



Faculty Council
September 17, 2026
Zoom
12:00–2:00 pm

Attendees

- Members present: Rachel Sullivan, Barbara LaPilusa, Atul Roy, Megan Van Wagoner, Susanna Sunn, Ingrid Scott, Tamesha Robinson, Heather Hughes; Diego Hernandez, Alla Webb, Maria Sprehn
- Proxies present: Ingrid Scott proxy for Michaela Pacesova, Tamesha Robinson proxy for Jana Anderson, Megan Van Wagoner proxy for Marianne Wysong; Alla proxy for Susanna Sunn until 12:40
- Members absent: Sandra Menzies, Richard Shaw, Brandon Wallace, Sally Silberman
- Invited guests: Scot Brown, Dr. Tiffany Ray-Patterson
- Additional guests: Yvette Taylor, Alice Santoro, Reshma Philips, Angie Moy
- Council liaison: Dr. Sharon Anthony for Dr. Price, Academic Affairs

Call to Order

- The regular meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Tamesha Robinson.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from the May 7, 2026 Faculty Council meeting were approved as read.

Constituent Concerns

- Atul Roy presented four constituent concerns.
 1. SLINGSHOT– A faculty member is concerned about the options for students to purchase materials from Slingshot.
 - Slingshot markups are very large.
 - Many students are still not aware of how and when they need to opt out of “SlingShot Choice.”
 - Some students do not understand how their materials are being paid for; they believe that they are receiving materials for free.
 2. RANKINGS– Montgomery College has recently fallen in the ratings statewide and nationally. What are we doing to combat this? Has our data changed for the worse or have our peers simply gotten better? Can a self-study be done to determine this?
 3. HONORLOCK– Faculty is wondering if there can be discipline-specific resources provided to help faculty use all that Honorlock provides. There are lots of capabilities in the tool, but faculty don’t know how best to apply it within their disciplines.
 4. ZOOM– This concern comes from Atul. Could the College subscribe to a better Zoom

plan that would allow for good technical assistance from the Zoom help desk, or can we get better Zoom support from within the College?

- One constituent concern was received via email.
 1. How is attendance defined in structured remote classes? Are there guidelines for faculty that could be shared with students via the syllabus?

Presentations

Dr. Sharon Anthony representing Dr. Price and Academic Affairs

Academic Master Plan—This year we are focusing on the overlap between the goals in the Academic Master Plan and Academic Affairs has developed six themes:

1. Advising and Communication
2. Academic Support
3. Curriculum
4. Future of Work
5. Professional Development
6. Scheduling

Every month starting in October will focus on a different theme. October is *Advising Month*.

Academic Advising Initiatives—

- Advising was part of the Welcome Days with both program advisors and college counselors available for students.
- New Navigators are responding to student requests in Starfish. Navigators will soon have a caseload of about 50 students in a specific area to monitor and encourage. Dr. Anthony clarified that ATPA one-on-one coaching will continue, but there will not be embedded coaches in courses.
- October 20 is Advising Day! This is going to be a professional development day—non-instructional duty day. Same event for faculty at all three campuses. The event will include Dr. Williams as the keynote speaker in the morning, followed by activities and departmental lunches for faculty. If you have ideas or requests for activities, email Dr. Anthony.
- Program Advisors are being asked to put their advising hours into Starfish! Students will be able to make appointments in Starfish and this will allow us to track student requests.

Other Academic Affairs News—

- The College is adopting and recommending faculty use the ALIGN Levels to define AI use in the classroom. There are levels 0–5, from no AI use to AI is critical to the assignment. This guidance is very easy to implement and copy-paste into a syllabus or an assignment.
- Digital Accessibility training for faculty is required. It's a 30-minute online training. Everyone needs to do it and then implement the accessibility guidelines for all course materials.
<https://mcblogs.montgomerycollege.edu/udc/digital-accessibility/>
- WDCE will no longer exist as a separate entity. It is being integrated into the rest of the College. Non-credit classes will be identified as “Beyond Credit.”
- Communications is promoting new programs in accounting, animation, and psychology.

Scot Brown—Your Voice, Your MC Survey.

On September 30, eligible employees will be invited to participate in the *Your Voice Your MC*

survey. The email will come from the third-party vendor, ModernThink.

- The survey will be much shorter this year based on past feedback.
- Eligible employees include all full-time faculty, part-time faculty actively teaching in the Fall, administrators, staff, who have been here for 6 months or more. (No temps or temporary student employees.)
- The vendor takes possession of all survey data and sends aggregated results that cannot be subdivided into groups of less than five. Open-ended comments do not get shared with the college. The vendor provides a summary analysis of the themes, subject, and patterns in the comments.
- Data will be reviewed in the Spring 2027.
- High participation rates make the results more meaningful and provide a mandate for employee voices. High participation makes the data statistically significant.
- Specific individual issues should not be submitted on the survey as they cannot be addressed. The College will never see them specifically. Use other venues to submit those concerns.
- They are asking Faculty Council to help promote the survey.

Student Affairs Update— Dr.Tiffany Ray-Patterson

Dr. Ray-Patterson introduced the leadership team:

- Dr. Kimberly McNair — Associate Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Ms. Janee McFadden — Associate Senior Vice President for Student Success and Strategic Initiatives
- Campus-based Deans... there are currently two positions open

Student Enrollment Plan

- This is a four-year plan.
- Year-one priorities:
 - Continuous enrollment growth
 - Increased student retention and completion
 - Academic and career counseling/advising at key milestones
 - Recruitment and student support services
- Efforts to influence enrollment growth include financial support, especially scholarships.
- Establishing a more seamless advising experience (as noted by Dr. Sharon Anthony earlier).
- Leveraging data where we can.
- Looking to provide parity across campuses—similar enrollment and advising experiences for all students.

Committee Reports

Academic Regulations and Standards—Diego Rivera

Diego Rivera presented an introduction to Academic Regs and how it works.

- Academic Regs depends on faculty council to do its work. After they complete a regulation change, it must be approved by Faculty Council before it is sent to Dr. Price for approval.
- Academic Regulations are in the Course catalog and govern all types of things about how academics at MC work. Defines credit hours, criteria for suspension of students, minimum GPA for a certificate or associates degree.
- Anyone in the College can propose a regulation change by emailing Diego Rivera. The committee works on the change as a group. Diego presents the regulation change to Faculty Council.
- Regulations are approved by Faculty Council by a simple majority.

General Education—Maria Sprehn

- Antonio Castillo-Gonzales is co-chairing General Education this year.
- There are two new classes now in consideration for Ged Ed in the Fall.
- Career readiness is being considered for Gen Ed classes.
- Working on updated assessment rubrics.
- Considering what students need to know about AI when they leave MC.

Faculty Senates

- TPSS—Not present
- Germantown—Heather Hughes.
 - Meeting next week
- Rockville—Tamesha Robinson
 - Meeting next week

Curriculum Committee—Alla Webb

Curriculum Committee Deadlines:

- October 2 is the deadline for new programs and substantial program changes
- November 6 is the deadline for minor program revisions
- April 2 is the deadline for Fall 2027 course catalog changes

The online course catalog has a new button at the top of the page for program advising guides.

Two new members of the CCC were presented for approval:

- **Juliana Hida – Faculty Supporting CCC’s At Large Role (Psychology faculty member)**
Juliana is a Psychology faculty member at Montgomery College with a professional background in counseling and forensic psychology.
- **Verhonda Sercey – Faculty Supporting CCC’s VP of Liberal Arts Role (Hospitality Management Program coordinator and associate professor)**
Verhonda serves as the Hospitality Management program coordinator and associate professor. She joined the College four years ago and has served as program coordinator for the past two years.

Diego Rivera motioned to approve both new members. Barb LaPilusa seconded the motion.

Jenny Hodges is the new CCC CAP for Germantown.

Academic Calendar Committee

Dr. Sharon Anthony presented two new members for the Academic Calendar Committee

- Darren Smith – Math
- Joseph Thompson – Social Sciences

Alla Webb motioned to approve both new members. Diego Hernandez seconded the motion.

Chair's Report

Tamesha Robinson reported that September is National Campus Safety Awareness Month.

Humanities Days proposals are due September 17. The event will be October 27–30. It's the 14th annual Humanities Days!

Transfer Fairs are coming! They are:

- Oct 5—Rockville,
- Oct 6—Takoma Park/Silver Spring,
- Oct 7—Germantown.

Did you know? Monday, September 16, 1946, was the very first day of classes at MC. It started with 186 students who met in a high school classroom.

New Business

Faculty Council Goals

The council discussed the possible goals given to us by Academic Affairs. Following a lively discussion, the group decided to pursue the first goal.

Evaluate and recommend updates to the Academic Affairs syllabus template to support consistency and effectiveness across divisions.

The Council will take up work on this goal at our next meeting.

Reflection—Adjournment

Alla Webb made a motion at 1:55 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Barb LaPilusa.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Megan Van Wagoner, Faculty Council Secretary