

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Christopher M. Reber, Ph. D.



April 30, 2020

Dear HCCC Colleagues,

I hope you are staying safe and healthy, and I miss you greatly! For all those who have lost friends and loved ones during the pandemic, we are keeping you and your families in our thoughts and prayers. Moreover, we are here for you! Please reach out to me, or others, if we can be helpful in any way.

To all who are helping our students and our community in so many kind and generous ways, thank you on behalf of all members of the HCCC family! I remain deeply inspired as I observe how our community has come together at this time of great challenge.

I write today with a few updates. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Reentry Planning Task Force

I have appointed a task force to consider the implications of a gradual return to on-the-ground instruction and operations. The task force will offer planning recommendations so that we are ready to begin a return to our campuses when health care and government leaders conclude it is safe to do so. Vice President Lisa Dougherty and Assistant Dean Heather DeVries will co-chair the task force. They are currently inviting community members to participate.

Upcoming Change in Adjunct and Overload Pay Schedules

From time to time, some of you have expressed concern to me about the payment schedule for adjunct faculty, and those faculty who are teaching overloads. I am pleased to share that our Offices of Human Resources, Payroll, and Information Technology have developed a new process that will include a first payment earlier in the semester than has been past practice, and subsequent payments on a semi-monthly basis, mirroring the full- and part-time employee pay schedule. For example, starting this summer there will be three payments during the term rather than a single payment at the end of the term for adjunct faculty and those receiving overload pay. Please note that there is no change to the full- and part-time salary schedule. Should you have any questions, please contact Vice President for Human Resources Anna Krupitskiy.

Academic Tower Planning Update

As you are aware, many members of our community have been engaged over the last few years in the development of our plans for a new Academic Tower that is part of our facilities master plan. The Tower project is exceedingly important to our vision for expanding student enrollment, services, academic and student life programs, and to enhancing the overall quality of the academic experience for students.

As part of the planning process, HCCC recently contracted with Jersey City Redevelopment Authority (JCRA) to market our properties at 162-168 Sip Avenue and 70 Sip Avenue, the eventual sale of which will provide funding for the future Tower. The primary purpose of this part of the process has been to measure interest and the value of these existing sites, whose offices and functions will be relocated after the eventual construction of the new Tower.

JCRA has done excellent work in marketing the sites. As recently reported in some local news, Ironstate Development's Urby concept for the 168 Sip property was determined to provide significant value to the College and community, and JCRA has begun a discussion with Ironstate regarding their possible purchase of this facility and future development of the site. We anticipate this discussion will continue for at least the next year and possibly longer.

As has become our practice at HCCC, we will host opportunities for community input as this exploratory work continues. We are committed to assuring that not only our HCCC community, but also our Journal Square neighbors, are able to engage with us in this planning. Again, this is just the beginning of this stage of our planning process but I wanted you to be informed. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Nicholas Chiaravalloti or me.

Colleagues, please stay safe and healthy, and please let me know if I can be helpful to you in any way. I look forward to seeing you again as soon as it is safe to do so.

With sincere respect and gratitude,

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Reber
President