
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Student Council

October 6, 2016

3:30–5:00 p.m.

MKE 318

Attendees:

- Members present: Christian Gbewardo, Christopher Majano, Jonell Malone, Mona Motamedi, Charles Myers, Emily Samuels, Aranje Sripanjalingam, Anton Stalchenko
- Members absent: Tom Anderson
- Leader Liaison: Melissa Gregory for Monica Brown
- Guests: Julie Weber, Kevin Long

Call to Order

Chair Christian Gbewardo called the regular meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

Constituent Comments

Anton Stalchenko suggested that a policy be established to provide guidelines for professors when students are unable to complete homework assignments or other class work if Blackboard is down for three hours or more.

Jonell Malone asked about an online tracker showing what time campus shuttles are coming.

Emily Samuels informed the council about an Outlook problem resulting in library quizzes being sent to the student's e-mail and not the professor's e-mail.

Charles Myers had a question about the hiring practices of faculty.

Jonell Malone said the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Senate has raised concerns that some science and math classes are not standardized and some classes are behind schedule.

Approval of Minutes

Jonell Malone made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2016, meeting as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair's Report

Christian Gbewardo reported that the College Council is scheduled to discuss the student non-reprisal statement at its Oct. 11 meeting. He encouraged all Student Council members to attend the meeting if possible to show support for the measure.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Spending for Student Success is seeking a student member. Christian Gbewardo will send application information to interested students, and council members are encouraged to share information about this opportunity with members of the student senates.

Christian Gbewardo visited the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Senate last week and the Rockville Student Senate this week. He will share all the feedback received after he completes his visit to the Germantown Student Senate next week.

New Business

Proposed Creation of Ombuds Office for Students

Julie Weber described the role of ombuds and the services the Office of the Ombuds provides. Though currently available only for employees, including students who are employees, the College is working toward developing a

student ombuds program if the budget allows. Students can e-mail her with questions or ideas regarding the potential student ombuds office.

College Policies & Procedures (New and Revisions)

Kevin Long reviewed proposed changes to the Student Indebtedness policy and procedure, which provide more protections for students, currently out for public comment until Oct. 21. He also informed members about two policies going before the President's Executive Council next week:

- a new Student Social Media Privacy Protection policy that states the College will never ask a student to access their personal social media accounts and
- a change to the Freedom of Expression policy that adds protection for student journalists and employees serving as advisers of College-sponsored media.

Expulsion of Absentee Council Members

Jonell Malone made a motion to remove Amy Brookhart, Jennifer DiPietro, and Esther Hernandez from the council for having more than three unexcused meeting absences, per Student Council bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Council members were asked to submit the names and contact information of students who would be willing to serve on the council to the chair, who can appoint new members to fill the vacancies.

Anton Stalchenko suggested a change in the bylaws so that the entire council has a voice in appointing and approving new council members. Christian Gbewordo will check with Tacy Holliday on this issue.

Unfinished Business

Annual Goals

Christian Gbewordo will post the proposed goals on the group e-mail. Members are asked to submit ideas for benchmarks, specific activities, and methods of assessment via e-mail so that the council can finalize the plan at the next meeting.

Announcements/Adjournment

Charles Myers requested that the College put out a collegewide notice that the deadline to vote in Montgomery County is October 18. Melissa Gregory said the College is required by law to notify both employees and students, and she suggested the council check with the Office of Compliance.

Jonell Malone attended the October 5 County Council meeting to advocate for funding on behalf of Montgomery College.

Aranje Sripanjalingam said State Senator Nancy King is scheduled to visit the Germantown Campus on Monday, October 10.

Jonell Malone encouraged students to check the schedule of the Middle States Listening Tour and try to attend one of the sessions.

Christian Gbewordo reminded members that when the council receives a request for students to serve on committees, it is a way to get more students involved and provides an opportunity for the College to listen to student concerns.

Jonell Malone made a motion to adjourn at 5:01 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Mona Motamedi
Student Council Secretary