

From: [DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President](#)
Subject: Governance Accomplishments in 2016–2017
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 11:08:11 AM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Office of the President

May 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Governance Accomplishments in 2016–2017

The Montgomery College participatory governance system connects many disparate parts of the College. It informs decision-making by educating the College about important topics, creates space for dialogues with diverse perspectives, and brings expert voices into discussions. With 12 councils representing each of our three campuses and WD&CE, along with other constituent groups, and the College Council at the center, the system influences many decisions at the institution and provides recommendations on important policy directions. It is a valuable conduit through which multiple groups can share concerns and explore solutions. I want to thank all council members for their service and time, and offer my special thanks to the outgoing leaders of the College Council—Chair Ed Riggs, Vice Chair Dave Anthony, and Secretary Cathy Giovannetti. Their leadership has guided many fruitful governance efforts this year. In addition, I am pleased that our most recent electoral process has brought a new crop of representatives to the councils. I extend my congratulations to these people and commend them for their generous contributions of time and energy.

The experiences of students and employees are regularly impacted by the work of governance. Recommendations from the various councils go to the College Council, which makes recommendations to me and the senior leadership team. For example, the Staff Council proposed revisions to the College policy and procedure on the prevention of workplace violence, which is currently under review by the President's Executive Cabinet (PEC). The Employee Services Council brought a recommendation to establish an employee code of conduct, which was accepted by the PEC. The Employee Services Council, Faculty Council, and Student Council together asked that the celebration following commencement be reinstated, a recommendation that was approved. The operation of the intercampus shuttle bus was extended by 25 hours in spring 2017—including more frequent service between the Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses during midday—on a request from the Student Council. Additionally, the Student Council asked that the College issue a formal commitment to creating an environment in which students and student leaders can participate freely in governance, clubs, public forums, and meetings free from retaliation. I accepted this recommendation, which is now in the process of being implemented.

These are just a few examples, among many, of how governance impacts life at the College. The governance system brings more voices into the mix and adds expertise and perspective to planning and decision-making. Governance enriches our communal experience. I hope you

will do your part by communicating with your representative council members, attending council meetings when you can, and staying aware of issues under consideration by governance. Your continued attention to the work of the governance system strengthens the entire College community, allowing us to do our best in empowering students to change their lives. Thank you for your participation!