

Montgomery College Governance

Academic Services Council

8 November 2018

CF 143, TP/SS

2:00 p.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

Attendees

Members Present: Joel Levine, Kim Murphy, Carol Burbage, Debra Bright, Arthur Katz, Samantha Streamer Veneruso, Greg Wahl, Elizabeth Schlackman, Adora Nwigwe, Amivi Atsu, Monique Davis

Guests Present: Hamrawit Tesfa (Community Engagement Specialist), Stephanie Gallo Krasnoff (Marketing Specialist, Social Media Presentation), Gloria Brewer (Staff Council Liaison), Cyndi Hawley (Graduate RN Student), Denise Simmons Graves (Core Team Co-Chair for Achieving the Dream, presenter),

Members Absent: Monique Davis, Benjamin Davis

Call to Order

Chair, Joel Levine, called the meeting to order at 2:00

Introductions

Nancy Nyland—new ASC member replacing Cathy Henley

Hamrawit Tesfa (Community Engagement Specialist), Stephanie Gallo Krasnoff (Marketing Specialist, presenter), Gloria Brewer (Staff Council Liaison), Denise Simmons Graves (Core Team Co-Chair for Achieving the Dream, presenter),

Chair Report

- Final draft of the Academic Services Goal Plan for 2018-2019 was handed out. It still needs to get final approval from the College Council.
- ASC Liaison document handed out—explains what a liaison's purpose is and what types of questions the liaison can ask.
- Need liaison for Advising and Counseling, Bridging WD and CE Program Support, and Support Opportunities to engage students. Joel will appoint people if no one volunteers
- Samantha Veneruso volunteered to be the liaison for Achieving the Dream

Presentation by Hamrawit Tesfa-- Community Engagement Specialist

Works with immigrant students to create a culturally oriented environment to help them be successful and works with faculty to help them understand how other cultures approach education.

Advancement and Community Engagement (ACE) is looking for ways to help immigrant students successfully transition into credit-level courses.

Concerns: students are giving up before they get to credit courses because they feel overwhelmed. The students feel that the Accuplacer is unpredictable and that there is no way to prepare for the test.

ACE has suggestions for the ASC to recommend to the College Council:

1. Prepare students for ESL Accuplacer so they know what to expect on the test.
2. Have counselors or tutors that speak a language that is representative of a large community of our student population so that immigrant students can feel more comfortable and not so overwhelmed.

Open Comment Time

Other Constituent concerns: See attachments: 1. Pending referral by Student Council to address the issue of counselors' giving students inaccurate information about which courses are required for the students' majors. 2. Employee suggestion to provide a full-day orientation to Ethiopian students that includes an MC staff member who speaks Amharic.

Approval of October 11, 2018 Minutes

Two typos: Fourth bullet down on page 1 add *to* after *link*

2020 should be 2025

Minutes approved with amendments

Presentation on Social Media by Stephanie Gallo Krasnoff, Marketing Specialist, MC Office of Communications

- The College reaches out to students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the community through social media platforms, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter
- Social Media is a way for the college to get general information, branding messaging, and college events out to the proper audiences.
- Instagram reaches students; Facebook reaches the community, students, faculty, and alumni; LinkedIn reaches alumni and staff and people who want to work at MC; Twitter reaches staff, community, and faculty.
- Stephanie would like people to send her things so that she doesn't have to hunt for information.
- MC Office of Communications just did a campaign to name the Raptor, which helped the College gain more followers.

Presentation on the Efforts of Achieving the Dream by Denise Simmons Graves, Counselor and Co-chair of Achieving the Dream

Achieving the Dream has four goals to enhance students' experience:

1. Comprehensive scheduling for student success—what is best for students vs. what is desired by faculty
2. Comprehensive advising—reduce situations where students are misguided about what courses to take
3. Starting Smart—Streamline enrollment process
4. Guided Pathways—Align students' career goals with curriculum

President's Advisory committee of Equity and Inclusion Goal:

To have a more civil institution where all faculty and staff are more considerate of all its constituents

New Business

2025 Initiative—Adora Nwigwe

Strategic Planning Committee report —See attached overview of strategic plan

Carol Burbage has successfully added a review weekend for final exams to be offered 12/8 and 12/9: The Raptor Cram Jam

Meeting adjourned at 3:28pm



Attachment 1 - Pending Student Council Referral

Hello my name is Jose Fabian and Ive been going to mc for a couple years, longer then i would like. And that is simply because my very first semester i spoke to a counselor at MC in Takoma Park and sadly I was new to the college world so I depended greatly on the information fed to me by the counselors. When I spoke to the counselor I explained i would want to transfer to UMD at the end of my 2 years. Instead come to find out she gave a totally seperate guideline of classes to take that are completely irrelevant to my ultimate goal. And it wasnt until I finish my first full year full time that I realized I wasted alot of money and time, especially since I payed out-of-county price. I went back the following year spoke to a different counselor and was advised that im following the wrong format. And I was and still am highly upset at the counselors there because as students fresh out of high school, some of us know and some of us dont know the college system. In many cases students rely on the information of counselors and advisors to help us reach our goal. When these people fail us we lose money and time, and time especially is something we can NEVER get back. And that is my greatest regret.

My vision is that Montgomery College would provide an intensive (whole day) introduction to the college. The day would begin with a teambuilding activity to incorporate motivation into the introduction to the college. The potential students would meet and greet their future professors, MC staff who also speaks Amharic to be invited. The orientation would entail an introduction to resources available through MC (library, writing & math center) and so much more. There would also be a section on the ESL Accuplacer and specify how they may register. Prospective students who need help filing the FAFSA would receive assistance on that day. Lastly, raffles: t-shirts, mugs, things MC related so they'll feel welcomed and appreciated.

It would be great if Montgomery College would offer 1 or 2 majors (Business & Psychology (Mental Health) which target the Ethiopian community. Ideally, the students would receive instruction in Amharic from professionals who have field experience, while also taking English classes so they would be able to achieve a degree through Montgomery College. It would be amazing if a partnership with a 4-year institution could happen in order for them to complete a bachelor's degree. I was also thinking if various USG partners would incorporate the program for a path to baccalaureate it would be helpful for increased enrollment at both institutions.

In addition, a component of the program would include mentoring and internship opportunities with various local businesses. This would be part of Dr. Pollard's plan of radical inclusion. It would showcase ingenuity by a community college to be inclusive of underserved communities.