



College Council
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Meeting #11
1:00-3:00 p.m., Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Paul Miller (Chair); Suzette Spencer (Vice Chair, Administrator Council Chair); Nghi Nguyen (Secretary, Staff Council Chair); Angela Nissing (Academic Services Council Chair); Tonya Addleman (Germantown Campus Council Chair); Jason Bruffy (Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Council Chair); Angel Griffin (Workforce Development and Continuing Education Council Chair); Sepydeh Yousefi (Employee Services Council Chair); Fernaundra Ferguson (Operational Services Council Chair); Jin Khademi (Rockville Campus Council); Surayya Johnson (Student Services & Success Council Chair); Mahnoor Z. Asif (Student Council Chair)

Absent: Tamesha Robinson (Faculty Council Chair)

Proxy: Joe Stumpf for Tamesha Robinson

Guest Speaker(s): Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Elizabeth Thomas, Carla Pullen, Bernadette Maldonado, Scott Youngblood

Guest(s): Dr. Michelle Campbell, Andrew Scheppler, Heidi Baez, Lizeth Montano, Lisannie Montilla, Hoa Nguyen, Sherwin Collette, Josephine Trawick, Angie Moy, Dr. Tiffany Ray-Patterson, Rahman Fa

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. Nghi Nguyen, for Dr. Paul Miller (Chair), called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The March 10, 2026, agenda was approved as written.
- The minutes for February 24, 2026, approved as written.

Constituent Concerns

- Student Constituent Concerns:
 - Akhyan from the Rockville campus expressed concerns about the shuttle bus being late and sometimes leaving early, leaving many students stranded between campuses. Germantown and Takoma Park members also expressed the same concern, noting that the inconsistency makes it difficult for students to rely on the shuttle for transportation between classes. It was suggested that the Shuttle Service create a QR code to submit issues as they occur.
 - Fabrico from the Takoma Park campus expressed concern about the limited gym hours for students on campus. A few other council members from Germantown and Rockville also shared similar concerns, explaining that the current hours make it difficult for many students to access the facilities around their class schedules. Efforts have been made by the Takoma Park campus to survey students to better understand when expanded hours would be most useful.
 - Many accessibility buttons across all three campuses are not working entirely or are delayed, prompting many students with accessibility needs to wait longer for assistance or find alternative routes to reach their classes.
 - A vending machine on the Rockville campus is not properly returning change, which has caused frustration for students who have lost money while attempting to purchase items. (Student will email Sokol Mato).

Chair's Report

- See the Chair's Report.

President's Remark

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

- In a recent episode of Bow Tie Chats, Student Trustee Renata Podlesny shared her experience in Montgomery College's dual enrollment program.
- Montgomery College enhanced its "Ask Monty" chatbot to automatically translate responses when users submit questions in other languages.
- Montgomery College has been named an Achieving the Dream 2026 Leader College following a comprehensive national review process.
- Montgomery College's online associate of science degree in data science was ranked fifth nationally in TechGuide's 2026 Best Online Associate Programs.
- Students traveled to Annapolis for Student Advocacy Day last month, meeting with elected officials and participating in civic engagement activities.
- Review Issue Number 2 of the President Report for the College Council

Commencement Updates

Elizabeth Thomas, Special Events Director, Commencement Chair & Scott Youngblood, Commencement Co-Chair

- Dates: Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22
- Thursday Majors: Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, and Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education

- Friday Majors: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Health Sciences
- Will take place under the tent on the Athletic Field on the Rockville Campus. The ceremonies will begin at 10:00 a.m.
- Over 250 volunteers needed per day
- See Commencement Updates presentation

Facilities Updates

Carla Pullen, Vice President of Facilities Management, Capital Planning, and Sustainability

- FY27 State Funding Request
 - Rockville Macklin Tower, Library Renovation (Construction): \$5,573,000
 - Rockville Theatre Arts, Building Renovation and Addition (Design): \$4,175,000
- New Student Services Building in Germantown
- Elevators: Repair and Modernization
 - Modernization: long-term, capital plan
 - Reliability: reduction in downtime
 - Accessibility: impact to student & staff
 - Repairs: preventive maintenance
- Reviewing accessibility button at campuses to make sure these buttons are working correctly
- Campus Hub & Lounge Spaces
 - Distribution hub, active spaces, relaxed spaces, quiet spaces, food
- See Facilities updates presentation

MC Foundation Updates

Bernadette Maldonado, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, Executive Director, MC Foundation

- FY2021-2028 Campaign Goal: \$50 millions | progress: \$39 millions
- College-wide corporate sponsorship program aligned with SVP goals
 - Goal: 12–15 corporate/business partners
 - 90% unrestricted revenue
 - 100% new philanthropic relationships
 - Supports campaign visibility and employer ties
- Micro-campaign to support basic needs and drive participation
 - Supports housing, food, transportation, technology, and materials.
 - Message: 'Where Extraordinary Begins/ Meeting Needs. Unlocking Potential.'
 - Mobilize Essentials Advocates for peer-to-peer credibility.
- See MC Foundation updates presentation

Assessment & Engagement PD Exercise

Dr. Clevette Ridguard & Dr. Paul Miller, Chair

- Senior Senior leadership should be more transparent and authentic when responding to recommendations or suggestions.

- When a concern is raised through governance and a solution is implemented, employees and students should be informed that the issue was addressed through the governance process.
- If people see governance as a place where they can bring concerns and know those concerns will be taken seriously, it may encourage greater participation.
- Provide regular updates, such as a digest or newsletter, on the governance website so the community is aware of current discussions and decisions.
- Senior leadership always work closely with governance councils to both disseminate information and gather feedback from their respective constituencies.
- Consider what information should be shared with the community and determine the most effective ways to communicate it.
- Some groups, such as part-time faculty, are not always included in conversations or decision-making. It would be valuable to include more voices in governance discussions. How can governance better reach out to these groups and ensure they are heard?
- Align governance recommendations with the College's Strategic Goals and other master plans.
- Consider creating a governance report similar to the President's Report presented to the College Council.
- If councils are informed in advance about policies and procedures (P&P) that are being updated or developed, they could align their goals and discussions with those policy changes.

Governance Updates

Dr. Clevette Ridguard

- Stop by the Governance Info Table during Staff Enrichment Day
- March and April Governance Awareness Month
- March 9-20, Nomination Accept or Decline
- Election starts March 30 and ends April 10

Adjourned

- The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m., following a motion by Suzette Spencer and seconded by Fernaudra Ferguson.

Next Council Meetings

- 3/24, 4/14, 4/28, 5/12

Submitted by

- Nghi Nguyen, College Council Secretary