

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Student Council

Thursday, March 5, 2026

Zoom Minutes

5:00-6:15 pm

Attendees:

- Members Present: Chair Mahnoor Z. Asif, Secretary Sophia Kalinyak, Daniela Castro, Akhyan Tamang, Fabricio Hernandez Yanes, and Supervisor Dr. Clevette Ridguard
- Proxies present: none
- Members excused: none
- Invited Guests: Valeria Da Silva, Director | Enterprise Project Management Office

Call to Order: 5:00 PM

- The regular meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chair, Mahnoor.
- Attendance was recorded

Approval of Minutes: 5:05 PM: Sophia Kalinyak

- Minutes were approved as written

Constituent Concerns: 5:06 PM: Mahnoor Z. Asif

- Akhyan from the Rockville campus expressed concerns about the shuttle bus being late and sometimes leaving early, leaving many students stranded between campuses. Germantown and Takoma Park members also expressed the same concern.
- Fabricio from the Takoma Park campus expressed concern about the limited gym hours. A few other council members from Germantown and Rockville also shared similar concerns, explaining that the current hours make it difficult for many students to access the facilities around their class schedules.
- Many accessibility buttons across all three campuses are not working entirely or are delayed, prompting many students with accessibility needs to wait longer for assistance or find alternative routes to reach their classes.
- A vending machine on the Rockville campus is not properly working. When cash is inserted, the machine takes the money, but the touch screen does not respond, which prevents students from selecting a snack.

Chair's Report 5:14 PM: Mahnoor Z. Asif

- Information was shared about the upcoming nominations and elections cycle for the Montgomery College Councils.
- The upcoming Academic Services Council meeting, which will focus on the revision of the assessment process, was announced.
- Several events were advertised including MC's Got Talent on Thursday, March 26 and the annual Multicultural Fair on Wednesday, April 1.
- Updates were shared on policy feedback channels as part of the Your Voice Matters initiative, encouraging community participation in shaping college policies.

Guest Speaker 5:19 PM: Valeria Da Silva

- Provided an overview of the Student Success Program, which focuses on streamlining internal processes across Montgomery College.
- Discussed improvements in outreach and engagement, particularly for open houses, recruitment events, and event check-ins.
- Shared updates on the December enrollment and registration launch, highlighting efforts to simplify the student experience.
- Reviewed changes to:
 - The registration process
 - The graduation application process
 - Financial payment procedures and financial aid workflows
- A demonstration of the new system was presented to attendees.
- A recommendation was made to allow students to waitlist for more than one course, offering greater flexibility during registration. Additional recommendations were made about the layout and features of the new system.

Governance Updates and Announcements 5:45 PM: Dr. Clevette Ridguard

- Encouraged participation in the upcoming elections.
- Announced a meeting with a council member scheduled for March 12 from 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM, during which students will have the opportunity to engage over Zoom.
- Email contacts were provided for students to reach out to advocate for budget increases to elected officials.
- Additional details about graduation and commencement, including rehearsal dates.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:51 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Sophia Kalinyak, Student Council Secretary