Faculty Council
November 5, 2026
Zoom
12:00–2:00 pm

Attendees

- Members present: Jana Anderson, N'Kelle Harper, Diego Hernandez, Heather Hughes, Barbara LaPilusa, Tamesha Robinson, Atul Roy, Ingrid Brown-Scott, Maria Sprehn, Rachel Sullivan, Susanna Sunn, Megan Van Wagoner, Alla Webb
- Proxies present: Alla Webb proxy for Susanna Sunn until 1:15, Tamesha Robinson proxy for Maria Sprehn until 12:15, Tamesha Robinson proxy for Rachel Sullivan until 12:20
- Members absent: Sandra Menzies, Flor Romero-Slowing, Richard Shaw, Sally Silberman, Brandon Wallace, Marianne Wysong
- Invited guests: Suzanne Redding, Dr. Sophia Mason
- Additional guests: Sue Adler, Alice Santoro, Magda J, Emily Peterman, Loretta Baum, Dr. Lina Anastasovitou, Dr. Tiffany Ray-Patterson, Tim Kirknir, Walter Chinn, Jessamme Ferguson, Miriam Zemen
- Council liaison: 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 October 15, 2026, Faculty Council meeting were approved as read.

Constituent Concerns

No new constituent concerns were brought to the council.

Presentations

Academic Affairs Update – Sharon Anthony representing Dr. Price

Academic Master Plan

During the month focused on advising, Academic Affairs has received the following feedback from faculty/staff—

- Allowing larger registration windows would make registration easier for students.
- Assigning an advisor on admission would immediately connect them with an individual who can help students navigate the curriculum and MC.
- Including fewer options on advising guides would make the guides easier for students to navigate.

Advising Day

The advising focused month culminated on Advising Day. The day was very successful, and they received a lot of feedback on the format and content of the day. There was a lot of positive feedback about breakout sessions and interaction with counselors. People wanted more breakout sessions or repeating sessions so they could attend more of them.

There were also some friction points— mostly the result of the short amount of planning time for three simultaneous events. Some things felt rushed or too short. And Advising Day was held the day before mid-term dates were due.

November's AMP Focus is Professional Development.

Open Enrollment — Suzanne Redding, Human Resources Specialist, HRSTM

Open Enrollment for 2027 benefits began November 2 and closes on Friday, November 13.

Every employee has a TASK in their Workday inbox. Everyone is encouraged to review their benefits in Workday and update their selections.

Employees must opt into the Flexible Health Spending Account every year. It will not be automatically renewed.

Benefit Fairs have already happened on all campuses. Employees can schedule a one-on-one session with a benefits expert in HRSTM or use the online tool ALEKS to review your selections and compare options.

There are changes to each of the medical and dental plans, including premiums.

HRSTM also encourages everyone to check their beneficiaries annually. Listing a beneficiary overrides all other legal documents, including your will.

Maryland Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) — Dr. Sophia Mason, Director of HR Business Services, HRSTM

Maryland's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act will provide eligible workers with up to 12 weeks of paid, job-protected leave for qualifying family and medical events starting in January 2028.

There is a workgroup at MC reviewing how current MC leave programs work or don't work and how they will comply with both FMLA and FAMLI. They are looking at short-term disability, long-term disability, sick leave, paid time off—all of which already exist. They are considering whether they work well to meet the requirements of FAMLI or will need to be revised.

They are also looking at developing more training for employees, so everyone understands how leave works at MC and how to access different types of leave.

Information about this is being shared in Employee Matters.

Chair's Report

- Open Enrollment Continues through Friday, November 13.
- Please participate in the Governance Survey to strengthen governance.
- CTL Nights offer opportunities to earn Micro-Credentials. These are evening sessions on Zoom.
- Tomorrow is the Inclusion by Design Summit. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Spring registration opened November 2. Winter classes begin on December 21. Spring classes begin on January 25, 2027.

Committee Reports

TPSS Faculty Senate – No representative present

RV Faculty Senate – This group has not yet met.

GT Faculty Senate – Heather Hughes

No updates. Since the last meeting.

Curriculum Committee – Alla Webb

At the November 6 CCC meeting they will be working on a communication plan and preparation for the March 2027 AMP curriculum focused month.

November 6 is the deadline for program changes requiring MHEC approval.

General Education – Maria Sprehn

The General Education Committee approved 13 proposals from health at their last meeting.

Academic Regulations and Standards – Diego Hernandez

Summer Credit Limit Regulation Change

There are credit limits that students can take each session/semester. They vary by session.

AR4.4 B Academic Coursework Load: Maximum Load in Summer Sessions Including Overlapping Sessions governs the credit limit for summer sessions. Academic Regs was asked to revise this to respond to the recent changes in Banner, which group Summer 1 and Summer 2 as "parts of term" in the same summer session.

Currently, the limit is 7 credits per summer session—Summer I or Summer II—and 10 credits max for both sessions. In the new Banner setup, there will be just one summer session with classes that run in the first half and the second half. So, Banner's new single summer session and the reg's current wording would allow students to register for 10 credits in a single summer session without permission.

The proposed change limits students to 8 credits during the summer—all sessions included. Students can get an exception to register for more credits with the permission of the Dean of Student Affairs by contacting a program advisor or counselor who sends a request to the Dean of Students for their approval.

Barb LaPilusa motioned for a vote to revise academic regulation AR4.4 B regarding summer session credit limits, changing the maximum from 10 to 8 credits without special permission. Megan Van Wagoner seconded the motion. A full vote was held. There were 11 votes to approve the regulation.

New Business

Faculty Council Goals

The council continued work on our 2026-27 goal:

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

Council members discussed revisions to the syllabus template with Tamesha clarifying that we are updating the existing template last revised in 2022 rather than creating something new. Alla raised questions about communication plans and whether the template was mandatory versus suggested, but Diego and Ingrid confirmed that the current Faculty Handbook language allows flexibility in format while requiring

inclusion of certain information. Discussions focused mostly on Section VII Collegewide Policies and Procedures. Members agreed that the syllabus template should instruct faculty to include drop dates (as opposed to merely suggesting inclusion of the information) and update the instructions for accessing the dates in MyMC.

Also discussed was putting a link in the syllabus template – linking out to as much information as possible. However, it is helpful, especially in the case of final grade disputes, to have certain things explicitly stated in the syllabus. Could the use of links – use of link outs – impact the handling of final grade disputes. It was agreed that anything associated with final grade disputes should be explicitly stated in the syllabus and use links to access general information. A link to a page of general links should be included in the syllabus template. Alla asked who is responsible for maintaining the page of general links – Records and Registration?

Syllabus Resource List link: https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/student-resources/syllabus-resource-list.html

Reflection—Adjournment

We finished the meeting with a reflection on what course at MC we would take if we could register for anything.

Ingrid Brown-Scott made a motion to end the meeting at 1:59 p.m. It was seconded by Maria Sprehn.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Megan Van Wagoner, Faculty Council Secretary