

Docket Item:

Presentation and Discussion with Louise Seamster: “Wealth Inequalities and Student Debt.”

Summary:

Louise Seamster is an Assistant Professor in Sociology and Criminology and African American Studies at the University of Iowa (with a courtesy appointment in the College of Law), and a Nonresident Fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution.

At the invitation of HECC, on May 19th Dr. Seamster presented to the Legislative Task Force on Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (HB 2590) on the relationship between postsecondary unaffordability, student debt, and intergenerational wealth disparities. Her research particularly highlights the contribution that student debt makes to exacerbating racial wealth inequality in the US.

For this HECC agenda item, Commissioners will view Dr. Seamster’s presentation to the HB 2590 Task Force. This will be followed by a live question and answer session for Commissioners (via videoconference) with Dr. Seamster.

Material:

Commissioners will view a recording of Dr. Seamster’s recent presentation (available online [here](#)). Presentation [slide deck](#).

Staff Recommendation:

For information and discussion only. No action is required at this time.