

Student Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 4th, 2022

Welcome - Call to Order

A meeting of the Student Council was held via zoom on April 4th, 2022, at 3:00 PM

Attendees included:

Officers: Rebecca Adegeye and Dr. Clevette Ridguard (Director of Governance)

Council Liaison: Dr. Monica Brown

Members: Viola Clune, Ariel Nochez, Farin Alimo, Deborah Awojobi, Jonathan Alfaro, Kevans Faustin

Guest: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams (President of Montgomery College)

Welcome – Call to Order

- The Student Council meeting was called to order by Rebecca Adegeye at approximately 3:05 PM.

Constituent Concerns

Jonathan Alfaro had a question on behalf of constituents regarding student preparation for graduation. There was some confusion about graduation stoles, and if students could/need to buy their own stoles.

Farin Almo asked whether Early College students will be receiving stoles or tassels for their participation in the program.

Recommendation:

- Both questions will be forwarded to the commencement committee
- Rule of thumb is that stoles should be worn only if they're given by approved organizations within Montgomery College

Motion to Approve Agenda

- Jonathan Alfaro motioned to approve the agenda at approximately 3:15 PM and Deborah Awojobi seconded the motion. The motion passed with the majority vote.

Motion to Approve Minutes

- Jonathan Alfaro motioned to approve the minutes at approximately 3:15 PM and Deborah Awojobi seconded the motion. The motion passed with the majority vote.

Discussion/Meeting with President of Montgomery College: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

Objective

- Give a warm welcome to Dr. Williams and introduce him to Student Council and its members

Dr. William's Introduction

- Grateful for the warm introductions by the student council and the many organizations, faculty, students, and staff here at Montgomery College
- Enjoyed attending the Montgomery Scholars Capstone event, MCs got Talent, and the baseball game
- Mentioned the many scholarships and awards that Montgomery College students have continued to win through student's hard work and the support of staff
- Appreciates the feedback and student conversations held through the many forums and meet and greets that have been hosted
- Would love to continue to hear feedback on the student experience at the college
- Already sees the immense contribution that MC Governance has on the college, Ex. MC Shuttle buses
- Hopes students continue to speak out on the social injustices and inequities that leave students vulnerable. Ex. DACA students, Ukraine

Rebecca Adegeye's Introduction

- Third year at Montgomery College, will be graduating this May as an International Studies major
- Student Council Chair and First-Year Experience ambassador
- Has had a really great experience at Montgomery College and has been heavily involved despite not planning on doing so
- Participated In MC Leads, which she believes was her stepping stone towards getting involved in governance
- Glad to hear that Dr. Williams has been able to experience the diversity and uniqueness that Montgomery College has to offer
- Montgomery College has fantastic, brilliant students and amazing faculty and staff who try and create connections with students and overall provide needed support
- Was easily able to feel a sense of belonging
- Glad to see Dr. Williams again

Ariel Nochez's Introduction

- Student Council member and Senator at Large at the Germantown campus
- Second-year Early College student, believes he has a different perspective to give
- College is usually defined as intimidating but has felt that everyone at Montgomery College has been extremely welcoming and treated him indifferently even though he is a “baby”
- Glad to have Dr. Williams at the meeting

Viola Clune's Introduction

- Member of the Student Council and President of the Rockville Student Senate
- Second year at Montgomery College and will be graduating in May
- Can't say enough good things about the college, believes everyone has had their unique experiences based on the programs students have participated in
- Involved in internships, Paul Peck Humanities Institute, Montgomery Scholars
- Really appreciates the faculty and staff, they're very committed to student success
- Happy to be engaged in different facets of the college community
- Happy and thankful to see Dr. Williams at the talent show and Montgomery Scholars colloquium

Jonathan Alfaro's Introduction

- Fourth year at Montgomery College, has been all over the school
- Worked as a student assistant with MBI Café and for the past year and a half has been working with the digital learning center
- Emphasizes the importance of the different resources Montgomery College has
- Leading a student resource showcase to show students that there are resources available on campus
- Trying to make the most out of his Montgomery College experience
- Worked with Trustee Bob Levy which contributed to him joining the Student Council because he wanted to see the involvement of people behind Montgomery College
- Wants to contribute to making Montgomery College a more accessible and fair experience

Kevans Faustin's Introduction

- Third-year student, graduates this May
- Has enjoyed his time at Montgomery College from start to finish, noting that the last year especially has been very productive
- Participated in MC Leads and other things, started learning that there is an abundance of resources and things to offer on campus

- Has created connections with professors that will last a lengthy amount of time in the professional scene
- Welcoming atmosphere, cannot thank Montgomery College enough for what they have provided him

Farin Alimo's Introduction

- Third-year student studying communications
- Student senator on the TP/SS campus and has been a part of other groups has helped them grow as a person and that their voice matter
- Grateful to be at Montgomery College and glad to see Dr. Williams

Deborah Awojobi's Introduction

- Student Council Secretary Chair and will be graduating this May
- Sees how much the staff and faculty care about students firsthand
- Is a DACA recipient, situation led to having doubts as a student
- Mother was her biggest inspiration to going back to school
- Being at Montgomery College made these doubts disappear and it's now able to graduate on time which is an incredible feat considering her circumstances
- Montgomery College has been life-changing for her

Q & A with Dr. Williams

Q: What are things that the school should do better?

A: Dr. Williams believes that he is currently not in the position to answer that question because his main priority now is to take everything in during his transition and listen. In doing this, he can later identify this while also amplifying and elevating the positives of the school

Q: Are there special groups or activities for students with disabilities?

A: Montgomery college has a wonderful disability support services area on every campus so that's certainly a place where they can start. If a student is interested in joining or club or creating a club that accommodates their needs, they can also reach out to Student Life who would be more than happy to help.

Q: What made you come to Montgomery County and become President of Montgomery College?

A: Driving desire was the college's focus on being a student-focused institute and providing opportunities that students need based on the context that students are arriving at the college. Faculty and staff are heavily dedicated and engaging with students which was another huge factor. Not to mention the college's unwavering commitment to addressing social inequities and racial injustices to

continue to become an anti-racist institution. Workforce development and innovations taking place at the college.

Q: What does one day in your life look like and is it possible to have a contest where students can shadow?

A: It's a very dedicated, diligent, enthusiastic day filled with care, compassion, and learning while trying to make decisions that represent inclusion and best support the college's goal of being equitable. The days are typically very long but the community and enthusiasm here at the college really make them fly by fast. Has been asked this question before, and is very much open to doing it just have to figure out the logistics

Q: How do you stay organized and what is your leadership style?

A: Dr. William leads by always being open to learning no matter who they are around. He organizes himself by time blocking what he needs to get done.

- Members discussed how they lead, and the grand majority shared that they had a similar leading style to Dr. Williams
- Members also discussed how they stay organized, and the consensus was to use applications or calendars and look at resources online to see what other people use

Q: What are your personal goals?

A: Wants to be the best partner and father they can be (has been married for 11 years and have two children). Trying to stay healthy emotionally, psychologically, and physically.

- Members talked about how they keep their personal health in check. Many mentioned music, going to the gym, meditating, yoga, and vision boards.

Graduation Regalia Question: ANSWERED (See Constituents concerns section)

- Only academically earned symbols are to be worn as part of student regalia such as your honors cords and PTK cords
- Recommended to put other stuff on their graduation cap or have it underneath your gown and then open it later
- More information will be given to students as we get closer to the commencement ceremony

- If you are part of the honors programs, information about certain regalia from them should be contacted by them

CAP DECORATING EVENT

Germantown – April 12th

Takoma Park/Silver Spring – April 13th

Rockville – April 14th

Group Discussion: College Councils Two Goals

Summary From Last meeting

- Need to decide the projects that the council will take on for the semester
- About halfway through the semester with limited time, the virtual options may be best
- Have been in contact with Ms. Hannah Stocks, Germantown Service-Learning Facilitator, and she has been giving suggestions and feedback on the two goals
- Community activities centered around social media campaigns seem to be the most doable, everyone must reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and see how they can contribute to match other strengths
- Many had experience with speaking to children about volunteering and civic engagement, which could be a potential project
- Rebecca Adegeye will follow up with everyone on the process of accessing the website and how to properly plan the execution of projects, information was given by Ms. Stocks

Ultimately decided on doing student resources fair on the Rockville campus. Would have student council members present at a table to talk with students

College Governance Recruitment/April Outreach

- Potential plans to recruit more people to the college council from in-person events while letting them know of resources that the college has
- Decided it was best to focus on the Rockville campus during lunch since that is the area and time where the most traffic is seen
- Would need to request tables and time slots for the recruitment taking place on the open space in the middle of the Rockville campus
- MC merch could be given out as prizes, help convince people to come over to the tables
- Look into getting ATPA rep and career center

DATE: April 22nd

TIME: 12 PM-1 PM

WHERE: Green area @ the center of Rockville Campus

Comments from Dr. Brown and Dr. Rigaud

- Seeing the leadership and growth has been amazing! Keep up the work

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Rebecca Adegeye on April 4th, 2022, at 4:40 PM.