

Montgomery College
Student Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2020

2 – 4 PM

Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Present: Rebecca Adegeye, Nasser Katende Katamba, Megan Barrett, Patricia Libongco, Samuel Kebede

Absent: Jessica _____, _____, Jean Kamga Nenkam, Busma Albiel, Maaz Tahir, Yun Pan Ei, Aida Amaya, Hiwot Gebrehiwot, Abdulkadir Muktar

Guests: Dr. Sanjay Rai, David Sears, Rose Garvin Aquilino, Dr. Meghan Gibbons, Xuechun Deng, Matthew Watson, Melissa Sprague, Denise Matheny, Agustin Cortes

Liaison: Dr. Monica Brown, Dr. Clevette Ridguard

Call to Order

There is a quorum to conduct business. The meeting was called to order at 2:04pm by the chair.

Constituent Concerns

No constituent concerns were presented.

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved as written. The meeting was recorded for internal use only.

Chair's Report

The chair provided the following updates and information:

- MC Flu Clinic at 10/19
- [Maryland Community College Virtual Leadership Conference](#) – October 28-30, 2020 at 2:00 pm
- MC named Maryland Census Champion
- Budget Forums – 10/29 and 10/30
 - Send questions to budgetforums@montgomerycollege.edu
- Meeting with Dr. Brown about Spring classes, Commencement 2020-2021, and Tuition fees
- Student Services Center on Rockville Campus
 - Send questions to events@montgomerycollege.edu
- Student Council meeting time: 3-5pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month
 - Will have further discussion later

Goals Discussion

- Increase engagement of students and increase knowledge of Student Council
 - [Instagram account](#) – connect with students and share information about events
 - New logo for Student Council – will post on flyers
 - Member of the week – let students get to know the council members

- Reach out to students
- Gain more insight about MC – invite speakers to share knowledge about the College

Introduction and Overview of the SVP of Student Affairs and Student Council Liaison – Dr. Monica Brown

- Role at College – serve students and advocate with others at the College on behalf of the students
 - Oversee [Student Affairs](#) division
 - Work with administrators and deans
 - Support students through counseling and advising
- [Student Life](#) - events and activities to get students engaged at MC
 - More inclined to persist if there is engagement
 - Connect with people early on
- Question – How did you start?
 - Started at Georgetown University
 - Always enjoyed interaction with students – transit from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs
 - Loved the mission of community college
- Question – Is athletic part of Student Affairs? Is there any update for the spring?
 - If possible, plan to return to competition in the spring.
 - Will return to practice on 10/24
 - Protocols in place to keep everyone safe
- Question – Are there challenges as SVP of Student Affairs?
 - Yes, more successes in career but there have been challenges – COVID-19

Academic Affairs and Commencement 2021 – Dr. Sanjay Rai and David Sears

- [Academic Affairs](#)
 - Develop 7-week training program for faculty to teach in remote environment
 - Ensure services are available in remote environment
 - Embedded teaching program – increased sessions offered in Fall
 - Making sure that students are getting ready to register for spring semester
 - Advising Day on 10/20 – students meet with counselors and advisors and ask questions
 - Engage with other students
 - Alumni came back to talk about their experiences
- Question – Does MC have policy on political activity? Cancel class on Election Day?
 - Will not cancel classes
 - Make plans to vote and reach out to professors if you have classes on that day
- Commencement 2020-2021
 - Interested in student perspective – in person vs. virtual?
 - Question – How can students reach out?
 - Direct them to [Denise Matheny](#)
 - Question – Decision on commencement will be made on 11/2, when will students know?
 - Within 2 weeks of decision – communication from Dr. Pollard or SVP

- Question – Consider sending a poll or survey to students about in person or virtual?
 - Will definitely consider this
- Question – What is the possibility of resuming face-to-face classes in 2021?
 - Don't want to make last minute decisions
 - Spring semester – College still observing situation but will mostly remain in remote environment until 3/22
 - Safety for students, faculty, and staff is the most important
 - CAT team came up with guidelines
 - Summer and Fall – still in discussion
- Question – For students not ready to get back to campus, are there online options with students?
 - Flexibility for students – no one will be forced to return
 - Lab classes may come back but not all on the same day

Old Business: Student Remote Learning Issues (Cameras, Recordings, etc.)

- Camera use – students made to sign contracts to keep camera on and privacy issues
 - Council members expressed that there are a lot of confusion.
 - Need formal communication
 - Flexibility and trust
 - Understand reason why professors want camera on
 - Need communication between professors and students
 - Record class and send to student
 - Different ways to ensure that students are engagement
 - Ex: Ask questions periodically during class to make sure students are listening
 - Encouraged to see both sides of issue and look for best practices
 - A council member expressed that some professor record before asking for permission.
- Question – Possibility of small scale in-person commencement/events?
 - Looking into smaller events, but will need to follow guidelines
 - Working to improve virtual commencement
 - Health and safety are the priority
- Council members suggested to have poll to see students' perspective on the issue.
 - Will consider doing poll to gain information without giving false hope
 - Results of polls may not be the final decision
 - Priority is health and safety
 - Collaboration and discussion between Student Senate of all three campuses

New Business

- Question – How is money going to be distributed?
 - Use towards students trying to enroll in spring semester
 - Open to other ideas
- A council member brought forth student concerns about ProctorU. Students feel that it is too invasive. Is there a better channel to communicate concern?

- Dr. Brown expressed that she would like to hear more about concern and have a more robust conversation.
 - Students concerned about privacy – software has access to control computer
 - Invite Director of Assessment Center to talk more about issue – gathered information will not be misused
- Jane Ellen Miller will attend next meeting, and she can provide general information about this topic.
- Council members expressed gratitude to Senior Leadership.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28pm.