

MC GOVERNANCE

Montgomery College
College Council Meeting #11
Minutes

Tuesday, March 26, 2024
1:00 – 3:00 PM
Zoom

Attendees

Present: Shakenna Adams-Gormley(Chair), Dr. Paul Miller (Vice-chair), Tilandra Rhyne (Secretary), Amanda Darr, Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond, Dr. Christine Creffton, Katie Goldstein, Nghi Nguyen, Ernest Cartledge, Matt Wilson, Brenda Knopp, Jefferson Vasquez Reyes

Absent: Akima Rogers, Rabbee Awan

Proxy: John Amoroso for (Rabbee Awan)

Guests: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, Dr. Monica Brown, Dr. Meghan Gibbons, Dr. Michelle Scott, Dr. Debbie Van Camp, Dr. Michelle Campbell, Angie Moy, Sherwin A. Collette, Kimberly Jones, Anna Donohue, Dr. Michael Mills, Dr. Elena Saenz, Josephine Trawick, Lisannie Montilla, Krista Leitch Walker, Billy Struemke, Rita Dodson, Suzette Spencer, Maria Adams

Liaison: Dr. Stephen D. Cain

Governance Director: Dr. Clevette Ridguard

Call to Order

There was a quorum to conduct business. Shakenna Adams-Gormley (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Dr. Paul Miller made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Matt Wilson seconded the motion. The amended agenda was approved with correction. Dr. Paul Miller made a motion to approve the amended minutes for February 27, 2024 with correction. Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond seconded the motion. The minutes for February 27, 2024 was approved with correction. Nghi Nguyen made a motion to approve the minutes for March 05, 2024, and Dr. Paul Miller seconded the motion. The minutes for March 05, 2024 was approve as written.

Constituent Concerns

- Ernest Cartledge, Student Services and Success Council:
MC's designation as a Hispanic serving institution doesn't align with the representation of Latino/Hispanic staff and support services, including ATPA coaches. This misalignment is a fault in our system. We lack sufficient Latino/Hispanic staff members, which is crucial for fostering equity and social justice within our institution. As our student body includes a growing number of ELAP students whose first language isn't English, it's imperative that we hire staff who can effectively support our increasing Latinx and immigrant population. To address this issue, a representative from HR has been invited to the next (Student Services and Success Council) meeting to discuss potential solutions.
- Katie Goldstein Rockville Campus Council:
A petition was received from a group of graduating student athletes wanting to wear graduation stoles bearing the title "Student Athlete" during the ceremony. Unfortunately, they were informed that student groups are not permitted to wear graduation stoles. In response, a significant number of graduating student athletes have joined together to request a reconsideration of this decision.

Chair's Report (*Shakenna Adams-Gormley, College Council Chair*)

Shakenna Adams - Gormley presented a PowerPoint presentation of the upcoming college events and important dates. To view the details of the report please visit the Governance Blackboard community.

Blackboard Learn Ultra Updates (*Dr. Michael Mills, Vice President of E-Learning, Innovation, and Technology Excellence*)

Dr. Michael Mills provided an update on the transition to Blackboard Learn Ultra, a pivotal step in the College's ongoing efforts to enhance its digital learning environment. Following his update, Dr. Paul Miller delved into the comprehensive training program designed to empower faculty with the necessary skills for navigating this transition effectively.

The transition to Blackboard Learn Ultra marks a significant evolution in the platform's functionality and interface. With a renewed focus on optimizing the course and student experience, Blackboard Learn Ultra offers a sleek and intuitive interface tailored to meet the diverse needs of both students and faculty. Notably, faculty members will now find themselves greeted with a course-level view upon login, streamlining their access to essential tools and resources.

This transition, spanning an 18-month rollout period, underscores the College's commitment to delivering an exceptional learning experience. Faculty members have already begun their training journey, providing invaluable feedback to inform ongoing refinements. Dr. Mills emphasized that this transition holds immense promise, promising benefits such as a user-friendly interface, improved mobile accessibility, and enhanced communication tools. While the transition to Blackboard Learn Ultra won't reach full operationalization until 2025, the College remains steadfast in its dedication to fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning environment powered by cutting-edge technology.

Dr. Paul Miller presented a PowerPoint presentation. To view the details of the presentation please visit the Governance Blackboard community.

Governance Recommendation *(Dr. Paul Miller, Employee Services Council Chair)*

Dr. Paul Miller shared a recommendation from the Employee Services Council addressing concerns about the clarity of flexible work arrangements policies. This concern revolves around the ambiguity surrounding flexible work arrangements policies within various units or departments. It was observed that certain units had implemented different flexible work arrangements based on their specific needs. For instance, while Academic Affairs permits one day of telework, the College Policy allows up to two days. This discrepancy underscores the need for clarity and consistent communication regarding any potential changes to the Telework Policy based on unit or departmental requirements.

Dr. Miller has been actively engaging with Krista Leitch Walker, a member of the Employee Services Council, to revise Policy 32500. As part of this effort, a proposal has been put forth to incorporate language into the latest draft of the procedure update. This proposed language would mandate that divisions or departments communicate in writing the operational service standards pertaining to flexible work arrangement provisions within their respective units. For example, if Academic Affairs determines that one day is the established policy, a formal memo outlining this decision would be disseminated to all impacted individuals within the Academic Affairs unit.

Dr. Miller presented this recommendation to the College Council for their review and consideration. Following discussion, Dr. Miller requested that the recommendation be advanced to the next level. Chair Shakenna Adams-Gormley then called for a motion to proceed with the recommendation. Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond motioned to move it forward, and was seconded by Dr. Christine Crefton. With no opposition or abstentions, the recommendation for written telework memos specific to each unit was unanimously approved.

This recommendation will now be forwarded to the President for further consideration and action.

Constituent Concerns Update *(Dr. Paul Miller, College Council Vice Chair)*

Dr. Paul Miller reviewed the College Council constituent concerns report. There are three outstanding concerns that will be addressed before the end of the semester. To view the details of the presented document please visit the Governance Blackboard community.

Strategic Plan Implementations Focus for FY25 and FY26 Policy and Procedure Updates *(Dr. Debbie Van Camp, Director of Policy and Planning)*

Dr. Debbie Van Camp presented a PowerPoint presentation. To view the details of the presentation please visit the Governance Blackboard community.

Governance Update *(Dr. Clevette Ridguard, Governance Director)*

- Elections start on April 1st – April 12th please encourage your constituents to vote
- The last College Council meeting on May 7th will be in person at the Central Services building CT S108.

- Dr. Ridguard thanked all of the committee members who planned the Staff Enrichment Day. We had a great participation we had over 500 staff in attendees.

Announcements

- Kimberly Jones, Interim Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer shared that the Office of Equity and Inclusion is conducting a review to improve the current equity plan. In the month of April, their office will be hosting a round of interviews both individuals and groups. Meeting will go out soon.
- Dr. Paul Miller announced Inclusion by Design Summit is on April 12th the QR code was posted in the chat to register.
- Katie Goldstein announced the Rockville Campus Council is actively promoting the Mobile Market on Wednesday, April 3rd.

Adjournment (*Shakenna Adams-Gormley, College Council Chair*)

Shakenna Adams-Gormley requested a motion for the meeting to end. Tilandra Rhyne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Paul Miller second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.