

MC GOVERNANCE

Montgomery College
College Council Meeting #12
Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Zoom

Attendees

Present: Shakenna Adams-Gormley (Chair), Dr. Paul Miller (Vice-chair), Tilandra Rhyne (Secretary), Amanda Darr, Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond, Dr. Christine Crefton, Katie Goldstein, Nghi Nguyen, Ernest Cartledge, Matt Wilson, Brenda Knopp, Jefferson Vasquez Reyes

Absent: Christine Crefton, Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes

Proxy: Tonya Addleman for Christine Crefton, Tilandra Rhyne for Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes

Guests: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Dr. Meghan Gibbons, Dr. Michelle Scott, Dr. Debbie Van Camp, Dr. Michelle Campbell, Dr. Deidre Price, Carolyn Terry, Angie Moy, Kimberly Jones, Jo Trawick, Amy Villavicencio, Kristoffer Velas, Ryan Mills, Ashlyn Medina, Nina Mrkoci, Ismael Komara, Gloria Barron, Kellon Bubb, Donyell Harris, Miriam Burstein, Manoela Barretto, Kanyce Turner, Michelle Pagan

Liaison: Dr. Stephen D. Cain

Governance Director: Dr. Clevette Ridguard

Call to Order

There was a quorum to conduct business. Shakenna Adams-Gormley (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond made a motion to approve the minutes for March 26, 2024, as written, and Dr. Paul Miller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written. Dr. Paul Miller made a motion to approve the amended minutes for February 27, 2024, with correction, and Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond seconded the motion. The agenda for April 9, 2024, was approved as written.

Constituent Concerns

Student, Donyell Harris brought forth two constituent concerns:

- The first concern raised is about the lack of a notification system for students when a professor they registered for drops or leaves the class. This absence of information can lead to students being unaware of changes in teaching staff, potentially affecting their academic experience and leading to a mismatch between their preferred teaching styles and the new instructor's approach. The concern has been raised multiple times with administration and the Student Government Association but requires further research and action.
- The second concern pertains to the need for a dedicated student lounge at Montgomery College. Currently, students lack a designated space to gather and relax between classes, resulting in disruptions in areas such as lecture halls and faculty offices. The concern aims to address this issue by providing a separate space for students, potentially improving campus atmosphere and reducing disturbances. While a solution may not be immediate, there is a desire to initiate the process and work towards establishing a student lounge.

Chair's Report (*Shakenna Adams-Gormley, College Council Chair*)

Shakenna Adams - Gormley presented a PowerPoint presentation of the upcoming college events and important dates. To view the details of the report please visit the Governance Blackboard community.

Student and Faculty Discussion: AI Best Practices (*Tilandra Rhyne, College Council Secretary*)

Panel participants were asked two primary questions:

- How has AI impacted you?
- How have you used AI? What platforms have you used? What do you find to be most popular amongst your peers?

During the discussion among students and faculty about the impact of AI in education, various perspectives and experiences were shared. Students, including Amy Villavicencio, Kristoffer Velas, Ryan Mills, Ashlyn Medina, Nina Mrkoci, and Ismael Komara, discussed their use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, Brainly, Socratic, and Chegg for tasks like writing, generating ideas, proofreading, and solving academic queries. They highlighted both the benefits and limitations of these tools, noting inaccuracies and the need for critical evaluation. Some students also expressed concerns about plagiarism and the ethical implications of AI. Faculty members Gloria Barron and Kellon Bubb emphasized the importance of understanding AI tools, promoting digital literacy, addressing biases, and maintaining academic integrity in assignments involving AI. They also underscored the need for creative rubrics and policy considerations regarding AI use in education. The discussion reflected a nuanced understanding of AI's role in academia and the challenges it presents, with an emphasis on adapting teaching practices to incorporate AI responsibly while maintaining ethical standards. Various perspectives were shared, including insights from faculty and students on how AI is being used and its implications for learning. The importance of teaching digital and AI literacy, modeling responsible behavior, and fostering open conversations about AI use were emphasized. Additionally, the discussion touched on the emergence of AI degree programs and micro-credentials as potential pathways for preparing students for the future workforce.

Councils' Goal Plan Updates *(Shakenna Adams-Gormley, College Council Chair)*

Nghi Nguyen, Staff Council: The first goal was to volunteer at 10 mobile markets. Currently, totaling over 20 across all three campuses. The second goal was to distribute hearts with positive messages at Staff Enrichment Day in the bags and collect canned goods for students at all three campuses at CT. Both goals have been successfully achieved.

Anestine Theophile-LaFond, Faculty Council: The primary goal for the academic year was to develop AI guidelines, which has been achieved. Currently, the focus is on ensuring widespread circulation and understanding of these guidelines among faculty members. Each faculty council member has been tasked with presenting the guidelines to their respective areas and ensuring that everyone is informed and has access to them. The second goal involves civic engagement initiatives such as voting and community service opportunities, which is still in progress.

Akima Rogers, Administrator Council: The main goal was to support student athletes and the athletic department. This initiative began by assisting six international students who couldn't travel home during the winter break by providing them with essential food items and gift cards. Members of the council also attended both male and female sporting events, including a women's basketball game and a men's soccer match. The council is promoting and planning to attend the athletics banquet scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th, encouraging faculty and staff to join in celebrating a successful athletic season.

Rabee Awan, WDCE Council: The goal this year was to organize truth and racial healing circles for council members, as well as WDC faculty and staff, aiming to foster a sense of belonging, mutual respect, and understanding among participants. The first circle, held on March 19th at the Rockville campus, was successful, marking the first in-person meeting for council members who typically convene via Zoom. Participants shared their experiences, revealing surprising similarities despite diverse cultural and background differences. The success of the initial circle has encouraged council members to advocate for more participation in such activities within their teams. The council is now working on arranging another circle for WDCE faculty, students, and others interested in attending, continuing their efforts to promote understanding and respect among the WDCE community.

Paul Miller, Employee Services Council: The focus is on conducting an environmental scan throughout the college to identify coaching and mentoring opportunities for new employees across different departments and divisions. The aim is to enhance the sense of belonging among new faculty and staff by recommending additional programs to support them.

Matt Wilson, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Council: The goal is to explore the feasibility of implementing composting on campus. Currently, the cafeteria is composting leftover food scraps, and there is a desire to expand this initiative throughout the campus. A small group is working on this goal with assistance from a county representative. The goal is expected to be achieved by the end of the semester.

Katie Goldstein, Rockville Campus Council: The goals have been successfully accomplished. The first goal was organizing a mental health fair at the Rockville campus on World Mental Health Day in the fall, which was highly successful. The second goal involved staffing a mobile market, with one held in the fall and another in the spring. The Rockville mobile market was conducted last week, marking another significant success.

Amanda Darr, Germantown Campus Council: The council has made progress towards achieving its goals. The first goal, focused on raising awareness about governance and engaging with constituents on campus, involved active participation in two governance awareness days, wearing campus council polos, creating meeting flyers, and outreach during departmental meetings. The second goal, to volunteer at events in the fall and spring, saw the council volunteering at the Germantown campus holiday celebration in December and planning to adopt a mobile market event on April 24th. Once the mobile market event is completed, both goals will be fulfilled.

Ernest Cartledge, Student Services and Success: The goal was to engage with student bodies in person to raise awareness about governance and address constituent concerns. This goal will be achieved with the attendance at the Rockville Campus Student Senate meeting on April 22nd from 4 to 6 p.m.

Tilandra Rhyne, Student Council: The Student Council is collaborating with Mr. Mato and Mr. Humphries to enhance food quality on campus. Progress has been positive, including the addition of Halal options and forthcoming Kosher options to meet students' dietary and spiritual requirements.

Tonya Addleman, Operational Services Council: The goal aimed to conduct interviews with its four permanent members in podcast format for informational distribution across the college community. Three out of the four interviews have been completed, with the remaining one pending due to a vacant position. Progress is underway towards fulfilling this goal.

Tilandra, Academic Services Council: The Council had two primary goals this year. The first goal focused on ensuring students' awareness of and access to academic support resources across all college campuses. This involved assessing existing resources, identifying gaps, and enhancing awareness among students. The second goal, carried over from the previous year, pertained to improving the registration process, particularly in terms of user-friendliness and IT components. Progress has been made in collaborating with Ernest Cartledge to update language in tuition payment communication sent to students. Efforts are ongoing to enhance the registration process with Dr. Price and student representatives' help. The council's upcoming meetings will involve presentations from First Year Experience staff and student services deans to discuss information dissemination and address campus-specific differences. These meetings aim to finalize updates and recommendations by May 9th.

Announcements

- Submit the names of council representatives for OEI interviews with Segal by the end of the day, April 09.
- Inclusion by Design Summit is on Friday, April 12th. Share the registration link with constituents and the broader community.
- Remember to vote in the Governance elections before April 12th.

Adjournment (*Shakenna Adams-Gormley, College Council Chair*)

Shakenna Adams-Gormley requested a motion for the meeting to end. Tilandra Rhyne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rabbee Awan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.