

MC GOVERNANCE

Montgomery College

Student Council Meeting #9 Minutes

Thursday, March 7th, 2019

3:00 – 5:00 PM

HU 009

Members Present: Dini Khiangte, Linneu Salles, Govita Etwaroo, Caleb Schauer, Adela Lungu, Elise Roberts and Amalia Cashnova (Proxy for Lana Bizeau)

Administrative Liaison: Mrs. Monica Brown and Mr. Brad Pabian

Guests: Michael Lannon (Vice President of Operations East in Chartwell) and Nadine Porter (Sr. Vice President for Administrative and Fiscal Services)

Call to Order:

3:10pm

Constituent Concerns/Comments:

3:10pm

3:15pm – 3:38pm - Mr. Abus, a Montgomery College student from the Takoma Park Campus, relayed a personal and larger student Iranian community concern regarding the calendar time for Spring Break at MC. Given that the first week of Spring is a very important cultural date for Iranians and is also the Spring Break for other academic institutions, such as the University of Maryland, Mr. Abus was wondering if it would be possible to push the MC Spring Break week one week ahead, therefore coinciding with the Iranian cultural date and with calendars from other academic institutions. He later related that students enrolled in the MTAP do not have a full Spring Break due to the difference between the UMD's calendar and MC's calendar.

Dr. Monica Brown recommended inviting the chairman of the calendar committee to better discuss this issue.

Mr. Abus said that many teachers won't allow absence and teachers will discount one letter grade after three unexcused absences.

Mrs. Dini Khiangte will further address this issue and if need be, the council will pass a motion to recommend a survey, regarding student opinion on changing the academic calendar for Spring Break.

Ensuing discussion on whether the council should pass a motion in support of this concern

Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

3:10pm

Campus Report:

3:11pm

Germantown Student Senate Representative Mr. Caleb Schauer reported the following recent and upcoming events from the Germantown Student Senate: International Women's day fashion show

Takoma Park Student Senate Representative Mrs. Elise Roberts reported the following recent and upcoming events from the Takoma Park Student Senate: the Women's symposium and Multicultural Fair

Rockville Student Senate Representative Mrs. Govita Etwaroo reported the following recent and upcoming events from the Rockville Student Senate: the Ninth Annual MC's Got Talent Show

Recommendations:

3:15pm

From 3:15pm to 3:38pm, Mr. Abus, a Takoma Park student, raised a constituent request. This section has been allocated to the Constituent Concern section of this Council meeting's notes.

3:38pm – Discussion on scholarship fair recommendations. No changes needed

3:41pm – Adela Lungu related a Takoma Park Student Senate recommendation that the Student Life location, on all campuses, be on all Syllabi. Mr. Pabian said that the motion cannot be changed and that any further input may be used for argumentation when discussing the issue with the College Council.

Discussion on Procedures Regarding Facility use and Security:

3:45pm

Dr. Marv Mills was unable to attend; therefore, this section was not fulfilled.

Mr. Pabian said that Council leadership can meet with Mr. Marv Mills on Tuesday, March 19th and later discuss findings, related to the March 19th meeting, on the April 3rd Student

Council meeting. Another option, is to discuss this issue on the April 3rd Student Council meeting without a previous informal meeting with Mr. Marv Mills.

Mrs. Amalia explained the importance of Mr. Marv Mills presentation. A private organization that advocates against abortion has repeatedly featured disturbing images on campus. In addition, allegedly one of the members of this group grabbed a student during a heated discussion.

Water in the water fountains is not clear and seems contaminated (“fizzy” and “murky”). Lack of clarity of table requirements is another issue regarding facilities.

3:53pm – Student Council decides Student Council leadership will meet with Mr. Marv Mills on Tuesday, March 19th.

Chartwells Partnership with MC for Food Diversity:

3:57pm

Mrs. Dini Khiangte introduced the issue of lack of food diversity and questioned why the Germantown cafeteria is operated by a subcontractor.

Mr. Lannon said subcontracting was better due to Germantown’s initial lack of financial significance, AKA business decision.

Mrs. Adela Lungu mentioned a lack of diversity in food types in Takoma Park. Mrs. Amalia reinforced this point in the Rockville campus; there have been improvement but not enough. Mr. Caleb Schauer mentioned the same points in Germantown and that many times students have to go off campus.

Mrs. Dini Khiangte asked if third party food suppliers may conduct business in the Rockville campus.

Mrs. Nadine Porter said it is an ongoing issue. Contracts of a certain size require many criteria, such as: interviews, presentations etc. This process is conducted in a public forum.

Mrs. Elise Roberts asked why some campuses have different food options and asked if campus foods services could be more equal.

Mr. Michael Lannon explained that base facilities (Kitchen etc.) are the determining factor. Mr. Lannon answered Mrs. Elise Roberts’ question with “ok”.

Mr. Caleb Schauer, in conjunction with Mrs. Adela Lungu, mentioned that students with late classes don’t have access to cafeteria food at night and have to go off-campus.

Mr. Michael Lannon asked for statistics, regarding class hours, on night time students. He also mentioned the following points:

- 7:30am to 1:30pm - hours of operation that bring the vast majority of revenue for Chartwells
- 1:30pm to close - very limited revenue for Chartwells

Mr. Michael Lannon suggested that the Student Council meet up with some senior members from Chartwell to further discuss the matter.

Mrs. Amalia asked if vending machines are related to Chartwells and asked if vending machines can have healthier options.

Mr. Michael Lannon said that vending machines are from a partner company.

Mrs. Adela Lungu and Mrs. Elise Roberts reported the existence of vending machines that are broken or have some issue in Takoma Park. Mr. Caleb Schauer reported similar issues in a vending machine in the Germantown PK building.

Mr. Michael Lannon said he would look into those issues.

Student Council discussed discrepancies in quality and diversity in vending machines across all three campuses.

Mrs. Elise Roberts reported a vending machines in the Commons Building (Takoma Park) that has not been restocked for four months. Mrs. Adela Lungu reinforced this point and mentioned the vending machines in the Commons Building seem neglected.

Mr. Michael Lannon said he would look into the issue.

Mrs. Adela Lungu mentioned catering has to be bought from outside companies, due to the fact that Chartwells options are very limited.

Mr. Michael Lannon asked for student group budgets

Mrs. Elise Roberts reported that budgets may vary from a few hundred dollars to small events to approximately \$1,000 for larger events.

Mr. Caleb Schauer mentioned that, when compared to Chartwells, for large catering orders, outside companies are more cost affordable and have more options. This point was reinforced by Mrs. Adela Lungu.

Mrs. Amalia asked if the current contract is being renegotiated.

Mr. Michael Lannon explained the contract expires next June (June, 2020).

Mrs Nadine Porter asked the status of a possible food diversity survey.

Student Council has no ongoing food diversity survey.

Mrs Nadine Porter delivered a printed version of the requirements for a potential food survey.

Chair Report:

4:38pm

Mrs Dini Khiangte proposed that the Student Council focus on ongoing recommendations given the limited number of future meetings.

New concerns for Mr. Marv Mills:

- If possible to allow student parking in staff parking spaces after 5pm
- Status or parking lot/garage maintenance in Takoma Park
- Existence or possibility of cameras in parking lots/garages across all three campuses
- How lighting in parking lots/garages is addressed across all three campuses

4:47pm – Mrs. Adela Lungu mentioned a Takoma Park Student Senate recommendation on mandatory micro aggression training for staff and faculty. Some professors are unnecessarily rude and possibly racially insensitive.

Mrs. Brown said student concerns can be given by individual students to the dean of each campus or to other staff and faculty, either unofficially or officially.

Announcements and Future Agenda Items:

4:59pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm by Mrs. Dini Khiangte

Submitted by Linneu Martins Salles

Student Council Secretary