
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Faculty Council
September 22, 2016
12:30–2:30 p.m.
SC 152

Attendees

- Members present: Sharon Anthony, Robin Flanary, Zenobia Garrison, Angela Nissing, Rick Penn, Anthony Solano, Alan Stover, Joe Thompson, Steve Thurston, Page Whittenburg, Tracie Witte, Laura Gardner, Margo Woodward-Barnett
- Proxies present: Charmaine Weston & Zenobia Garrison
- Members absent: Jennifer Ausden, Zhou Dong, Tracey Smith-Bryant, Ever Grier, Eric Benjamin
- Guests: Joel Levine, Ray Gilmore, Phuong Banh, Carolyn Terry, Dean Deb Preston

Call to Order

Chair Rick Penn called the regular meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Constituent Concerns/Open Comments

Joel Levine, constituent guest, introduced himself as a new junior associate for the Institute for Part-time Faculty Engagement & Support.

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes for 9/8/16 meeting was approved without any objections.
Record from May 5th meeting was clarified & then approved.

Continuing Business

Rick Penn provided an update about early cancellation of sections discussed last meeting. Explained college's benchmark goal of filled sections is 85% up from 80% with the idea of having more students in fewer sections. The working percentage is 82.5% to account for some under enrolled sections. Joe Thompson reminded that both Deans and Chairs need to work together to find this balance at the beginning of the scheduling cycle, and the need for consistency across disciplines and campuses.

Carolyn Terry clarified further the complexity of figuring out what to keep based on unknowns of the timing of "August rush," patterns of enrollment data, and instructional budgetary considerations. Rick Penn also stated a plan for student feedback via Student Senate is underway.

New Business

Guests Ray Gilmore & Phong Banh shared updates since the rollout of the new website, and a plan for student focus groups to understand their user experience better and most effective forms of communication and media use.

Council complimented improved efficiency of the search box but recommended navigation improvements, and making information easier to find for students and faculty. Phong Banh noted the need to embellish MyMC to address this issue more effectively. Ray Gilmore informed us about improvements underway to the online catalog to make it a guided tour experience rather than browsing focus. Rick Penn mentioned a need for a faculty advisory group to form in order to provide feedback, and encouraged participation of Council members.

Deb Preston shared a draft of revised questions used for faculty evaluation. This revision was necessary to fit more class formats. This discussion continues so that they also cater to science discussion sections.

Page Whittenburg mentioned some of the jargon may be difficult for non-native English speakers to understand. Zenobia Garrison asked for about the timing of the evaluation for accelerated late starting courses ending prior to end of term. Deb Preston clarified evaluation is typically tied to part of term coded in Banner. She also noted that the system is now set up to distinguish between different student population for more accurate reporting.

Deb Preston solicited feedback – pros and cons - about implementing the “Do it Later” feature or not. Rick Penn suggested a formation of an ad hoc group to work with Deb Preston to broaden constituency feedback.

Rick Penn passed out a draft of this year’s Faculty Council annual goals for members to review and provide feedback at our next meeting.

Chairs Report

Rick Penn informed Council of the annual dinner with the Board of Trustees on October 17, 2016. The agenda will focus on the Achieving the Dream initiative.

Secondly, the Board is looking this year to re-examine the face of Montgomery College in three areas: educational excellence, financial sustainability and community engagement. In the process the mission of the College will be revamped. A heavier emphasis on trades relative to academics will ensue. Rick Penn shared the “Envisioning the Future” timetable and encouraged Council members to share this information with their constituency and be vigilant about attending.

Committee Reports

Academic Regulations

Tracie Witte submitted a report for Council but was not present to discuss content.

Curriculum Committee

Anthony Solano’s reported updates are forthcoming.

General Education Committee

Sharon Anthony shared her report and a new General Education Transferability FAQ document.

Campus Faculty Senates

- Rockville – First meeting was held 9/8/16. Liaisons were established to better respond to issues as they arise. Invited Middle States accreditation co-chairs as a guest.
- Germantown – First meeting was 9/14/16. Zenobia Garrison served as proxy for the Chair of Senate, Zhou Dong, and reported three issues: inadequate new adjunct space in HT building, continued issues with missing/incorrect instructional materials, and a call to formalize process, procedures, and terms for the academic appeals committee. Rick Penn noted a mention about the latter in Tracey Witte’s report.
- Takoma Park/Silver Spring – First meeting was held on 8/25/16. Charmaine Weston served as a proxy for Chair of Senate, Tracey Smith-Bryant and reported: safety concern of a stairwell that resulted in injury of a staff member, an incident surrounding belligerent student behavior and a faculty member, faculty concern about needing to limit the number of special topic offerings.
-

Announcements/Adjournment

Joe Thompson made a motion to adjourn at 2:33 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Zenobia Garrison
Faculty Council Secretary