



Joint Meeting College Council & Student Council

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Meeting #7

1:00-3:00 p.m., Zoom – In-Person Science West 3rd Floor #301

MINUTES

College Council Members Present: Amanda Darr (Vice Chair, Faculty Council Chair) | Mahnoor Z. Asif (Student Council Chair) | Tonya Addleman (Germantown Campus Council Chair) | Sepydeh Yousefi (Employee Services Council Chair) | Suzette Spencer (Administrator Council Chair)

Student Council Members Present: Isaiah Smith, Juan Mendoza, Mahnoor Z. Asif, Krithi AnandVel

Absent: Paul Miller, Nghi Nguyen, Angel Nissing, Surayya Johnson, John Deamond, Jin Khademi

Proxy: Amanda Darr for Paul Miller, Tracy Bodo for Angela Nissing, Miho Shimizu for Surayya Johnson, Angel Griffin for John Deamond, Tonya Addleman for Nghi Nguyen

Guest Speakers: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Suzette Spencer

Guests: Dr. Deidre Price, Dr. Michelle Campbell, Dr. Tiffany Ray-Patterson, Dr. Debbie Van Camp, Dr. Michelle Campbell, George Rice, Sherwin Collette

Zoom Attendees: Angel Griffin, Cathy Henley, Carla Pullen, Fernaundra Ferguson, Hoa Nguyen, Lisannie Montilla, Miho Shimizu, Tracey Bodo, Lisa Burl, Jason Bruffy, Josephine Trawick, Angie Moy, Maria Adams

Student Panel: Samuel Kamsu, Sophia Kalinyak, Isaiah Smith, Jay Line, Diane Carrillo, Mhambi Musonda, Mahnoor Z. Asif

Liaison: Dr. Stephen D. Cain, Chief of Staff

Governance Director: Dr. Clevette Ridguard

Resource: Yvette Taylor

Call to Order

- There was a quorum to conduct business. Amanda Darr (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- The December 2, 2025, agenda was approved as written.

- The minutes for November 18, 2025, were approved as written.

Roll Call

- College Council Vice Chair Amanda Darr & Student Council Chair Mahnoor Z. Asif

Constituent Concerns

- Faculty
 - How do faculty track Facilities request progress? Can Facilities create a reference guide for employees to know how request are handled and tracked?
 - A request was submitted to create a Performance Arts Lounge for students. How do I proceed so I know what are the proper channels to follow to follow up on this proposal?
- Student
 - Could we expand the budget for F1 students to have the possibility to work on campus? Working as an international student on campus would allow students to earn experience to have it on their resume when applying to a university.

President's Remark

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President

- Students are important to our work.
- Creating a sense of belonging for our employees and our students, and making sure students thrive at the College and unlock their potentials to transform lives.
- The College is proud of our students as the semester ends, so take time out for yourself.
- The President shares his appreciation for the College Council and the work the council is doing.

Chair's Report

- See the Chair's Report.

Rockville Library Renovation Update

Ms. Suzette Spencer, Director of Library and Information Services

- RV Campus Library will undergo renovations beginning January 2026
- Upgrades include: modernized interior, dedicated low-sensory area, technology-free reading room, media lab, and expanded study spaces.
- Library will relocate to CB Annex Building, offering limited resources and services during construction.
- Third floor will close December 1, and closure of entire library begins December 22.
- Construction will complete in Fall 2027; grand opening is scheduled for Spring 2028.

Student Panel Discussion

Saron Birke, Samuel Kamsu, Isaiah Smith, Jay Line, Krithi AnandVel, Mhambi Musonda, and Mahnoor Asif

- **What has been your experience this fall semester at MC?**
 - I was able to get ahead with scheduling my classes. My first semester was challenging because I had to travel between the Takoma Park/Silver Spring and Rockville campuses, but this semester has been going very well.
 - It has been a fun journey learning how to commute from Takoma Park/Silver Spring to Rockville. The support from Dr. Laufe in the Honors College and from STEM has been amazing.
 - This semester has been tough because I was very busy. I'm taking classes on two different campuses, and traveling between them can be difficult. However, I'm glad I discovered how many resources are available for students. I learned a lot this semester.
 - This semester has been full of opportunities, especially through Student Council. I had great professors, and I'm very grateful to Dr. Clevette, who was extremely helpful to me.
 - Through my classes and the experiences, I've gained, this has been a great semester, especially being part of the Foundation Board.
 - It has been a good semester. I'm now more aware of the resources available on campus.
- **What areas of support services did you use this semester?**
 - As a Bioscience major, I use the STEM Learning Center (SLC) quite a lot, but I wish it opened a bit earlier.
 - I use the Library frequently, as well as Counseling and Advising.
 - I use Student Life a lot, along with the study rooms. Student Employment Services has also been helpful in improving my résumé and my LinkedIn profile.
 - I use the Library for the quiet space and enjoy checking out books. I also use the Writing Centers, which have been really helpful for getting a second pair of eyes on my writing.
 - I've also been going to the Writing Centers a lot.
 - I want to give a shout-out to ATPA. As part of the Presidential Scholars program, I have a Success Coach, and that support has been extremely helpful. My Success Coach is always there to answer my questions, and that has made a big difference this semester.
 - I use the gyms on all three campuses. I just wish the Takoma gym had longer hours. It's a great place to de-stress.
- **What was your experience with MC Day Event, Slingshot Choice, other services?**
 - I have some concerns about the Opt-In/Opt-Out process. I personally do not enter my credit card into the system because I am worried about unauthorized charges. In some classes, textbooks are listed as required, but on the first day the instructor may say an online version is available, meaning students may not need to purchase the book at all. This could

affect many students. New students who do not regularly check their email may face even bigger issues, especially if their parents' credit card is on file. I reached out to a faculty member for help with opting out because I did not know how to do it.

- It would have been helpful for the College to post more information about MC Day on social media platforms like Instagram.
- I didn't know much about MC Day, only that classes were canceled.
- Being involved with Student Life helped us learn more about MC Day. There was a link to the schedule, but when I clicked the link, it didn't show anything. The schedule wasn't available until about a week before. Faculty played a big role in helping students understand what MC Day was.
- I was working that day, but students told me the MC Shuttle had a different schedule, which caused a lot of confusion. Many students didn't know about the change and had trouble traveling between campuses.
- The MC Shuttle stopped running earlier than expected. We had Raptor Night at the Rockville Campus around 5:00 PM, but the shuttle wasn't running, so some students who wanted to attend couldn't get there. The College should promote MC Day more effectively because it is more than just a day without classes.

- **What could the institution do to improve your student experience?**

- There should be more collaboration among the Student Life Offices across all three campuses. Events happen on different campuses, but they are often only promoted locally. Students should be informed about what is happening at all three campuses.
- We need a stronger sense of "One College." There should be more collaboration and communication across all three campuses. For example, the bookstore is very confusing due to limited communication. Increasing communication will help students fully access the resources available at MC. The most effective approach is personal communication beyond social media, such as visiting classrooms and speaking directly with students about upcoming events.
- As a Dual Enrollment student, I wish we had more flexibility in choosing our schedules or cohorts. Many of us don't drive, and transportation can be a challenge. For example, having a 1:00 PM class when the only available bus arrives at 8:00 AM. Additionally, communication between Dual Enrollment advisors and high school counselors should be improved. Counselors often don't know enough about the program, and miscommunication frequently occurs between them and the Dual Enrollment advisors.
- I recommend requiring every student to meet with a Transfer Counselor early in their first semester. Many students end up taking classes that do not transfer to universities. Meeting with a Transfer Counselor early on would help students understand which courses will be accepted by four-year institutions.

- **What is one thing that MC does well for students? What is one thing you'd like to change about MC?**

- Everything the Student Life Office does is amazing.
- I really love the clubs and events. The College has a lot of diversity, so it's important to involve students from different cultural backgrounds and showcase our various student groups.
- I would love to join the soccer team, but it is only offered on the Rockville Campus. It would be helpful to have teams on different campuses. I also hope the College will do more for our F-1 students because it is very difficult for them to access certain opportunities that students with a Green Card can.
- Another area for improvement is the condition of some elevators on the Rockville Campus. There are also other building-related concerns on the Rockville Campus that should be reviewed more closely.
- One request for improvement is the Transfer Fair. It would be helpful to establish more transfer agreements with universities. Students want to learn about a wider range of institutions, as the same universities seem to attend each year. It would be great to invite more universities to participate.

Announcements

- None

Adjourned

- The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m., following a motion by Amanda Darr, Suzette Spencer, Tonya Addleman seconded.

Next Council Meetings

- 12/16, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12

Submitted by

- Nghi Nguyen, College Council Secretary