
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Rockville Campus Council

September 15, 2020

via Zoom

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

- Members present: Christine Tracey (Chair), Carrie Fitzgerald (Vice Chair), Nghi Nguyen (Secretary), Kathryn Davis, James Mitchell, Chantal Vilmar, Katherine M. Goldstein, Joanne Carl, Jennifer Page, David Neumann, Justin 'Matt' Hicks, and Andre Ferguson
- Proxies present: -
- Members Absent: Veronica Carbajal
- Invited Guests: Stephanie Wil (Mental Health), Dr. Kimberly Kelly (RV Provost/Liaison), and Carla Ammerman (HR Consultant), Clevette Ridguard (Governance Director)

Call to Order

- The regular meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m., by Chair Christine Tracey.

Constituent Concerns

- Member David Neumann brought up a concern about employees and students still having to pay parking fees while we are working remotely.
- Member Andre Ferguson brought up a concern relates to the transparency and the legitimacy of information provided by the financial aid department. This is happening to many students and mostly pertains to the students that are prompt and timely in their financial aid submittal, though it can and should extend to all students.
 - Information given to students is not consistent: I have been fortunate to have finally found some diamonds in the financial aid department. This was through the aide of certain counselors and professors acting on my behalf, as well as my own persistence. Financial aid staff can be a bit slow on the turn around time the department has as a default time for replies (I state this only for the students who do things in a timely manner). I have been told, (in a not so pleasant manor) to pay up even though I had enough financial aid to cover (person 1). I was then told by another (person 2) that I was okay and negated the comments of the initial person I spoke to. Fast-forward to another semester, the same individual (person 2) who refuted the colleague (person 1) initial claims all of a sudden restated information in support of that colleague. I have been in conversation with financial aid personnel who have put the responsibility of my financial situation unnecessarily on academic faculty who were trying to help me. The point is that all financial aid workers should be consistent and of one accord in divulging information to each student. It should be consistent. There should not be cracks in understanding when it comes to the students. Especially on one to one session explanations should be precise to that students' situation and reveal all applicable facts. I have noticed that there is a lot of maybe speech where it need not be.
 - Financial aid recipients are being caused undue financial stress: As a community college MC offers and affords students with the opportunity tho achieve goals and realize dreams. The success of a well-intentioned student can be hindered or cut off due to the "financial trappings" be it personal or educational. In my own journey in fear of refutation from necessary classes I have paid a sum of money before the semester

though my financial aid covered everything. I did this due to messages received from financial aid. As one of the millions of people who live paycheck to paycheck, this requires the forfeiture of things I may need for school to succeed or even basic needs. This causes stress and wastes energies which could be put towards academics.

- Chair Christine Tracey suggested bringing these concerns to College Council.
- Katherine Goldstein motioned to move constituent concerns to College Council. Chantal Vilmar Seconded.

Approval of Minutes

- May meeting minutes were approved. Nghi Nguyen motioned to approve the minutes. Kathryn Davis seconded.

Chair's Report

- Questions for the upcoming Conversation with Leadership can be submitted to ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu through this Friday, September 18. The event will be broadcast next week on Thursday, September 24.
- Virtual tutoring is available:
<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/academics/support/learning-centers/virtual-tutoring.html>
- Links to Student Emergency Assistance, Communications, and Guidance:
<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/coronavirus/>
- College council goal themes this year: Transformation and Resilience
- 3 policies and procedures open for comment until 10/2: 32500-Flexible Work Arrangements, 38001CP-Recognition Awards, and 43002Cp-Board of Trustees Student Grants and Scholarships

Campus News

- The College is trying to open the minimum number of buildings possible. The two main criteria to be considered for the opening are that the buildings meet ventilation and filtration standards and have multiple access doors to help maintain physical distancing.
- Ride-On is operating fare-free until November. No registration stickers are needed to take the buses until Ride-On resumes fares for riders.
- No decisions were made on the shuttle service. Whether and if it will resume service depends on the demand.
- Most of the classes for the fall semester, 2020 are virtual, but a few, mostly labs, are being held on-campus.
- COVID-19 trainings are currently offered to the faculty and staff who need to be on-campus. A self-assessment is required before visiting the campus.
https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/_documents/coronavirus/covid-requirements-onsite-work.pdf

Dr. Kimberly Kelley, Provost

- Blood Drive in Science Center building on September 30th
- Security will move over to the new Student Services Center while MK is under construction
- Facilities want to demolish old Student Services building
- Soccer Field is completed and ready for soccer program when College reopens

Stephanie Will, Mental Health Services Program Manager, SHaW Center

- COVID-19 and continued quarantine is increasing workload, causing some to struggle with time management, creating Zoom fatigue, creating feelings of isolation, and increasing the consumption of social media/devices
- Presidential election
- Increased focus on racism and social justice
- Symptoms of irritability, increased fear, anxiety, depression, anger, decreased motivation, etc.
- SHaW Center
 - Several mental health events are being held for Fall semester
 - There are support programs available including Mentoring Network, Peer2Peer Program
 - Mobile Market events are still being held around the campuses. They will be drive-thru mobile markets
- Some upcoming events
 - What is Individual Counseling? Monday, 9/21
 - What are Psychiatry and Assessment? Thursday, 10/1
- Join SHaW Center mailing list to get the latest updates: <https://bit.ly/2Fx77i3>
- Employee Resources
 - Faculty/Staff Assistance Program (FSAP): offers counseling services, planning vacations, legal consultation, much more.
- Community Resources
 - MC Crisis Hotline (240-777-4000)
 - EveryMind, <https://www.every-mind.org>
 - InfoMontgomery - <https://www.infomontgomery.org>
 - HELP community organizations
 - SHaW Center - <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/life-at-mc/student-health-and-wellness>

Goals Discussion

- Two goals are needed
- Goals plan needs to be submitted by October
- Some suggestions: Mobile Market, Advising Day (help rally students to go talk to counselor, adviser, etc.), Provide Venue to Networking (Professors/Students), RV Campus Council Newsletter.
- Actively promoting and breaking stigma around mental health, regularly get updates on mental health initiatives from SHAW and Rockville Counseling and Advising. With Counseling and Advising in Mannakee, it is often forgotten.
- Note that it is not just SHAW having mental health resources, Rockville Counseling and Advising does crisis intervention, short brief solution focused counseling with students, and Title IX. We are the only confidential informants for Title IX. We could promote/encourage Professors to request Title IX's Bringing in the Bystander program. I regularly present this. The number of Professors requesting it for their classes has gone down drastically, despite being a great program.
- Student Athletes. Rockville is the home of 8 of the 9 sports teams (baseball is at Germantown), They serve our campus by creating raptor spirit, opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to be entertained with their games and student engagement. The new soccer field will be the

first-time soccer has been on campus. Our student-athletes are going through a very difficult time and need support. There has been losses of identity, isolation, and much more. I don't think the campus understands what it means to have Division 1 and 2 sports. These students see their athletic talent as their ticket to access higher education. It is a very big deal and unique cohort with its own unique pressures.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Nghị Nguyen, Rockville Campus Council Secretary

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