

---

## MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Student Council  
November 3, 2016  
3:30–5:00 p.m.  
MKE 318

### Attendees:

- Members present: Tom Anderson, Michelle Claas, Christian Gbewardo, Christopher Majano, Jonell Malone, Mona Motamedi, Charles Myers, Aranje Sripanjalingam, Anton Stalchenko
- Members absent: Emily Samuels
- Leader Liaison: Monica Brown
- Guests: Sanjay Rai, Marie Martin-Murphy, Maria Adams Davidson

### Call to Order

Chair Christian Gbewardo called the regular meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

### Constituent Comments

Aranje Sripanjalingam reported on concerns about WiFi connection problems with some WEPA printers and some WEPA printers shutting down.

Anton Stalchenko reported that some vending machines on the Rockville campus (three Pepsi machines in the Humanities Building) are not functioning well and asked that all vending machines be checked periodically.

Jonell Malone said he had received questions from students about whether the bookstore offered warranties on certain tech items, such as laptops or tablets.

Tom Anderson raised a concern about the sidewalk being blocked near the PE building on the Germantown Campus due to construction and that students either have to walk on plywood placed over some rocks or through dirt. When the weather becomes wet or snowy, this will create problems.

Mona Motamedi reported on some common concerns that arose in a student survey conducted at the fall festival on the Rockville Campus, including parking, security, WiFi, and the shuttle.

Jonell Malone expressed concern about security in the parking garages at Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

Christian Gbewardo raised a concern about how and when students are notified when there is a threat or alert, such as the recent notification about an MC student with tuberculosis. Monica Brown explained how the College has to balance the need to protect the confidentiality of the student with notifying the College community in a reasonable and responsible manner and timeframe. In response to questions about what kinds of immunizations are required of international students, she suggested the council invite Heidi Russell-Kalkofen or Marlon Vallejo for more information.

### Approval of Minutes

Tom Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2016, meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### Chair's Report

No report given.

---

## **Unfinished Business**

### *Annual Goals*

Council members indicated their preference for which goals they would like the council to work on this year. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### *Student Success*

Council members discussed a number of concerns related to student success with Sanjay Rai. Regarding the cost of textbooks and course materials, Sanjay Rai informed council members about the expansion of “Z” (zero textbook) courses this spring and “Z” degree programs being developed. He encouraged students to continue advocating for lower cost materials. Students asked how copies of textbooks could be made available in the libraries before classes start and discussed other concerns about expenses, including additional class materials and access codes.

Council members also discussed how faculty evaluations are used. Monica Brown explained the difference between a faculty evaluation, which is part of an employee personnel record and therefore private, and a review, such as those found on websites. Both Monica Brown and Sanjay Rai told council members that the feedback provided on the evaluations is considered heavily and is used to address concerns, and they encouraged all students to complete them.

Sanjay Rai encouraged students to use the online catalog to obtain information about classes they would like to take. Other issues addressed included what steps a student should take if he/she has a concern about a professor in the middle of the semester and why certain classes are offered on certain campuses and not others.

### *Student Resource Directory and Achieving the Promise*

Marie Martin-Murphy provided an update on the development of a student resources website that will provide a comprehensive list of services and resources available to students throughout the College. The website will be part of Phase 2 of the MC website redesign. She asked for Student Council input for both content and look of the page, and said she would also like to meet with each of the student senates. Christian Gbewordo asked council members to begin sharing online what they would like to see on the website and he would compile the information and send it to her.

Marie Martin-Murphy also updated the council about the Achieving the Promise Peer-to-Peer Program, including Peer Navigators, Peer Mentors, and Peer Educators. She noted there are currently 12 Peer Navigators, but in the spring there will be a total of 30 Peer Navigators located on the three campuses. The council will invite her back in the spring to share feedback about the program, and she encouraged council members to e-mail her and share any feedback they have in the meantime.

### *Collaboration With Student Services and Success Council*

Maria Adams Davidson explained the role of the Student Services and Success Council and said it would like to partner with the Student Council on outreach opportunities with the student senates and student clubs as well as work together on some constituent concerns.

## **Announcements/Adjournment**

Christian Gbewordo will be visiting the Student Services and Success Council at its November 10 meeting.

The County Council meets at 8 p.m. Wednesday, November 9, at Sligo Middle School. MC is continuing to advocate for funding for the new math and science center on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus.

---

Students can learn about Smithsonian internships Friday, November 4, 10 a.m.–noon, on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. E-mail Christian Gbewordo for details.

The Rockville Student Senate Fall Festival went well. Mona Motamedi will review the student surveys and share results at the next meeting.

Jonell Malone said the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Senate would be having lunch at the financial aid service center Monday, November 7, noon–2 p.m.

The Student Council dinner with the Board of Trustees is Monday, November 14, 5:30–7 p.m. Dress is professional.

There is a Town Hall meeting in Takoma Park/Silver Spring on November 9.

Jonell Malone will be speaking at the County Council meeting November 16.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Mona Motamedi  
Student Council Secretary