

Montgomery College  
Governance, Academic  
Services Council  
24 January 2019  
SC 151, Rockville  
2:00 p.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

**Attendees**

**Members Present:** Joel Levine, Kim Murphy, Carol Burbage, Nancy Nyland, Elizabeth Schlackman, Monique Davis, Arthur Katz, Eric Benjamin, Camille Cauley (Proxy for Adora Nwigwe), Debra Bright, Greg Wahl,

**Guests Present:** Cathy Giovannetti, Chair, College Council Committee

**Members Absent:** Samantha Streamer Veneruso, Amivi Atsu

**Call to Order**

Chair, Joel Levine, called the meeting to order at 2:02pm

**Introductions**

Erica Hepworth, Department Chair, Counseling and Advising  
Lindsey Curley, Recruiting and College Access Manager  
Camille Cauley, Program Manager, WD&CE

November 8, 2018 Minutes approved by consensus with changes—corrected Eric Benjamin's name (was originally listed as Benjamin Davis) and moved Monique Davis's name from "Members Absent" to "Members Present."

Dec 13, 2018 approved by consensus with changes—corrected the spelling of Hamrawit Tesfa's name.

**Student Services Presentations**

Erica Hepworth, Student Services Department Chair  
Lindsay Curley, Recruiting and College Access Manager

Summary of programs, events, and resources for all students including international students:

- An open house for international students was held to address concerns.
- A hashtag #Youarewelcomhere campaign.
- Facebook live sessions to answer student questions. Sessions were offered in Spanish, Amharic, French, and Vietnamese.
- A Voyage line—MC has a relay line for language speakers.
- Creation of a pamphlet in collaboration with International Admissions
- A "Raptor reference sheet" involving credit enrollment steps, translated into the top six languages.
- Videos explaining enrollment process are available in English; waiting for closed captioning in different languages.
- A face-to-face enrollment process session translated into Spanish.

- Face-to-face sessions with international students.
- IMAP—academic orientation for new students after placement testing to learn general information.
- Student Life online version of academic orientation for students who completed the ESL Accuplacer.
- Orientation and welcome videos translated into the six top languages (the translations have not been vetted).
- An international program specialist (TP/SS) offering one-on-one support, including information on health insurance and transition to the United States culture.
- International student coordinators providing help with getting/extending visas and counseling. At the present time, however, the coordinators speak only Spanish and English.

Concerns: The biggest need are resources that help students navigate the enrollment process.

Camille Cauley, Program Manager, WD&CE

- Offered a non-credit WD&CE course to learn Amharic, but course was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.
- James Murray gathered the same people who tried offering a course in Amharic years ago.
- A non-credit class does not meet the needs of the Amharic students at the college because many Amharic courses are offered for free in the faith-based communities.
- Non-credit language students are usually retired, highly educated people.

Concerns: Amharic students need a bridge between a credit course and a non-credit course.

### **Old Business**

The following motion was made by Carol Burbage to address the concerns of Amharic-speaking students

Original wording: “It is recommended that Montgomery College undertake a pilot project in radical inclusion focusing on Amharic-speaking students.”

Comments about the recommendation

- The recommendation does not include anything academic.
- Wording is too vague; expand it to consider the ability to use whatever we develop for the Amharic population as a model to use to meet the needs of other international groups.
- Add to end of recommendation: “That could be used as a model for other international populations.”
- Why isn’t this being brought to the student services committee? Should we collaborate with them?
- Dr. Pollard spoke about radical inclusion—what can we do to meet the needs of international students?

Carol Burbage moved to modify the motion to as follows:

“To identify and review engagement, outreach, and accessibility approaches for the Amharic-speaking community to address gaps in effectiveness in supporting student success. This review could be used to create a model for other linguistic communities at Montgomery College.”

The amended motion was unanimously approved.

The original motion as amended was then unanimously approved.

A motion was unanimously approved to extend the ASC meeting by 15 minutes.

Joel Levine, Chair, will provide all council members with a draft that includes the approved motion that complies with the format requirements for Governance recommendation.

### **Chair Report**

- Dr. Pollard will hold a Town Hall meeting since the opening meeting was cancelled because of weather. She asked members of the College Council to discuss upcoming issues and concerns. Dr. Pollard also emphasized the need for radical inclusion—what can we do to meet the needs of international students?
- The ASC Chair informed Dr. Pollard of some of the concerns and needs of Amharic-speaking students to be included in a proposed recommendation to the College Council.
- Other Council Chairs addressed efforts in integration of technology and the need to bridge credit and non-credit classes.
- PT Faculty for Engagement and Support held its conference. There were over 280 attendees.
- Major MC “Goal Ideas, Philosophy, and Purpose” have been proposed for the 2025 plan.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm**