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Chapter: Board of Trustees

Modification No. 001

Subject: **Governance**

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- I. The Board of Trustees has the responsibility for governing Montgomery College. The Board of Trustees is committed to the collegial principle of governance that serves as the means and actions by which the Board and the College as a collective entity engage in a participatory decision-making process to decide matters of policy, oversight, operations, and strategy. The Board of Trustees is the ultimate authority in regard to and accountable for an inclusive and effective governance system. The Board may delegate to the President portions of that authority at times deemed appropriate by the Board.
- II. The Board of Trustees believes that effective governance is achieved in the spirit of cooperation, collaboration, civility, respect and collegiality, and involves all levels of the College including students. It promotes inclusiveness and gives opportunity for a unified effort in ensuring the achievement of the College's vision and mission through sound and current policies and operating procedures. The Board of Trustees further believes that students' educational experiences are made more lasting and relevant in a collegial environment of communication, collaboration, civility, respect and professionalism that studies have shown can be enhanced by an effective institutional governance structure.
- III. The governance structure at Montgomery College shall be guided by the following general principles:
  1. All decision-making is based on a shared understanding and recognition that Montgomery College exists to support the comprehensive mission of student success at all levels.
  2. All constituent groups within the College have a vested interest and a role in ensuring that the College fulfills the mission under the authority and direction of the Board of Trustees and under the leadership of the President.
  3. Participatory governance is a method of organized and collegial interaction in which faculty, staff, students, and administrators participate in thoughtful deliberation and the decision-making process, leading to recommendations made to the College President, who represents the administration of the College as an agent of the Board of Trustees.
  4. Mutual agreement is the goal to be achieved through active participation and collegial interaction by all constituent groups.
  5. The most effective means of developing policies and procedures is to provide opportunity for involvement by the constituent groups affected by the implementation of these policies and procedures.
  6. Representatives of constituent groups involved in the participatory governance process have the responsibility of keeping their respective groups informed of the proceedings and recommendations of governance groups.
  7. Individuals not serving as representatives have the opportunity to share concerns with the elected representatives of their constituent groups, with the anticipation that their views will be represented in governance councils, committees, and task forces.
- IV. The President is authorized to develop procedures to implement this policy.

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Board Approval: December 13, 2010.