Montgomery College College Council Meeting #5 Minutes
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
1 – 3 PM
Zoom Meeting

Attendees
Present: Kimberly Jones (Chair), Shakenna Adams-Gormley (Vice-chair), Tonya Baker (Secretary), Transcie Almonte-Sabio, Dr. Eric Benjamin, Rebecca Adegeye, Dana Baker, Ramon De La Cruz, Ed Riggs, Alice Boatman, Rebecca Thomas, Dr. Carlos M. Molina Rosales, Katherine Goldstein, Benita Rashaw

Absent: None

Proxy: No

Guests: Dr. Kevin Long, Dr. Rachel Bonaparte-Hagos, Sherwin Collette, Dr. Steve Cain, Dr. Carolyn Terry, Beth Reilly, Eduardo Fuentes, Dr. Elena Saenz, Elizabeth Benton, Dr. Frank Trezza, John Amoroso, Kethaka Yattogoda, Dr. Kimberly Kelly, Dr. Muhammad Kehnemouyi, Margaret Latimer, Dr. Meghan Gibbons, Melissa Pace, Dr. Michael Mills, Dr. Michelle Scott, Dr. Monica Brown, Ray Gilmer, Rose Garvin Aquilino, Dr. Sanjay Rai, Dr. Sharon Fechter, Sharon Maxwell, Dr. Shinta Hernandez, Sihon Duncan, Stephanie Gallo Krasnoff, Dr. Tracey Smith-Bryant

Student Panel Guest: Jianna Acevedo, Kingsly Mante Angua, Jason Excell, Patrick Ibanez, Linh Nguyen, Crystal Ortiz, Hareem Tahir

Liaison: Dr. Steve Cain

Governance Director: Dr. Clevette Ridguard

Call to Order
There is a quorum to conduct business. Chair Kimberly Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The meeting was recorded for internal use only.

Constituent Concerns
Tracy Smith-Bryant brought a request for a sign language interpreter during the Town Hall in addition to including Amharic as a language in all the memos and important communications from the President's Office. The Council will note the concern and investigate/research and then provide a response later.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes
The agenda was approved as written. The minutes for October 26, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Chairs Report (Kimberly Jones, College Council Chair)

- Mask requirements remain in place. The College will reassess this requirement at a later date.
- Reminder Workday is almost at its completion some units are requested to submit time attendance in Workday.
- Mental Health First Aid (Virtual)
  - Friday, January 14, 2022
  - Tuesday, February 22, 2022
  - Tuesday, April 12, 2022
- Equity and Inclusion book series *(Four Hundred Souls, by Ibram X. Kendi).* If you like to join they hold a discussion on the first Friday of the month. The spring semester the book will be *(Caste,* by Isabell Wilkerson).
- Innovation Fund Grants are available now. Grant applications are open to the Faculty, Staff, Students and Administrators: Timeline for submission of application and announcement
  - March 21,2022: Submission deadline for grant applications.
  - April 2022: President's Executive Cabinet selects winners and notifications are sent to grant applicants.
  - May 2022: Grant winners recognized at the College closing meeting and announced in *InsideMC*
  - May 2023: Projects conclude by the end of the semester.
- Student Life – International Education week November 15 – 19. information can be found on the Student Life website.
- Operational Service Council recommendation was approved by SALT. Official memo forthcoming from the President to the College Council chair.
- College Council Subcommittees.
  - Communications and Nominations – please reach out if you are interested in joining. (Tonya Baker or Shakenna Adams-Gormley).
  - Mental Health – more information to follow up with (Ramon De La Cruz).
- Council Pictures and Goal Reports - summit ASAP.
- Congratulations to our Student Athletes! Volleyball, women's and men's soccer, XX region champions.
- Benefits - open enrollment is open until Friday, November 12th
- Dr. Charlene Dukes -Town Hall is Wednesday, November 10th on the Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus CAC-Theatre at 2:00pm. Submit any questions or concerns to townhall@montgomerycollege.edu.

Student Panel (Kimberly Jones, College Council Chair)

Which course modality best suits your learning style: face to face, synchronous remote, asynchronous distance learning? What type of student services do you prefer: in person or virtual.

- This student preferred synchronous remote courses better because it keeps me accountable, with specific due dates and because I am in a physical online class setting I am able to ask questions immediately when I have them, whereas an asynchronous setting I have had to email and wait to get a response to my questions, and it just delayed. For Student Services, I prefer in person, I feel like I can be more aware and more present, whereas in virtual setting I am not present.

- This student prefers face to face in-person because I am an outgoing person. I like to interact and be able to converse with other students. I am very excited to be back on campus. The experience is better than talking to people through a screen.

- This student prefers face to face because it is more engaging than any of the online classes. I am currently taking an in-person class and an asynchronous class and I am still doing bad on the computer classes. I don't find it engaging. I find it difficult for me to focus.

- This student is taking one synchronous course this semester. The student doesn't like it because I am not able to interact with the professors or students, and I think the most important part of any class you take is building a relationship with your professor. Face to face and synchronous remote allow you to do both. The zoom classes I have taken recently, because of the courses adjusted for a virtual online class, it is relatively easier and more paced. It is equal to what you find in a face to face, so I like both.

- This is an older WDCE student who is currently taking synchronous remote classes because of working a full-time job and also because of all the other responsibilities they have as a parent. This student likes the availability of doing the classes wherever you need. For example, in your car, if you're running late coming home from work, you are still able to participate and listen and not miss anything. It makes a difference when you are working and have a family. What I really like about attending MC is the instructors. They are very knowledgeable and it is cost effective. You get value for your money unlike other Colleges and Universities. When taking a synchronous course, you don't get to see some of the other students outside of the zoom setting. I think it would be helpful if you are a synchronous learner to create opportunities for people to maybe come in at the end of your course and have a meet and greet before you part ways to make a connection. It is helpful for the shy students who did not speak much during the zoom class to engage and it might be helpful to find more interest in the school and open them up for more engaging opportunities and would also help them connect with the community.

- This student is taking all synchronous remote classes. It is beneficial because I am able to multitask with volunteer opportunities in a lot of community engagement. I don't have to worry about transportation. Concerning student services, I do prefer to meet in-person because it is more meaningful. I find it difficult if you are having internet connection problems.

- This student currently is on their second year at Montgomery College. For the terms of the services the school offers, I prefer face to face support. For example, trying to connect with a counselor or any department you can be on the phone for hours and not get your questions answered. I feel if you are on campus you are able to get all of your concerns taken care of and not have to wait to get your question or concern answered.

- This student finds remote learning is a disadvantage. It is hard to connect with other students and build a relationship - also to communicate with your professor.

Tell us something you like about Montgomery College. How many of you have developed relationships with faculty or staff on campus?

- I'm an international student and I attend Howard Community College before I transferred here. I actually love absolutely love Montgomery College for so many reasons. First of all, the Student Life! As a student assistant, I feel like this is great for us as a student to be a part of Montgomery College. You engage with other people and meet new people. Be attentive to the clubs, participate

with all the activities, and also the workshops. I like it all. The workshops will help with my transfer resume essay and PTK -- it is really resourceful. The Shaw Center, because we students need help. When I attended Howard Community College, even though they are very friendly, they're very helpful with students, I didn't get my food and stuff free from Howard Community College. Here at Montgomery College I got a break, and I got food. Just so many resources from Montgomery College. I think for any Montgomery College student especially International students, when we have to pay more than regular students, that is why I really feel so blessed.

- This student said they have not had any good meaningful relationships with any of their professors. The professors really don't know you personally. I feel uncomfortable asking them for a recommendation letter. Currently, I'm a member of the student senate and my advisor is someone who I consistently communicate with I feel more comfortable asking for a recommendation letter from this person than from my professors.

- This student has had a nice experience with Montgomery College's staff and faculty. One of the professors has become my mentor. Also, I think Montgomery College is very friendly environment. Everyone greets you. I really appreciate how they make me feel. The connection I get from the staff, faculty is AWSOME. The student life activities, events the College hosts, I feel engaged with the community and I am grateful.

- This WDCE student has had nothing but positive experiences with both of the instructors in the project management certificate courses. My favorite part is how Montgomery College does a great job with connecting the students with professional opportunities.

- This student likes the fact that they are able to build a connection with their professors. I feel a lot of professors put in the effort to try to get to know their students and I feel it helps us to connect with our professors. They like the honesty of the professors. When they cannot answer your questions right away by your next class they are able to answer your concerns.

- Guidance and direction are most helpful. Understanding of all the courses/programs offered. They helped me apply and facilitate the connections I needed to reach my educational goals. This has helped feel confident with my major and transferring and continuing my education.

What could Montgomery College do to improve your academic and student experience?

- Resources for tutoring. I am part of the DSS. One problem I have experienced are the online classes -- they are hard for me because I lose focus. Montgomery College could offer more class selections for example STEM courses. The classes offered are not tailored to fit my schedule.

- Creating a buddy system within the class to help with not feeling like they are doing the class alone gives you a better understanding if you work with other students.

- If the professors could reach out to the students to make sure they understand and if they have questions. I think this will help the students better understand overall. More interaction for the students that are having difficulty with comprehending the discussion especially for the online courses.

- Ice breakers for students who are shy to feel more comfortable talking with one another.

- Identify with specific advisors for your major. Also, to create a list of students so they can reach out to them if they have questions or need assistance.

The Chair, Kimberly Jones thanked the students for participating in this student panel discussion. We have heard your concerns and your experiences, both good and bad. Montgomery College is here for all of our students. Our goal is to make your college experience great.

Academic Master Plan Culmination Report 2016 - 2021 (Dr. Sanjay Rai, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs)

Dr. Rai presented a timeline of where the College is now and where the College goes from here.

Colleges completion of the achievement gap.
    Degree completion
    Pathways performances
    Based funding/funding accountability for outcomes
    Economic development
    Workforce Community Colleges
    Development Redesign
Inclusive Planning Process (Building the Academic Master Plan)
    All Montgomery College units including Student Affairs, Facilities, IT, Planning Office
    Community business partners
    Transfer partners
    Montgomery County Public Schools
    Universities at Shady Grove
6 Priorities
    Increase graduation
    Increase transfer
    Decrease time
    Decrease cost
    Align with business and industry
    Align with 4 year and K-12
        Increase graduation
            Course pass rate
            Selected DFW data from gateway courses
            Math & English completion
            BOT goals (program-based)
            ATPA
            Guided Pathways
            Program advising guides
        Increase transfer
            General Education reform
            Computer Science programs UMD
            Articulation work with ASU, UMG, and SNHU
            Redesign of the American English Language Program (AELP)
        Decrease time
            Extended winter session
            60 credit limits
            Alternative placement
            Developmental redesign

        <u>Decrease cost</u>
- Distance learning
- Z-courses, z-degree
- OER's
- Scheduling – 7-week courses, summer sessions, flexibility & continuity
- Assessment reform – APPM – course pass rates and achievement gap

<u>Align with business and industry</u>
- WDCE highest enrollments pre-pandemic
- BioTrac® and biotech boot camp
- Montgomery Can Code
- EARN grants
- $25M DOL grants (IT and cyber)
- Cloud computing bioinformatics, data science programs

<u>Align with 4 year and K – 12 partners</u>

Early College	SANS
Middle College	UMGC
Dual Enrollment	EDX
P – Tech	ASU
Universities at Shady Grove (USG)	

Governance Information Dr. Clevette Ridguard, Governance Director
College Chairs - when sending out any communications please cc the Director of Governance, Dr. Clevette Ridguard and the College Council Chair, Kimberly Jones.

Adjourned
The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm