

Middle States Review

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE 2018



The Middle States Evaluation Team Visit March 18 - March 21



Sunday, March 18 began a whirlwind four days for our Middle States reaccreditation process. The Self-Study Co-Chairs and Steering Committee greatly appreciate the coordination, resilience, and patience of the College community as we scheduled, and rescheduled, and rescheduled again the many evaluation team visits and meetings. Ice and snow could not stop us from our appointed rounds. (It's a good thing the evaluation team was from the Northeast!) We regret that an in-person summary presentation of the visit was not possible due to the hazardous weather, but we hope as many members of the college community as possible were able to tune in to the webcast. Huge thanks to the MCTV and IT teams who stayed the night at the team's hotel to set up for the live webcast Wednesday morning.

The reaccreditation evaluation team, comprised of nine individuals from the Middle States region, an observer from MHEC, and team chair Dr. Margaret McMenamin, arrived on Sunday, March 18. Our president, Dr. Pollard, and the Board of Trustees welcomed the team at a reception that evening. After the reception, the team went to work. They spent all of Monday, March 19, on the Rockville campus interviewing various requested groups. The team split up on Tuesday, March 20, with one group at the Rockville campus, one group at the Germantown campus, and one group at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. The Vice Presidents/Provosts gave tours of the campuses. By Tuesday afternoon, the evaluation team headed back to the hotel to prepare their preliminary report.

The oral report given on March 21 by the evaluation team chair, Dr. Margaret McMenamin, was a summary for the benefit of the College and will be followed by the official report. The report is a confidential document prepared as an educational service for Montgomery College.

First, and most important, based on the campus visits, careful review of the study and other institutional documents, and meetings with the college community, the visiting team concluded that Montgomery College meets the Standards for Accreditation and the Requirements of Affiliation for Middle States accreditation.

In the summary oral report, the evaluation team said the Self-Study was thorough and inclusive, well organized, clearly written, and comprehensive. It appeared to accurately capture the strengths, opportunities, and challenges of MC today.

The team called the College an “extraordinary institution” and our president, Dr. Pollard, “amazing, impressive, courageous, and visionary.” They said the Board of Trustees was “sophisticated” and demonstrated a sincere commitment to social justice. There was a “demonstrable sense of pride in the

institution among employees and students.” The College is on a positive, aggressive trajectory for student success. The College must continue to pursue its aggressive agenda while creating a culture of assessment of program-level student learning outcomes.

The oral summary report from Dr. McMenemy reviewed each of the seven standards, and we received many commendations for our various programs and academic offerings that support social justice. Each standard and corresponding requirements of affiliation were met successfully, and the team agreed with the many suggestions that we gave ourselves in the Self-Study.

The next step is preparation of the written report, which will be sent to Dr. Pollard to review for any factual inaccuracies before it is sent to the Middle States Higher Education Commission for review at their June, 2018 meeting. Official notification of the College's accreditation status will occur after the June meeting.

The Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee would be remiss if we did not thank Dr. Michelle Scott and Ms. Raquel Bunai for their remarkable work organizing the evaluation team visit. This was not as simple as setting up hotel rooms, making travel arrangements, and scheduling rooms on the campuses. The schedule changed hour to hour during the visit, and then had to be compressed due to the impending bad weather. Logistics for the webcast were fast and flawless.

We would also like to thank the hundreds of members of the College community who contributed to the success of this visit. People participated on workgroups and focus groups, attended listening tours, hosted sessions, spoke to students, and prepared information sheets so that everyone at the College would be represented and prepared. We deeply appreciate the collaborative contributions of so many colleagues and students.

And now, the TEaM is signing off from this project. It has been a busy three years, and an honor to serve the College. We happily pass the mantle on to the capable hands of the College MSCHE liaison and our leadership. Thank you all for your dedication to excellence, clear support for student success, and enthusiastic participation in the Self-Study process.



Middle States 2018 Self-Study Chair TEaM
Tammy, Eric, and Melissa

Re-visit the Self-Study report posted at www.montgomerycollege.edu/middlestates18

[Contact Middle States Team](#)