

MC GOVERNANCE

Montgomery College
College Council
Meeting #6 Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Present: Shakenna Adams-Gormley (Chair), Dr. Paul Miller (Vice Chair), Tilandra Rhyne (Secretary), Ramon De La Cruz, Amanda Darr, Nghi Nguyen, Mhambi Musonda, Matthew Wilson, Tonya Addleman, John Amoroso, Ernest Cartledge, Dr. Arlene Blaylock, Dr. Anestine Theophile- Lafond

Absent: Ar Kar Kyaw-Win

Proxy: Cathy Henley for Ar Kar Kyaw-Win

Guest: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Dr. Ed Cabellon, Dr. Michelle Campbell, Sherwin Collette, Margarita Silva, Sophia Mason, Brenda Crist, Dr. Carolyn Terry, Dr. Michelle Scott, Dr. Melissa Gregory, Dr. Deidre Price, Angie Moy, Erik Swanson, Alejandra Isaia, Charlie Jackson, Edith Bonilla, H. Haleem, Janice Du Four, Jin Khadem, John Wysong, Kimberly Jones, Norma Winffel, Pat Mac, Shamiya Butler, Sharmini Azeez, Suzette Spencer, Valeria Da Silva, Dr. Dianne Cherry, Dr. Norberto Gomez Jr., Kevin Morris

Student Panel: Ryan Jones, Nima Sichani, Mhambi Musonda, Betiel Gebremedhen, Tremil Cain, Anthony DaCosta

Liaison: Dr. Stephen D. Cain

Governance Director: Dr. Clevette Ridguard

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shakenna Adams-Gormley at 1:00 p.m., with a quorum present. The meeting was recorded for internal purposes.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes for November 5, 2024, were approved as written.

Constituent Concerns

None

Chair's Report

Shakenna Adams-Gormley presented a PowerPoint outlining upcoming College events

and important dates. It is available on the Governance Blackboard community.

Student Panel Discussion: Strategic Plan

Tilandra Rhyne, College Council Secretary, welcomed the student panelists to the College Council meeting. The panel discussion centered on the College's Strategic Plan Goals and Transformational Aspirations. Students were asked five questions about their academic journeys and experiences. Their responses are summarized below for each question:

Strategic Plan Questions:

Empowering Students (Goal 1):

What resources and supports have helped you achieve your academic goals? Are there other resources or supports that would help you feel more prepared to achieve your academic goals?

- ❖ The reading and writing and learning centers are very beneficial for students with learning disabilities.
- ❖ provide students with mobile hotspots for those that are commuting and would like to be able to work while traveling to campuses.
- ❖ The Rockville Library and group study rooms and the Ackerman Learning Center has great science and mathematical teaching labs.
- ❖ The Early College cohorts and the ATPA coaches are very helpful. Possibility of implementing more ATPA tutoring sessions. Have access to licenses such as of MATLAB and the Microsoft Suits licenses are very helpful with my academic journey.
- ❖ The professors and instructors have been beneficial and the Counselors have been very helping with my academic challenges.
- ❖ Have more internships with business/corporations pertaining to the student's course of study.
- ❖ Allow students to borrow laboratory equipment.
- ❖ Help to create ways to reach students with what academic resources that are available. A list of benefits that are available to students.
- ❖ Have more support with speech coaching.
- ❖ Have more class instruction in the Computer Science classes.
- ❖ Offer more course offerings in the International Relations programs.
- ❖ Incorporate a College-wide challenge for students to work on projects that can help the College pertaining to technology.
- ❖ Post operation hours for the Innovation lab.

Advancing Academic Excellence (Goal 2):

How can the College better enhance your learning experience to ensure your success in your chosen program?

- ❖ Have Psychology courses offer more in-person support for students on all campuses.
- ❖ Focus on the students struggling in their classes; direct them to the resources that are available to help them achieve their academic goals.

Fostering a Culture of Equity and Inclusion (Goal 3):

How can the College further promote an inclusive environment that supports your sense of belonging?

- ❖ Have a cohort for older students to connect with similar interests in their major and life experiences. Have events that target older students.
- ❖ Early College cohorts are very beneficial. They help me connect with same age students of similar interests in our major.
- ❖ To create events that other cohorts can meet with one another, talk, and learn from one another.
- ❖ Have more campus-wide activities for students to share experiences and connect.
- ❖ Communicate with students better on the opportunities of the academic activities and how to be more involved with the Montgomery College community.
- ❖ Have more initiatives for students with disabilities.
- ❖ Have resources for International students with work permits, internships, proper documentation needed for students to help with applying for internships.
- ❖ Provide more events with information for international students with financial aid proper documentation.

Enhancing Community Engagement and Partnerships (Goal 4):

How do you think the College can better connect with local businesses or organizations to provide more real-world learning opportunities?

- ❖ Work with local businesses and companies to provide job opportunities or internships for students.
- ❖ Have more speakers/events with Montgomery College alumni. In addition, have local businesses speak on day-to-day work experiences.
- ❖ Have speaking events based on all majors.
- ❖ Build relationships with local officials, state officials and federal officials for students pursuing a career in politics, law and International relations.
- ❖ Give student the opportunity to visit local business or companies to work with them on projects as a class assignment.

Promoting Institutional Sustainability and Resilience (Goal 5):

What improvements or innovations would you like to see at Montgomery College to better support students' needs in the future?

- ❖ Be mindful of Early College students making sure they don't fall through the cracks.
- ❖ More resources for physical health activities.
- ❖ More course offerings in International Relations Department.
- ❖ Conducting a student poll on their academic goals.
- ❖ School officials to have more interactions/engagement with the student body to get a better understanding of what is happening on campus.
- ❖ Revision for the Computer Science sector.

Academic Master Plan: Student Input

Erik Swanson, Director of the Institute for PT Faculty Engagement and Support is a lead for the student focus groups related to the Academic Master Plan. He asked the following questions with student responses bulleted below:

How can the College better support diverse student populations and ensure their voices are heard in decision-making process?

- ❖ The College should have food for students when you have focus group meetings or gatherings for a better turn-out.
- ❖ For students that are falling through the cracks, the College should reach out to the professors to review the students with a below C grade that are showing up for classes. Help these students with resources that can help them with their academic struggle.

What is the best way you would like to receive information? How can we help new students, existing students to know what supports are available to them?

- ❖ Make it mandatory regardless of course that all professors inform students on the first day of class the resources available.
- ❖ To have a list of resources available and have them visit each of them and have the office sign off for extra credit.
- ❖ To hire more staff during the end of a semester for students that need additional help.

Tilandra Rhyne concluded the panel discussion by thanking the students for their valuable input. Their feedback will play a key role in shaping the College's Strategic Plan.

Introduction of Council Guests

The College Council Chairs were asked to bring a guest to the meeting.

- ❖ Dr. Diane Cherry, part-time faculty with the ATPA program, serves on the Academic Services Council.
- ❖ Suzette Spencer, Vice Chair Administrator Council and Sophia Mason Administrator Council member.
- ❖ Dr. Norberto Gomez, Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department on the Takoma Park Silver Spring Campus.
- ❖ Alejandra Isaia, Program Manager with WDCE for the small business entrepreneurship and licensure program.
- ❖ Norma Winffel, Counseling and Advising on the Germantown Campus.
- ❖ Brenda Christ, Vice Chair Student Services and Success Council.
- ❖ Margarita Silva, Student Services Coordinator for WDCE and she is a member of the Operational Services Council.

Dr. Paul Miller, Vice Chair of the College Council, expressed gratitude to the guests and encouraged their continued engagement in Governance. He also invited them to participate in the upcoming election cycle scheduled for the spring semester.

Updates and Announcements

- ❖ The Freedom of Expression Policy is up for review. Feedback is being collected through December 4, 2024.
- ❖ A new project funded by the National Science Foundation, MC SHARE – Student Hands-on Academic Research Experiences, will be shared with the college community following the meeting detailing information about how students can take advantage of this opportunity.
- ❖ The Middle States Self-Study Report Committee is seeking volunteers to join and serve on its workgroups. Interested individuals are encouraged to complete the form by November 27, 2024.

Governance Director Updates

- ❖ Dr. Clevette Ridguard thanked Tilandra Rhyne for her hard work and efforts in recruiting students for the panel, providing the student bio and moderating the panel discussion.
- ❖ The constituent concern reports are due Friday, November 22, 2024. She thanked the College Council for the great work, and wished them you all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Translation/Interpretation Services

Katie Nguyen presented a PowerPoint presentation to view PowerPoint presentation. To review the presentation, visit the Governance Blackboard community.

November Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Tonya Addleman reported that the November Board of Trustees meeting took place on the Germantown Campus. During the visit, Board members, supported by students, engaged in an immersive experience with the Engineering faculty, stepping into the role of student engineers. They used software to design parts and components, 3-D printed them, and then assembled them in the shop before concluding the activity in the Innovation Lab. This hands-on experience provided the Board with valuable insight into the classroom environment and the learning process for engineering students.

- ❖ Dr. Jermaine F. Williams reported there was a 5% increase over projections in headcount for the fall. Enrollment is higher than the College projected and we are outpacing the national figures of 4.3%. He also shared that for the first-time-ever in college, count was up by 4.3% from last year. In addition, 20% of our student's population are first-time-ever-in-college students.
- ❖ The kickoff for the Our College, Our Community, Our Future \$50 million campaign is going very well. We are ahead of schedule in our giving projections.
- ❖ Dr. Jermaine F. Williams also shared that three Montgomery College faculty were recipients of an overseas Faculty Development Seminar grant that is funded by the US State Department and the US Department of Education.
 1. Andrea Foster Business professor, will be examining sustainable business practices in India.
 2. Kevin Morris Biology professor, is going to study genetic biology and African dysphoria in Senegal.
 3. Kristen Cash, Art History professor, is going to explore contemporary and classic art also in Senegal. Over the last seven years, eight of our faculty members have been awarded this experience.
- ❖ The College financial report for the first quarter was good.
- ❖ The Board of Trustee Members attended the Association of Community Colleges Trustee Conference.
- ❖ The FY26 biennial capital budget request was approved.
- ❖ Dr. John Hamman presented on the progress towards the aims of the Transformational Aspirations and Strategic Plan.

Adjournment

Dr. Paul Miller in closing on behalf of the Leadership team would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy the time away! The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m. following a motion by Tilandra Rhyne and seconded by Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond.