
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Council

April 4, 2017

ST 301 (Student Services Building)

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Attendees:

- Members present: Alice Boatman, Ivonne Bruneau-Botello, Jeff Chuang, Mary DeMellier, Vickie Drake, Leopoldo Elias, Tilandra Rhyne, Karin Rodney-Haapala, James Sniezek, M. Bess Vincent (proxy for Heather Satrom), Laurie Williams
- Members absent: Richard Nalley Marton, Raven Salaam
- Guests: Brad Stewart, Mark Pace, Priscilla Walker

Call to Order

Chair Laurie Williams called the meeting to order at 11:01 A.M. with a quorum present. The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections (Room number of meeting changed to 143 and additional guest names noted).

Open Comments (Constituent Concerns)

- Representative Leo Elias presented on the upcoming student senate elections and the survey titled Student Voice that was distributed across the campus to students.
 - The two major areas that were commented upon in the results were sanitation and the cafeteria.
 - With these preliminary results, Leo wondered if there was a way to make changes to these areas?
 - Suggestion to finalize the results and prepare a report outlining specific changes that are requested.
 - Dr. Stewart mentioned that Chartwell's is required to seek feedback from students about the service provided, and may not be fulfilling that adequately. He mentioned he would like a report of the student comments and could facilitate changes between the campus and Chartwell's.
 - There was a consultant hired to study the food service, may need to refer to that.
 - Sanitation of both tables directly outside of the food service area, as well as the food area itself, is a Chartwell's responsibility.

New Business

Campus Provost Report

Brad Stewart presented to the council:

- There have been trucks with booms around campus hanging new signs around campus.
 - Pedestrian bridge features a new large banner.
 - Permanent signs have been added to campus buildings.
 - Temporary signs are now covering the low concrete signs.
 - New signs are only on non-neighborhood buildings within the campus perimeter.
- The State reinstated the full amount of funding that was requested for capital projects.
 - Funds will be available in June, with a RFP for architect following
- There were a number of students who turned out at the Takoma Park Town Meeting
 - Discussion of the need for new labs and STEM equipment
 - Next meeting will be May 9 at Takoma Park Town Hall, 7 PM
- County Council will be meeting about the budget requests, currently short of what is requested by the College
 - Need the funds to keep tuition low/stable
 - Need funds for new support services, like embedded support for struggling students

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- Also supports staffing salaries
 - Need equitable treatment with MCPS salary increases which are approved.
 - Question was asked if staff could not attend, would an email be effective?
 - Yes, particularly if you live in Montgomery County as well, email your representative and Tom Hucker who represents the district campus rests in, as well as Roger Berliner who is the president of the Council.
 - Use private, non-College email, if possible.
 - Ask them to fund the requested operating budget and thank them for their past support.

Representative Bess Vincent reported on the Campus Food Pantry:

- The Women's and Gender Studies program kick started the food pantry, with seed money from the Foundation in order to provide a temporary bridge for College members who are facing a food need.
- The pantry is housed in the Academic Success Center in CM, and is open to anyone, no questions asked.
- It is fully stocked with shelf stable food and snack items, as well as small toiletries (availability based on donations).
- The problem has been getting the word out to those who might have this need. There are supplies ready and available, but not enough use yet.
- Jim asked about the data of how much it is being used? Bess said RV is keeping numbers for their pantry, but TP/SS is not collecting that level of data.
- Discussion about how to promote the pantry wider, so it can be utilized effectively to meet the needs
 - Flat screen monitor flyers? Half sheet paper flyers? Student Newspaper ad? Put flyers in professor's mailboxes? Leave it in classroom lecterns with a note requesting announcement?
 - Need to make sure counselors who work with students are aware of the pantry and recommending it for this need.

Guest Mark Pace from the Transportation and Parking Department came to the Council and discussed:

- The noted problems students experienced in the semester with full shuttles
- Mark shared statistics about the ridership of the shuttles from both prior semesters and current semesters.
- The shuttle service is in its third year, and the College has increased the service each semester, tweaking the hours in response to stated needs.
 - Spring ridership is on par with fall, even with lower enrollment.
 - Average of 300 students/day from TP/SS, compared to approx. 100 at GT.
 - The cost per ride is averaging around \$6. If any variable increases (number of riders, increase of service hours, increase of frequency) it increases the cost.
 - Only 1 % of the routes are at full capacity, with the peak of 10 AM at 4th and 5th weeks in the semester. Since then, only full four times.
 - If there is an unknown variable that is changed (e.g. location or time of athletic practice or a special event), this can push ridership variables.
 - It is supported out of the \$2 million student fees.
- There is no way to change the service routes and frequency on demand. Substantive changes to the service require canceling the contract and rebidding.
 - Trick is to balance the cost and growth
 - When incidents are isolated, there is no way to respond until after the fact.
- Transportation will be meeting with students to address needs.
- Also looking into making Zipcars available on the RV and TPSS campuses.
 - Students with .edu email can sign up at 18, unlike other rental companies which require 25 years old or pay additional fees.

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- He discussed that the original assumption about how the shuttles would be utilized, as a second mode of transportation for students (i.e. students would commute to home campus and use the shuttle for the occasions when a class was on another campus). However, TP/SS students seem to be using the shuttle as their primary mode of transportation to get to RV campus.
 - The shuttles do not allow riders to stand, so if the shuttle is at capacity, then students would have to wait until the next one. Only exception is the last shuttle leaving, which allows excess students to ride.
 - Shuttle capacity is 24, unless a wheelchair passenger rides, which reduces the number of passengers by one.
 - Mark receives ridership numbers weekly and is current on their analysis.
 - Jeff suggested a box or other marking that a student could tick at registration to express that they would be utilizing the shuttles.
 - Mark explained the limitations of using larger shuttles, which might not be able to navigate the neighborhood roads around the campus, thus reducing the shuttle stop to the West Campus only.
 - Transportation website has the shuttle schedule and a survey.

Guest Priscilla Walker came and spoke to the Council about the African Cultural Night hosted by the African Students Association:

- Annual fundraiser for International Students Scholarship
- Open to all students
- Joined by the RV Student Association and partner with a DC school
- Outfits worn are donated by African mothers
- Need faculty and staff to come and celebrate, meets Multi-cultural diversity requirement
- Show will be April 21

Student Leaders/Campus Council Lunch

- The Campus Council and campus student leaders held a joint lunch sponsored by the Office of Student Life on March 20
- The Council updated the students about past issues and what was completed to address their concerns
- The students discussed events and ideas they were involved in, including meet and greets at area high schools, Mindful Mondays featuring yoga, and alumni presentations
- The students shared new concerns:
 - Math Class Struggles
 - MC specific Rate Your Professor
 - GWU Biochem course at RV campus
 - Shuttle does not run early enough to meet the needs of the class
 - Inequity of course requirements/procedures at different campuses
 - Library computers timing out at TPSS, but not at RV (Tilandra mentioned this was not the case, and RV has the same timing requirements)
 - Financial Literacy needed
 - Creo Engineering software is not installed on all computers (Jim explained that was being taken care of in the labs, not sure about library computers)
 - Faculty do not engage students outside of class/office (would like a meet and greet or informal get togethers)
 - Parking-suggested opening faculty parking at busiest times to students
- Jim suggested the lunches/meetings between Council and students be an event each semester

Chair's Report

- There is one more meeting left of the Campus Council. If something left to work on/announce, send an email to Laurie
- Vote for Governance until 4/7
- Recommendation for a College Calendar has moved forward to MC Leaders
- The generator in Cafritz has been rescheduled

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- The internal building signage/maps issue has been referred to Facilities, who will look into the issue for improvements
 - The idea for the end of semester activity for the staff picnic is still open, but Council cannot fundraise
 - Next meeting is May 2, with officer elections

Announcements

- Leo Elias asked if a brochure or handout with an overview of College services was available, particularly for first generation students
 - The SOS sheet is still available online
 - Students who come to in person New Student Orientations receive a packet with services outlined inside
- Jeff Chuang is still working on a list of staff responsible for the flat screen monitors on campus.
- Two handouts were passed to members: Men Can Stop Rape event and Asian Pacific American Heritage Month event

Adjournment

Laurie Williams adjourned the meeting at 12:34 PM.

Submitted by
Vickie Drake
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Council Secretary