

**Montgomery College**  
**Student Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 25, 2021

3 – 5 PM

Zoom Meeting

**Attendees**

*Present:* Rebecca Adegeye, Nasser Katende Katamba, Megan Barrett, Patricia Libongco, Arteen Issagholian, Xuechun Deng, Elhan Amy Bisle

*Absent:* Jean Kamga Nenkam

*Guests:* Dr. DeRionne Pollard, MC Foundation Innovation Advisory Committee, Yvette Taylor, Dr. Sanjay Rai, Shakenna Adams-Gormley, Dr. Benita Rashaw, Dr. Meghan Gibbons, David Sears, Surayya Johnson, Tonya Baker, Kenneth Wainaina, Rache Alaran, Fanuta Hailu, Ana Sofia Baide, Oyindamoya Okojie, Juliza Majano, Matthew Watson, 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 3:01pm by the chair.

**Constituent Concerns**

No constituent concerns were presented.

**Approval of Agenda/Minutes**

The agenda was approved as written. The minutes will be approved at the next meeting. The meeting was recorded for internal use only.

**College Presentation – Dr. DeRionne Pollard**

- Question – Will there be vaccines available to students?
  - County distributes vaccines – many aren't eligible yet
    - College provided list of employees currently working on campus
  - Need to educate employees and students about the importance of vaccine
- Question – Mandatory vaccination?
  - Encouraged to get it but not mandatory
- There will be a memo coming out today about summer and fall.
  - Information about the vaccine and academic calendar
  - Summer – may have 3 different sessions
    - Mostly remote with some possible face-to-face labs
  - Fall – most likely to be remote with some face-to-face labs
  - Many students taking classes in “multiple campuses”
- Question – When students began returning for lab, if a student does not feel comfortable returning or is living with someone with higher risk, will these labs be available online?

- Yes, remote options are available and no one will be forced to return.
  - Will try to present as many options as possible
- How are the online tutoring and library services?
  - Very helpful
  - More flexibility for students
- Question – When the school goes back to normal, will international students still be able to take classes online?
  - There will be a meeting next week regarding new immigration practices.
    - Will provide more information later
  - International students – greatest amount of enrollment decrease
- Question – Is there a way to get students’ feedback about the decisions of the College?
  - College often go out to solicit feedback
  - Always room for improvement – need to listen and understand students’ perspective
- Question – There is inadequate financial aid response to students’ questions. What is the Financial Aid Office doing to improve their operations?
  - Financial Aid Office doing exceptional work
    - Workload tripled due to emergency funds and remote environment
    - Room for improvement but need to also recognize their hard work
  - Council members expressed that students are mainly concerned about the wait time. Students may have no choice but to drop classes due to delayed responses.
    - Will take feedback back and discuss ways of improvement
- As an international student, a council member expressed concern about flight fares and tuition. Hope to have more options for the payment process and how to deal with economic concerns.
  - Offering more options for tuition payment, but unable to change differential because of MD requirement.
  - Advocacy is a big role.
  - Limit of grants – MC Foundation work hard to raise money for financial aid opportunities and support for international students.
- Question – Is it possible to lessen requirements for filing for financial aid?
  - Set by the federal government
  - Online kit for appeal process – [SwiftStudent](#)
- Question – What will the learning environment look like when we consider hybrid classes? How will we ensure that people follow protocol on campus?
  - CAT Team provides guidelines – subgroups working on issue
    - Will not have everyone come back at one time
    - Still need to do social distancing and wear masks
  - Hybrid situation – will be different from the past
    - HyFlex classrooms – face-to-face and online
    - Lots of factors to consider and research
  - Fall – may have greater presence on campus
- Question – What are the criterion for returning to campus?
  - Memo will come out today – monitoring a series of things
- Question – Will graduating athletes have similar scholarships with the loss of sport season?
  - NJCAA granted waiver towards participation

- Transfer students – depend on 4-year institution that they transfer to
- Question – Can students receive a card from Dr. Pollard as congratulations for graduating?
  - Each person will receive letter from Dr. Pollard.
  - Virtual Commencement was very well put together.
- Question – What is the college doing to ensure that correct information is being provided to students from advisors and counselors?
  - Students do best when guided on pathway with accurate information.
    - Connection with subject area expert
    - Provided with helpful resources related to subject area
  - Working to make sure there's no redundancy in the system and technology to support it
  - Not discontinuing General Ed Studies degree
- Expressed thanks for keeping remote environment – students able to do more
- Question – What can be done to resolve situation in which students are not eligible for financial aid due to dependency on parents?
  - There is a process to declare independence.
- Question – Is virtual commencement confirmed?
  - Information will be sent out next month
- Question – Misled by advisor and have trouble contacting Graduation Coordinator. Will credits taken in the summer at UMD be able to transfer back to MC to receive associate degree?
  - Suggested to provide information to Dr. Sanjay Rai and Dr. Monica Brown so that they can help figure out a solution for the graduation issue.
  - Yes, reverse transfer is possible.
  - Council member suggested to have advisors who knows about international laws and regulations.
- Encouraged to stay and listen to the Innovation Grants presentation

#### **MC Foundation Innovation Grant – MC Foundation Innovation Advisory Committee**

- Introduced Innovation Grant and committee members
- Grant amount: \$100,000
- 2020-2021 Theme – Innovations in Educational Practices and Technology: Enhancing Teaching, Learning, and Student Support Services in a Remote Environment
  - How could things be better at the College for you in virtual, online setting?
  - Collaborative – students must get an advisor (anyone formally connected to the College)
    - Someone who you can work well with and help accomplish goal
    - Make connections
  - Impact broad range of students
- Best grant applications – connect to the grant theme and prioritize same issues as the College
  - Collaborative and innovative
  - Measurable outcomes and demonstrate direct benefit to students
- Check out [website](#) for more information on past winners and guidelines
- Grant proposal must include:
  - Abstract
  - Statement about the relevant themes the project addresses
  - Project narrative that consists of:

- Description of project and how it connects to the theme
    - Emphasis on collaboration and innovation
    - Research/data that demonstrate need for proposed project
    - Measurable outcomes
    - Estimation of the number of students who will be impacted
    - Timeline for implementation
  - Detailed budget explanation and justification
- Deadline for proposals: 3/22 by 11:59pm
  - Can also apply if transferring/graduating – look for team and plan
- Brainstorming
  - Focus on quantity
  - No criticism
  - Welcome far-fetched ideas
  - Build upon each other's ideas
  - Brainstorming activity – generate ideas in limited time period
    - Motivated to think
    - Build on other people – see what others write first
- Appreciative Inquiry – explore strengths and successes that already exist
  - 4-D: Discovery, Dream, Design, and Destiny
  - Appreciative Inquiry exercise
  - Will provide Appreciative Inquiry worksheet
- Collaboration, cross-functional, and multi-disciplinary
  - [Innovation Grants Resources Guide 2020](#)
- Question – Are there examples from last year?
  - Abstracts available on [website](#)
- Question – Does it has to be up to \$100,000 or can it be less?
  - \$100,000 is the total amount available – usually multiple grants are funded
  - Can submit ideas for lesser amount
- Question – Advice to how to find advisor and team?
  - Depend on your idea
  - Student Life Director – help connect you with someone
  - Start with someone who you are comfortable with
- If there are any questions and concern, contact [Innovation Advisory Team](#).

### **New Business and Announcements**

- Request for more students to attend Academic Services meetings
- Leadership Meeting with Dr. Pollard – email questions to [resilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:resilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu)
- Please send any constituent concerns to [Student Council Instagram](#).

### **Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.