MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Student Services and Success Council

Thursday, October 1, 2026
Via Zoom
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Attendees:

- **Members present:** Dr. Surayya Johnson (Chair), Ana Matta (Vice Chair), Sepydeh Yousefi (Secretary), Craig Garrison-Mogren, Valerie Tanner, Elysse Meredith, Judy Taylor,
- **Proxies present:** Dr. Tiffany Boykin for Dr. Elizabeth Kirby, Judy Taylor for Ernest Cartridge
- **Members absent:** Ali Mohammed, Zacharia Hakky, Viktoriia Lyon, Nadine Hayles
- **Guest Speakers:** Dr. Sophia Mason, Director of HR Business Services; Dr. Christine Crefton, Educational Resource Program Manager
- **Guests:** Yvette Taylor, Angie Moy, Stacy Gustavson, Dr. Alice Santoro

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 10:33 by Chair Johnson.

Constituent Concerns:

- No constituent concerns were submitted.

Approval of Minutes:

- The September 10th meeting minutes were approved as written.

Chair's Report:

- Dr. Johnson reminded council of available sources of important college news, such as The Monday Minute with Dr. Williams, Inside MC, and HRSTM's Employee Matters newsletter.
- Hispanic Heritage month celebrations will be ongoing through October 15th.
- The Employee Experience Survey opened on September 30th and will be open until October 16th. The survey has been shortened and should only take 10-15 minutes to complete and responses are anonymous. Invitations to complete the survey will be sent via email.
- Governance Effectiveness Review is currently underway. Chair Johnson encouraged council members to participate and remain engaged in supporting the review efforts.
- Transfer fairs will be taking place collegewide on October 5-7 at all campuses.
- The Office of Student Life will be hosting Fall Fest activities on all campuses. Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring will be holding their event on October 14th and Rockville's Fall Fest will be held on October 22nd.
- Chair Johnson informed council that Dr. Shinta Hernandez brought to College Council a request for all councils to think about current enrollment and student success efforts and ways to build awareness of existing initiatives.

Dr. Sophia Mason, *Director of HR Business Services*, Maryland's Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Update:

- The FAMLI program provides paid time off for important family and health matters.
- The benefit is capped at up to 90% of Social Security wages, up to $1000 per week, for up to 12 weeks of paid leave within 12-month period.

- HRSTM is working on implementation and has established a cross-functional workgroup to assess options for plan type and funding structure.
- Recommendations will be made to senior leadership in order to make a decision by October 31st.
- Implementation phases include configuring payroll deductions in Workday, as well as configuring benefits and leave with Payroll deductions beginning on January 1, 2027 in order for benefit payouts to begin January 1, 2028.
- For more information visit: https://paidleave.maryland.gov/employees/

Dr. Christine Crefton*, Educational Resource Program Manager*, Participatory Governance Engagement and Leadership Badges:

- Two new micro credentials are now available for participatory governance: Engagement badge and Leadership badge at no cost to students and employees.
- Badges recognizes the work that governance members do through an earned digital badge, which is a sharable record.
- Eligible officers may earn both badges this year but for 2027-2028 and beyond, the engagement badge must be earned before pursuing the Leadership badge.
- The steps for the Engagement badge include: submitting the Statement of Interest and Contribution Plan, completing the training or an approved equivalent, serving the full year while making a substantive contribution, and submitting the final engagement checklist.
- For the Leadership badge, candidates should confirm elected roles and qualifying service, complete Governance Officer Training or an approved equivalent, submit the Officer Leadership Work Plan, and submitting the final leadership checklist.
- The deadline to submit is May 31, 2027 and members can ask the governance office for the current forms and application support.

Announcements/New business:

- Vice Chair, Ana Matta, reaffirmed our council goal for FY27 is to develop a student service resource that highlights existing academic, enrollment, wellness, and basic needs resources that are available to students.
- Ana plans to reach out to council members to determine what work is already being done in this area in order to get an idea of a starting point and to build on what is already being done.
- Chair Johnson plans to follow up via email regarding the information Dr. Shinta Hernandez presented.
- Ana Matta announced that Rockville will be hosting Club Fair
- Dr. Tiffany Boykin reminded council that the Transfer Fair will be taking place at Rockville on October 5th and announced that the College was recently awarded a $1.9 million grant for the Center for Veteran Excellence and encouraged everyone to stay tuned for more information and related program activities. Dr. Boykin also reminded everyone that Spirit Night was taking place this evening at the RV campus.
- Judy Taylor announced that the financial aid office was hosting a FAFSA day with a resource fair on Saturday October 3rd at the East County Education Center. The event will be open to the public.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 following a motion to adjourn by Valerie Tanner and seconded by

Judy Taylor.

Respectfully submitted by
Sepydeh Yousefi, *Student Services and Success Council Secretary*