 2) Are you aware of college efforts to become a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization? Do you have recommendations in this area?
- MHCC is a very welcoming place. They do a good job trying to accommodate and reach out to give a platform to all people
 - MHCC has a variety of activities and events for students to interact with each other, which helps in getting to know the college community
 - Appreciates MHCC for the affordable price, which provides an opportunity to work at a job and come to MHCC to get a great education
 - Make scheduling and class structures more flexible. It is difficult for students who are parents, working at a job, or juggling many things when it is less flexible
 - Accessibility. College student homelessness is a big problem, especially during the pandemic, and the need to make sure education is accessible for everyone
- 3) MHCC has a variety of student basic needs resources. What resources are you aware of and how have they helped you?
- The GED and Student Success programs are helping students. The ARCS (*Affordable Rent for College Students*) program is helping college student homelessness

There was a discussion about college student homelessness, and a student asked a question about what state and federal agencies are doing to address the issue. Skari shared that MHCC Foundation donors are helping raise funds for student needs, and the college is working to align with community organizations who can provide assistance with student homelessness. Noriega shared that she will represent these issues to legislators at both the state and federal levels, as she is a board representative to the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) and a board member of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Mattson shared that MHCC and most of the community colleges in Oregon participated in the RealCollege Survey, which



evaluates food and/or housing insecurity among college students, and stated this is an issue not only in Oregon, but also across the nation.

A student submitted the following question: In the future, will on-site classes have a smaller number of students due to social distancing requirements? If so, how will that affect the price for each class we take? Will you be hiring more instructors for the demand of students coming in, in addition to those already enrolled and attending MHCC?

Skari stated the college works to hire instructors to meet the demand of courses, and approximately 15% of our courses are in-person. We will continue to maintain the Oregon Health Authority guidelines, and will keep the student count to meet the guidelines. As conditions start to change, we will continue to follow the guidelines from the Oregon Health Authority as we open up and bring people back to campus.

Lewis asked if students were aware of how to contact the board if they have additional questions, and Hamblin provided a brief overview of the board website and where to find board member email addresses.

Board members thanked students for participating in the student town hall and for sharing their comments with the board.

3.0 ADJOURNMENT

The student town hall was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Clerk

Board Chair

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