
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE
STUDENT SERVICES & SUCCESS COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

Zoom

MINUTES

Attendees

- Members Present: Ernest Cartledge, Marcus Peanort, Judith Taylor, Miho Shimizu, Brenda Crist, Claudia Salas, Bonita Parker, Lucy Vitaliti, Guillermo Laya.
- Guests: Dr. Clevette Ridguard, Yvette Taylor, Sokol Mato.
- Members Absent: Amanda Lucini, Betsy Flores, Yabesira Shiferaw, Rosa Garcia.

Call to Order

Chair Ernest Cartledge called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Constituent Concerns

There no constituent concerns.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Agenda was amended and approved. Dr. Edmund Cabellon was not able to attend to provide Student Affairs updates.

Minutes were amended and approved. Miho Shimizu was proxy for Claudia Salas at December 12, 2024 meeting.

Chair's Report

College Council Meeting Updates from December 17, 2024:

- There were no constituent concerns.
- Dr. Williams reflected on the semester and gave gratitude and thanks for the governance process. He talked about the role of governance in serving the community. He encouraged everyone to focus on the value of self-care and to take time to relax and rejuvenate during the holiday break.
- There is a recommendation for changes to Policy and Procedures 38001CP regarding Outstanding Awards for faculty and staff.
- Megan Cooperman shared an update on upcoming events at MC.
- Dr. Ridguard gave an update on governance and thanked council members for their hard work in the participatory governance process.
- Governance members had a refresher training on January 22nd. Ernest, Brenda and Guillermo participated.

- Governance Awareness Day is on Wednesday, February 19 at Germantown, Rockville, TP/SS, WDCE Training Center, and the Central Services building.
- The Staff Enrichment Day is on Wednesday, March 19th on the Germantown campus.
- WDCE Council will hold a Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Circle on Thursday, April 10, 2025. More information will be following.
- The College Council meeting on February 11th was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Announcements

- The graduation application deadline for Spring 2025 is Saturday, February 15. Students can complete the application online. Information is available in the Important Dates and Graduation webpages.
- We need volunteers for the Governance Awareness Day. Guillermo will volunteer at the Germantown campus. The event is from Noon to 1 p.m. Dr. Ridguard encouraged council members to speak of and give emphasis, passion and energy to this year's governance election process that will start on Monday, February 24th. Share your experience and encourage co-workers to participate and get involved.
- Ernest attended the Student Council meeting. This council meets the first Friday of the month. Ernest has been invited to participate in future meetings. The council is working on addressing the lack of gathering spaces at the Rockville campus. Faculty and staff members have asked students to keep noise under control or move to other areas away from classrooms, offices and tutoring spaces. This is probably a relevant college-wide topic to review.

Discussion

- Ernest asked council members how students are feeling or communicating about the political culture. Are they concerned about themselves or family members?
- Lucy has seen students calm and surprisingly happy. Depending on their status, some students might be worried about their future. Others that are close to completing their program seem to have plans to transition.
- Miho had a couple of students who were federal workers. They lost their jobs and had to drop out of classes. There were other students that showed sympathy and support for those affected by the recent government orders.
- Judith shared that several students have been calling after the government announced federal grants cuts. Students were concerned that they had to withdraw from their classes. Currently, federal grants have not been cut. The college, however, does not have the funds to absorb grants cuts. Another concern is the future cuts of federal employees from the department of education. Less personnel may have an impact on processing time, creating long delays.
- Brenda has heard from students being concerned about a possible ICE visit to campus. There is uncertainty to be on-campus. There is heighten interest for remote and distance learning courses. Another concern is MSFAA funding. Will undocumented students receive this funding in the future? Judith stated that the college does not know yet.

However, the government has indicated that they will go after states that provide in-state tuition to undocumented students. Maryland is one of those states.

Guest Presentation

- Sokol Mato presented on the bookstore transition. The college has partnered with Slingshot, a bookstore provider.
- Slingshot created their own book rental models and auto-fulfillment course models. They have purchasing power to acquire course materials at affordable prices. Their software procures materials in the online market at the lowest cost for students. Students can buy or rent materials. Students will also be able to purchase other supplies such as technology, art supplies, apparel, etc.
- A college memo has been sent out. The bookstore transition will start on February 17th. Opening day is scheduled for Monday, March 3rd at the Rockville campus. Webpage will be updated with more information for students. Campus listening sessions for students and the community will be available. Training for faculty will be scheduled soon.
- Miho had a question about the bookstores being closed from February 17 until March 2. Will there be any bookstore support during this closure?
- Sokol explained that the week of February 24th, there will be no services. Slingshot will be installing new software. However, bookstore personnel will be working. The auxiliary services mailbox will be available for inquiries and services support:
auxiliaryservices@montgomerycollege.edu
- Sokol also confirmed that initially Rockville will restore full bookstore services. TP/Ss and Germantown will function as hubs to distribute materials and supplies. Students can complete purchases online with a credit card. Slingshot will request feedback to reimagine the space in TP/SS and Germantown. Sokol will work with Slingshot to allow students buy supplies such as food, drinks and clothing using Financial Aid funds.
- Slingshot will have all the materials and textbooks per section. Students attending classes at multiple campuses will be able to find the correct materials for their courses.
- Judith also inquired about any data on student's purchasing patterns from previous bookstores. Sokol did not have any data to share. But he shared that his experience is that online purchases have increased since we returned to campus from the pandemic.
- Dr. Ridguard asked how Slingshot plans to reach out to students for feedback on this transition. Sokol mentioned that they plan to do listening sessions at each campus for students and the community.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Guillermo Laya
Student Services and Success Council Secretary