
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Employee Services Council

March 13, 2026

Zoom

10AM-10:53AM

Attendees:

- Members present
 - Silvia Vargas
 - Stephanie Krasnoff
 - Michaela Pacesova
 - Elizabeth Feldman
 - Krista Leitch Walker
 - Tracie Witte
 - Christina Segura
 - Nell Feldman
 - Adaora Nwigwe
 - Alexander Valencia Reyes
 - Aubrey Smith
- Not present
 - Aerial Agah Achu
 - Alexa Patricia Canas
 - Sepydeh Yousefi
- Proxies present: Stephanie Krasnoff for Sepydeh Yousefi
- Members excused: None
- Other present: Yvette Taylor
- Invited Guests
 - Tommy Luginbill, Executive Director, PIC MC (unable to attend)
 - Kimberly Bloch-Rincan, Program Manager II
 - Megan Cooperman, Employee Wellness Specialist

Call to Order

- The regular meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Vice Chair, Stephanie Krasnoff. The meeting was recorded for internal use only.

Approval of Minutes

- Meeting minutes were approved.

Constituent Concerns

- Liz Feldman raised the total cost of the new branding campaign.
 - Dr. Ridguard is addressing the concern with administration.
 - Stephanie Krasnoff hopes to have an answer by the next meeting.

Chair's Report

- Communications and Engagement
 - The Monday Minute: Team encouraged to utilize The Monday Minute for updates on institutional news and upcoming events.
 - Aim: Increase awareness and engagement in ongoing initiatives.
 - Proving What's Possible: Multimedia brand campaign that highlights students and celebrates the power of exception education to deliver extraordinary outcomes.

Announcements

○ **P&P Modifications Open for Comment**

Five Policy & Procedure items are open for feedback. Item 32100 is open through March 16; all others are open through April 3. Review details on the Policy and Procedure webpage. Council members are encouraged to review and submit feedback by the stated deadlines.

- **32100 – Allocation, Recruitment, and Appointment** (Open through March 16)
Updates include defined scope/terms, expanded onboarding, required structured interviews, clarified salary placement, improved candidate communication, inclusive job advertising, confirmation of President's final hiring role, and emphasis on mission and student success in interviews.
- **95006 – Drone/UAV Use** (Open through April 3)
Adds procedures, clarifies scope and approvals, defines permitted/prohibited uses, and reinforces regulatory compliance and safety authority.
- **89001 – Use of College-Owned Vehicles** (Open through April 3)
Modernizes policy, clarifies roles, centralizes oversight under Facilities, and standardizes procedures.
- **85001 – Use of Facilities** (Open through April 3)
Establishes clearer governance, scheduling authority, usage conditions, and formal request/approval processes.
- **38001 – Recognition Awards** (Open through April 3)
Allows repeat receipt of the Staff Distinguished Service Award with a five-year interval, aligning with other awards.

○ **Enrollment Management Office Hours Update**

The committee was informed that, effective Monday, February 16, the Enrollment Management offices will implement revised office hours to better support student access to services. The affected offices include Raptor Central, Records & Registration, and Student Financial Aid and Scholarship. The new office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

○ **Advocacy for the College**

FY27 Operating Budget

Information was shared regarding opportunities for advocacy in support of the College's FY27 Operating Budget request. Members were encouraged to email the County Executive, Marc Elrich (Marc.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov), to request full funding of the College's FY27 operating budget. The County Executive will submit the proposed budget to the Montgomery County Council on March 15.

Members were advised that brief emails sent from personal accounts are most effective. Individuals should note their affiliation with the College and briefly describe the work they do and its impact. The College Council should be copied on these communication (collegecouncil@montgomerycollege.edu).

Additional advocacy opportunities are expected as the Montgomery County Council conducts hearings and work sessions on the budget in April and the following months. For more information see: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/government-relations/>

Theatre Arts Building Renovation

Information was shared encouraging members to advocate for modernization of the College's Theatre Arts building as part of the College's capital budget priorities. Support for the Theatre Arts renovation was noted as an important investment in Montgomery College students and the broader community, as it supports access, equity, and opportunities for students pursuing careers in the arts.

Members were encouraged to email Montgomery County Councilmembers expressing support for the Theatre Arts renovation and the College's capital budget. Messages should briefly note the need for modern classrooms and labs, identify the sender's affiliation with Montgomery College, and include a home address if residing in Montgomery County. Members were also advised to copy the College Council on their emails.

For more information see: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/government-relations/>

- **Women's History Month**

March is Women's History Month. The MC Library research guide provides resources, including links to the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, Smithsonian Institution, and other national organizations.

Members are encouraged to support and participate in recognizing the role of women in American history.

- **Irish American Heritage Month**

MC Libraries are recognizing Irish American Heritage Month. Library guides include information on local events, such as the Maryland Irish Festival and other community celebrations.

Members are encouraged to explore resources and participate in local Irish heritage events.

- **Governance Nominations and Elections**

An announcement was shared encouraging participation in the College's governance nominations and elections process. Members were encouraged to nominate themselves to ensure their voices are represented.

The nomination period runs from February 23 to March 6, and elections will take place from March 30 to April 10.

- **2026–2027 Governance Assessment Project**

Information was shared regarding the upcoming 2026–2027 Governance Assessment Project. Additional details will be disseminated to the College community as the project moves forward.

Broad participation from across the College community is encouraged to ensure diverse perspectives are represented and to support strong strategic alignment.

- **Data Rocks – Panel Discussion**

Analytics & Insights/Data Asset Management will host the Data Rocks panel discussion, featuring colleagues from across MC divisions. Members are encouraged to attend and engage in the discussion. Registration via Workday.

- **Take Your Child to Work Day**

MC will participate in Take Your Child to Work Day on April 23, 2026. Plans are underway for activities designed to inspire children to explore careers, build skills, and envision their future. Members are encouraged to save the date. Additional details on participation and registration will be shared.

- **3rd Annual AAWCC-MC Conference Spring 2026**

The 3rd Annual AAWCC-MC Conference will be held on April 24, 2026 for faculty, staff, and students. The conference focuses on helping women grow, advance, and build career pathways through practical, strategy-focused sessions.

- **2026 Commencement Ceremonies**

Montgomery College will hold two commencement ceremonies in 2026. Student Affairs offices and student services will operate on a limited basis during this period; essential functions will remain available, though response times and in-person support may be reduced. Students are encouraged to plan ahead and check office websites for updated hours. Normal operations will resume after the ceremonies.

The College is seeking volunteers to support commencement activities on Thursday and Friday, with a total of 550 volunteers needed to ensure a smooth experience for graduates and their guests.

Guest Speakers

- Kimberly Bloch-Rincan, Program Manager II
 - The ignITe Hub at Montgomery College was introduced as a technology learning and innovation space located on the Rockville campus.
 - It offers both in-person and virtual opportunities for students and community members to develop skills in areas such as coding, app development, and information technology.
 - The Hub provides access to workshops, bootcamps, and collaborative project experiences designed to support career development and entrepreneurship.
 - Programs are open to a wide audience, including beginners, career changers, and individuals seeking to enhance their technical skills.
 - The initiative aims to strengthen the local tech workforce and expand access to high-demand digital competencies.
 - All members are invited to attend upcoming workshops or present a topic of interest for group learning and discussion.

- Megan Cooperman, Employee Wellness Specialist
 - Spring Movement Challenge
6-week program: “Plant the Seeds of Well-being in the Bloom” (replaces 10K Steps a Day)
Logging begins: Tue, Mar 24
Zoom info session: Tue, Mar 24, 3:30–4:00 p.m.
Registration ends: Mon, Mar 30
Last day to log activity: Wed, May 6

 - Biometric Clinics (Free)
Appointments ~15 min, schedule via Kaiser account
Dates & Locations:
Mar 16, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Central Services Parking Lot
Mar 30, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Takoma Park Silver Spring Campus (outside Student Center)
Apr 8, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Germantown (BE)

 - Special Wellness Events: April – De-stress Month; May – Mental Health Month

 - Ongoing activities:
Pickleball at Germantown: starts Mar 26, Noon–2 p.m.
Wellness webinars:
Apr 8, Noon – Sleep Importance
Apr 14, Noon – Stress & Inflammation
Apr 20, 3:30 p.m. – Taking Care of You (Spring/Summer series)
Apr 21 – Avoiding Burnout & Self-Care Strategies
Apr 28 – Relaxing Micro Moments
Equity Walk & Pickleball Clinic: Apr 21, 12:15 p.m., RV
Yoga Under the Stars: Apr 22, 2:15 p.m., Planetarium, TPSS
Sound Meditation: Apr 30, 3:45 p.m., CT S108
Virtual weight-loss meet-up: last Thursday monthly, 11 a.m.
Protect Your Peace Dialogues: early May (Zoom/In-person; contact Megan)

 - Classes & Fitness Center
Summer classes will be offered
Wellness policy: 90 minutes/week allowed
New: Yoga to Destress – Monday, 3:30–4:10 p.m.
Summer: Fitness centers likely closed

 - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
Virtual Session: May 8, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Train the Trainer: June
Additional sessions if requested; contact Megan

- Wellness EAP & Resources
HEADSPACE App: Free for Cigna & Kaiser users
Cigna: 3 free mental health sessions
Kaiser: Calm App + \$150 toward healthy activities
ComPsych Faculty Staff Assistance Program:
 - 6 free confidential counseling sessions per issue for employees, students, retirees
 - Free wellness coaching
 - 24-hour assistance: 844-236-2668, code MCC

- EAP Wellness Reimbursement
Up to \$50/month per activity
Fiscal year deadline: June 30, 2026
Reimbursement takes ~4–6 weeks; considered taxable income
Contact Megan for questions and support

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Final Thoughts/Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Liz Feldman. It was seconded and passed with unanimous support.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:53AM

Respectfully submitted by
Silvia Vargas, Employee Services Council Secretary