

# MC GOVERNANCE

Montgomery College  
College Council  
Meeting #13 Minutes  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025  
1:00 – 2:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting

## **Attendees**

*Present:* Shakenna Adams-Gormley (Chair), Dr. Paul Miller (Vice Chair), Dr. Christine Crefton (Secretary), Ramon De La Cruz, Amanda Darr, Mhambi Musonda, Tonya Addleman, John Amoroso, Cathy Henley, Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond, Dr. Arlene Blaylock, Ernest Cartledge, Nghi Nguyen, Matthew Wilson

*Absent:* None

*Proxy:* None

*Guest:* Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Dr. Ed Cabellon, Dr. Michelle Campbell, Sherwin Collette, Dr. Deidre Price, Dr. Meghan Gibbons, Maria Adams, Dr. Debbie Van Camp, Dr. Mike Mills, Dr. Stephen Cain, Anna Donohoe, Janee McFadden, Dr. Kimberly McNair, Dr. Sarah Campbell, Krista Leitch Walker, Angie Moy, Dr. Nawal Benmouna

*Liaison:* Dr. Stephen D. Cain

*Governance Director:* Dr. Clevette Ridguard

*Resource member:* Yvette Taylor

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Shakenna Adams-Gormley at 1:00 p.m., with a quorum present. The meeting was recorded for internal purposes.

## **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Dr. Christine Crefton noted a correction made to the April 8, 2025 minutes (correction of "Staff Enrichment Day" spelling). No other corrections or additions were made. Dr. Paul Miller moved to approve the minutes. Nghi Nguyen seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as corrected. The agenda for the April 22, 2025, meeting was approved without changes.

## **Constituent Concerns**

- **Concern 1:** Amanda Darr raised concern about the ending of the Social Resource Program without widespread college communication or information about next steps for impacted students. Matt Wilson added that this concern was also raised at his recent campus council meeting.
- **Concern 2:** Shakenna Adams-Gormley shared a concern about student groups congregating in the Ackerman Center at Rockville campus due to a lack of social spaces, requesting a fact-finding effort across campuses.
- **Concern 3:** A suggestion was submitted regarding the shuttle bus departing earlier than scheduled (departed at 11:57 AM instead of 12:10 PM), leading to missed transportation.

All concerns were noted and will be assigned for follow-up.

## **President's Remarks**

### ***President, Dr. Jermaine F. Williams***

During his remarks, Dr. Jermaine F. Williams celebrated Earth Day and Community College Month, recognizing the importance of the work Montgomery College does for both its community and the broader environment. He shared the exciting news that the Board of Trustees had officially approved all Spring 2025 degree and certificate recipients, marking a significant milestone for thousands of students.

Dr. Williams took a moment to acknowledge the critical role governance plays in shaping the college's future, noting that many recent improvements stemmed directly from thoughtful recommendations made by governance leaders and participants. He then announced an upcoming cross-divisional organizational restructuring aimed at strengthening staffing relationships, better aligning resources with areas of greatest student need, and advancing the college's transformational aspirations.

While specific details about the restructuring will be communicated collegewide in the coming weeks, Dr. Williams emphasized the importance of embracing change with empathy, transparency, and open communication. He encouraged everyone to support one another through the transition, reinforcing the college's commitment to continuous growth and collective success.

## **Chair's Report**

### ***College Council Chair, Shakenna Adams-Gormley***

Shakenna Adams-Gormley presented a PowerPoint outlining upcoming College events and important dates. It is available on the Governance Blackboard community.

Dates to highlight:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – Final Meeting in-person for the College Council.

## **SPIFFY Closet Update**

Dean Janee McFadden provided an important update on the SPIFFY Closet initiative. She expressed her gratitude to the college community for the strong support, especially from the Staff and Operational Services Councils, whose clothing donations generated excitement among students. Dean McFadden shared that the SPIFFY Closet is currently

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operating every Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM in the Computer Science Building, Room 106 at the Rockville Campus.

She explained that the initiative, originally a student-led project, has now transitioned under the leadership of Student Affairs to expand its reach and impact. Plans are underway to extend access to other campuses, including Germantown, Takoma Park/Silver Spring, and the East County Education Center (ECEC). Dean McFadden emphasized that students, faculty, and staff can continue to support SPIFFY through ongoing donations, and arrangements can be made for drop-offs even outside of open hours.

Additionally, she announced new efforts to integrate professional development opportunities alongside the SPIFFY Closet experience, such as resume-building workshops and sessions on professional image and branding. Events like the upcoming May 7th "Boost Your Confidence" event at ECEC were highlighted as examples of how SPIFFY is evolving to support student wellness and career readiness.

Dean McFadden also noted infrastructure improvements, including better organization, quality control, and new student leadership opportunities related to merchandising, wardrobe management, and promotion. She closed by reaffirming that the SPIFFY Closet remains a student-centered, supportive resource, strengthened by a new infrastructure that will allow it to grow and better meet students' basic needs.

### **Strategic Plan Updates:**

#### ***Director of Planning and Policy, Dr. Debbie Van Camp***

Dr. Debbie Van Camp provided an overview of the college's five-year strategic plan, outlining how outcomes will be mapped across the key goals of Connection, Belonging, Effectiveness, and Impact. She explained that the focus outcomes for Fiscal Year 2026 were determined through a collaborative ranking and prioritization process, ensuring that the most urgent and impactful areas receive attention. Throughout her presentation, Dr. Van Camp emphasized the importance of maintaining open feedback channels and a commitment to continuous improvement as the college moves forward with the plan.

### **Retention and Completion Rates Update**

Dr. Mike Mills shared updates on efforts to improve equitable student retention and completion rates across the college. He highlighted the expansion of advising support through broader use of the Starfish platform, including new faculty integration pilots, enhanced training offerings, and the development of a Starfish knowledge base for users. Dr. Mills also discussed the college's plans to expand academic coaching initiatives, with an emphasis on supporting groups with historically lower retention rates, further strengthening Montgomery College's commitment to student success.

### **Civic Engagement Update**

Karla Silvestre provided an update on the college's civic engagement initiatives, emphasizing strategic efforts to embed civic learning into both academic courses and co-curricular programming. She highlighted work underway to better track student volunteer service and to strengthen Get Out the Vote efforts, addressing the gap between student voter registration and turnout. Karla also shared that more general education courses are now incorporating civic engagement components, helping to deepen students' connection

to their communities and build lifelong habits of civic participation.

### **Chair Election**

#### ***Director of Governance, Dr. Clevette Ridguard***

During the chair election, John Amoroso nominated Dr. Paul Miller to serve as the 2025–2026 College Council Chair. With no additional nominations received, Dr. Miller accepted the nomination and shared his vision for the role, emphasizing his commitment to amplifying the voice of governance, aligning the Council's work with the college's strategic priorities, and upholding the core values of innovation, equity, and student success. By unanimous consent, Dr. Miller was elected as the incoming College Council Chair.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m. following a motion by John Amoroso and seconded by Ernest Cartledge. College Council members attended the baseball game at the Germantown Campus following adjournment.