

# MONTHLY OUTLOOK

*A Meeting Preview with Data Insights and Strategic Topics*

November 6, 2020

## November Meeting Highlights—What to Expect and Why

Your next meeting takes place on Monday, November 16. Following are major items and topics planned at this time.

***Adoption of the FY22 Capital Budget.*** The proposed FY22 capital budget and six-year FY21–26 capital improvements program were presented and discussed at the October 19 Board of Trustees meeting. The capital improvements program supports and implements the College's Facilities Master Plan. The request for FY22 is the second half of the FY21–22 biennial capital budget and totals \$32,467,000.

***My Monthly Written Report.*** My *President's Focus* report this month explores the impact of the COVID pandemic on the College's finances. The report examines how the College has responded to necessary reductions and is planning for potential COVID-driven constraints in future years. Strategic enrollment management, hiring reductions, and spending constraints are explored.

***Conversations with Constituents.*** We will continue with the reimagined Conversations with Constituents this month at the public meeting, when you will engage with a faculty member, a staff member, and a student, and hear about their resilient MC experiences and challenges while remotely teaching, learning, or working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

***Contract for Leggett Building Components.*** This competitively bid contract provides for the construction of the interior finishes, the building envelope, site work including landscaping, and building specialties for the Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

***Naming Recognition.*** This item is a proposal to name a classroom in the Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus in recognition of a generous gift made by Dr. Bob Brown, former math professor and campus provost.

***Workday Implementation Update.*** Jane-Ellen Miller, interim chief information officer, will provide an update on the Workday implementation project.

### **The following items are on your consent calendar:**

***Personnel Actions Confirmation Report.*** This review of personnel actions documents actions taken during September.

***Designated Awareness Days and Months for 2021.*** This is a standard annual action that acknowledges special awareness days and months to honor and recognize members of our community.

## Data Focus

### Enrollment Changes This Fall

The College has been carefully watching changes to the student body this fall to make sure that we are upholding our mission and continuing our practice of radical inclusion.

**More students are younger.** The percentage of younger students enrolled at the College has been on the rise. The fall 2020 cohort's average age continues the trend of the past five years (see Figure 1). Students under the age of 18 have increased nearly four percentage points between fall 2016 and fall 2020 (from 5 to 9 percent), while the largest block of students (18- to 20-year-olds) holds steady at nearly 41 percent of the student body. Students aged 30 and over has fallen from 20 percent of our student population in fall 2016 to 16 percent this semester, with the increase in dual enrollment being part of the cause this reduction.

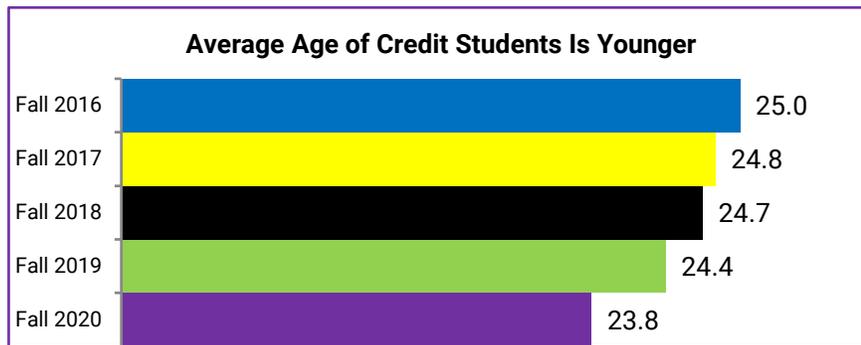


Figure 1. Average age of fall cohort students over five year.

**Student headcount decline is modifying racial composition.** While enrollment decline has occurred across all race/ethnic groups over the last five years, the rate of decline has varied. As a result, Black and White students comprise smaller portions of the student body in fall 2020 compared to five years ago (see Figure 2). By comparison, Hispanic and Asian students now comprise greater proportions of the student body compared to five years ago. The College is poised to become a Hispanic serving institution (HSI), as defined by the Department of Education based on IPEDS data. Updates to the list of HSI schools are expected in early 2021.

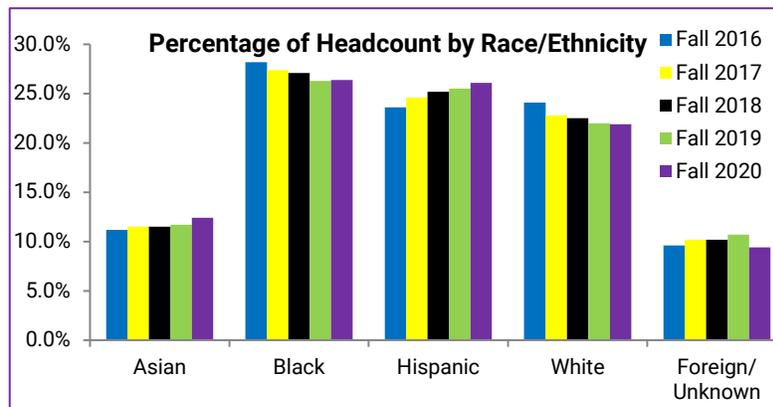
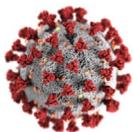


Figure 2. Average age of fall cohort students over five year.

**More female students enrolled.** Female students have outnumbered males for the last five years at the College, gradually rising from 53 percent of the population (fall 2016) to 55 percent (fall 2020). Explanations for this rise are varied but the continuing disparities in pay across the two genders may be one, especially as the pandemic leaves more low-skilled workers out of service jobs.

## Strategic Topic of the Month

### *Philanthropy During COVID*



When the pandemic first arrived, the Montgomery College Foundation realized that the existing emergency funds would not meet students' needs. Many students who had never requested assistance in the past found themselves without income and at risk of withdrawing from the College. The Foundation began contacting past, present, and potential donors, alerting them to the need and requesting their support.

**How did student need manifest?** The Foundation learned early that students were doing coursework on their mobile phones because they did not have laptops, or working in their cars in our parking lots in order to log onto College Wi-Fi because they do not have Wi-Fi at home. From March to October, there were 2,292 requests for student emergency assistance. Ensuring student access to technology was the first priority but it became evident that students' needs also included food and housing due to widespread job losses.

**How have donors responded?** Past, current, and new donors stepped up quickly. College Trustees and Foundation Board Directors made additional gifts on top of their scheduled pledge payments or annual donations. As of October 2020, the Foundation had received emergency funding support totaling \$233,000. Combined with funds reallocated from the College's cancelled events, \$950,000 total allowed 2,000 awards for laptops, tuition, and general support. Food insecurity was addressed with 593 gift cards for groceries totaling \$51,900.

**What role have faculty, staff, and retirees played in this process?** To date, 168 employees and retirees have given more than \$43,000 to help our students stay in class. This includes 12 gifts of \$1,000 or more. Faculty and staff have been tireless advocates for students, relaying available resources and advocating on students' behalf.

**Which students were served?** The Foundation carefully attended to trends among students, noting that the majority receiving assistance were female African American and Latinx students with grade point averages of 2.5 and above. Among other groups, African American males, for example, did not apply for aid in the same numbers that they represent in the student population. The College is assessing this trend for learning how to improve outreach to such targeted populations to encourage applications.

**What trends or predictions do we see ahead?** Right now, donors are clearly responding to the emergency needs of our students related to COVID. Questions remain, though, about how basic fundraising paradigms will change. Will donors be less inclined to support capital projects? Will donors be more responsive to student needs for technology? How will the election affect the markets and giving trends? All of these questions may impact philanthropy in the future. For now, I'm grateful we have so many concerned, responsive donors.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeRionne". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.

*We empower our students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community. We are accountable for our results.*