

**MEETING OF THE  
MINORITY MALE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**October 10, 2013**

**Minutes**

The Minority Male Initiative Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston Community College held a meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at the HCC Administration Building, 3100 Main, 2nd Floor, Seminar Room A, Houston, Texas.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Carroll G. Robinson, *Committee Chair*  
Eva Loreda, *Committee Member*  
Bruce Austin, *Alternate Committee Member*  
Sandie Mullins

**ADMINISTRATION**

Renee Byas, Acting Chancellor  
Destinee Waiters, Acting General Counsel  
Shantay Grays, Executive Officer to the Chancellor  
William Carter, Vice Chancellor, Information Technology  
Charles Cook, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs  
Thomas Estes, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Planning  
Diana Pino, Vice Chancellor, Student Success  
Margaret Ford Fisher, President, Northeast College  
Cheryl Peters for William Harmon, President, Central College  
Zachary Hodges, President, Northwest College  
Irene Porcarello, President, Southeast College  
Betty Young, President, Coleman College  
Janet May, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Remmele Young, Associate Vice Chancellor, Governmental and External Affairs

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Amanda Edwards, System Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani  
Michelle Novak, President, Faculty Senate  
Ava Cosey, President, COPA  
Other administrators, citizens and representatives from the news media

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Robinson, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.m. and declared the Committee convened to consider matters pertaining to Houston Community College as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

### **HCC MALE STUDENT SUCCESS: RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES**

Dr. Diana Pino provided an overview of the male student success to include a review of the following:

- Fall-to-Fall Persistence by Ethnicity of Achieving the Dream (AtD) Male Student Cohorts
- Male 4-Year Completion Rate Trends by Ethnicity for AtD Cohorts

Dr. Pino informed that one of the efforts to assist with increasing the numbers is to provide professional development for the academic advisors. She noted that staff development for faculty will also be discussed with Dr. Cook.

Dr. Pino apprised that the data presented reflects a review cohort over a four-year period.

Ms. Mullins inquired of efforts to make certain information is obtained on the front-end to gather the student's degree plan. Dr. Cook informed that there has been a discussion to provide students with a path plan upon entrance into HCC.

Dr. Pino noted that all students will be assigned to an advisor who will track the students from admission.

Mr. Robinson inquired of the diversity of the cohorts. Dr. Cook apprised that there are more diverse cohorts entering and noted that there is a decrease regarding educational development courses. Dr. Pino noted that programs need to be packaged for students who may not be eligible for development programs.

Dr. Cook informed that high school dashboard information was provided to area superintendents.

Mr. Robinson expressed appreciation for the dashboard. Dr. Martha Oburn apprised that the initiative was developed with one of the independent school districts (ISDs). She noted that there is very little data that is obtainable for incoming students because high schools grade point averages (GPAs) are not available to community college as is to four year institutions.

Mr. Robinson inquired why it is not a requirement for students to provide their transcript when enrolling. He inquired if the dashboard shows the areas that students are coming from that have math or development issues. He noted that review of the data will provide an avenue to work with those entities while the students are still in high school. Dr. Cook informed that this has been a discussion with the Gulf Coast Paths.

Ms. Loreda apprised that once the dashboard is provided, there has to be options available to provide an alternative to those schools. She noted that the issue of development education is a national issue. She informed that there has been a discussion regarding the need for more advisors to guide the students throughout the entire process such as admission, financial assistance, and academics, etc.

Mrs. Byas apprised that the issue of having academic advisors available has been noted and she informed that positions will be posted regarding advisors.

Mr. Austin informed that he provided information previously and inquired of the efforts to connect to Single Stop. Dr. Pino apprised that contact has been made with Single Stop USA. She noted that a state representative was also contacted regarding community partners.

Mr. Austin recommended that contact is made with the president of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) and the United Way. He inquired to what extent has the government relation consults been asked to connect with the Department of Education to research grant opportunities to link high schools with community colleges as it relates to math.

Mrs. Byas informed that the efforts will be reviewed.

Mr. Robinson associated with Mr. Austin regarding having the federal relations team and inquired of the efforts to utilizing technology to assist students and possible partnering opportunity. He apprised that the effort to earmark funding for Fund 5 and noted that the Foundation and communication departments increased efforts of informing the community of the programs available.

Mr. Robinson noted that agenda items B and C would be combined.

**MINORITY MALE INITIATIVE SUMMER STEM ACADEMY/MINORITY MALE PARTICIPATION IN HCC WORKFORCE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS**

Mr. Robinson informed that he is supportive of Project Grad. Mrs. Byas apprised that there has been a discussion and there will not be a fee. She also noted that the communications department and the Foundation are working to get the information out regarding the various programs.

Dr. Pino provided a video STEM Summer Academy and an overview of the STEM Academies participation.

Ms. Loreda noted that the two chosen schools were charter schools and noted that it was more cost effective.

Mrs. Byas informed that one of the goals is to survey the students to track the students.

Mr. Robinson apprised that a way must be identified to pull all the efforts together to weave all the pieces into a seamless track from middle school through college.

Mr. Austin noted the comments by Dr. Pino that the schools that participated in the STEM Academy were not feeder schools and inquired of the measure needed to transition to core math and reading schools.

Dr. Ford Fisher informed that there has been a direct relationship regarding students who participated in the STEM Academy. She apprised that students were able to identify a pathway and progression of students from middle school to high school to college.

Dr. Hodges informed that House Bill 5 (HB5) requires school districts to have a higher education partner, which will provide an opportunity for HCC to be recognized as a partner with ISDs. He apprised that HB5 will assist in development of the pathway.

Mr. Robinson noted that there would be fewer students moving from the service area and recommended asking Houston Endowment to grant HCC authority to obtain information to track students to assist with empowering high schools in the service area.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

*Recorded, transcribed and submitted by:*  
Sharon R. Wright, Manager, Board Services

Minutes Approved: November 21, 2013