

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Steve Hill, Chair

DATE: June 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Board Statement on Black Lives Matter

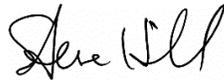
Background

With support from Chancellor Pan, Vice Chair Peralta and I drafted the attached statement from the Trustees on Black Lives Matter.

Recommended Action

The Board consider and approve this Statement.

Submitted by and transmitted to the Board with a favorable recommendation,



Steve Hill
Chair, Seattle College Board of Trustees

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Statement of Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees

June 24th 2020

We, as Trustees of Seattle Colleges, recognize that Black people are the targets of disproportionate number of police stops, arrests, detention, incarceration and killings. Given the mission of the Seattle Colleges, we are compelled to act in solidarity with those who are targets of this violence. Seattle Colleges stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matters movement and the protests that are occurring around the World.

Black Lives Matter is an important movement to address the state sanctioned violence and systemic racism against Black people in America. Seattle Colleges supports the fight against racism and the system of white supremacy in policing, criminal justice, housing, economic opportunity, health and education. This starts with standing-up to defend the basic human rights of our Black students, faculty, and staff to ensure a just learning and working environment. This requires that we listen, learn, and act.

Seattle Colleges has provided educational opportunities for students who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color for over 50 years. While we are proud of these accomplishments, Seattle Colleges can do more to improve access, completion, and student success for Black students. . This will require stepping-up efforts for equity and inclusion across all of our Colleges. Further, Seattle Colleges commits to do more in partnership with the City, School District, and other partners to take down the barriers to success for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

We are heartened by the engagement of students, staff, and faculty in speaking-out about the need for change. We hear the imperative to change the make-up of faculty and staff to better reflect the demographics of our students, to require anti-racism instruction, and to improve the rates of completion and success by students of color. We understand that as long as anti-Blackness exists in our communities, it is up to all of us to fight and push back.

We are asking the Chancellor and members of the Executive Cabinet to effect meaningful changes across the Seattle Colleges. We expect the current Strategic Plan and operational plans to be revised with increased emphasis on student success for Black, Indigenous and People of Color and improving equity and inclusion. We understand the current challenges of COVID and budget reductions create both impediments and opportunities for change. In our role of reviewing policy, approving budgets, and reinforcing accountability, we, as Trustees, will be expecting improvement in removing barriers for our diverse mix of students. We also must be stronger advocates for adequate funding, including asking difficult questions – is the decades long underfunding of Community and Technical Colleges because of the high percentage of students of color enrolled in these institutions?

Our nation is dealing with a 400-year legacy of racism; now is the time to change the course of history. We are at a juncture; the injustice done to Black Americans must be confronted and stopped by breaking-down systems of racism. Seattle Colleges will be a leader in this dismantling.

Teresita Batayola Louise Chernin Steve Hill Rosa Peralta Robert Williams

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Shouan Pan, Chancellor

DATE: June 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Revised Board Resolution

Background

Seattle Colleges embraces equity, diversity, inclusion and community among our core values and strategic goals. During this time of a global pandemic, and increasing reports of aggression against Asian peoples in this country and elsewhere, we want to affirm our commitments and express our support for students and employees from the Asian, African American and other communities of color by adopting a Resolution Condemning All Forms of Anti-Asian Sentiment as Related to COVID-19. The Board of Trustees adopted the Resolution in principle at their meeting on June 11 but discussed making some revisions. The revised Resolution is attached.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees accept this Resolution as Information.

Submitted by and transmitted to the Board with a favorable recommendation,



Dr. Shouan Pan
Chancellor

Resolution of the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees
Condemns Racialized Impact of COVID-19
on Asian, African American, and All Underrepresented Populations

WHEREAS, Seattle Colleges is a higher education community made up of diverse students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

WHEREAS, there are over 130 Asian American, Native American Pacific Islander-designated colleges and universities across the United States;

WHEREAS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander population is more heterogeneous than any other racial group in the U.S., with more than 48 ethnicities, over 300 spoken languages, various socioeconomic statuses, immigration histories, cultures, and religions;

WHEREAS, We are disturbed and alarmed by the senseless and frequent incidents of xenophobia, aggression, and racially motivated harassment and hate crimes against Asians and the Asian Pacific Islander Communities on college campuses and throughout the country since COVID-19 outbreak;

WHEREAS, National data have shown that people of color, especially African Americans and indigenous Americans face unequal access to health care and have shorter life expectancies. Further, underrepresented Americans, African Americans, in particular, are contracting and dying of COVID-19 at a much higher rate.

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Seattle Colleges has valued and honored the rich diversity among the faculty, staff, and the immigrant and international student populations, including their rich cultural traditions, political and economic contributions;

WHEREAS, Diversity, Inclusion, and Community is one of Seattle Colleges' strategic goals and one of our core values;

WHEREAS, Recent insensitive and irresponsible association of COVID-19 with Chinese or Asian communities has served to inflame racism and incite xenophobia locally and globally;

THEREFORE, BE IT Resolved, the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees hereby denounces racialized inequality in America's healthcare system; condemns all forms of racism against Asians, Asian Americans, African Americans and indigenous Americans and other communities of color; joins communities, cities, counties, and states across the country in condemning acts of aggression and hate crimes targeting communities of color; urges students, employees, and community partners to interrupt instances of racisms and intolerance by reporting such behavior to college and district Human Resources Directors and to the Washington State Human Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

Affirmed and adopted by Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees on this 11th day of June, 2020.