



## College Council

### Minutes

March 19, 2024, 3:30 p.m. via WebEx

#### Voting Members

**Present:** Dr. Deborah Coates (VP of Instruction); Dr. Gary Dukes (VP of Student Services); Desryan Jenson (Faculty Senate); Marsha Jesse (Classified Staff); Connie Mitchell (Faculty Division Chair – Gen Ed); Tracy Schneider (VP of Administration and Finance); Sally Shawcroft (APT Student Services Staff); Dr. Jennifer Thistle (Faculty Division Chair – Health Occupations); Michelle Uhrick (APT Admin & Finance Staff); Yarley Uribe (SGA Representative); Su Wright (Gen Ed Instructor)

**Voting Members Absent:** Ewan Magie (SFAC Representative); Troy McKie (APT Instructional Staff); Bill Miller (Faculty Division Chair – CTE); Robbin Schincke (Centers)

#### Non-Voting Members

**Present:** Dr. Curt Freed (President); Becky Geltz (Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning); Ariella Gonzales-Vondy (Director of Communications, Marketing, & Recruitment)

**Non-Voting Members Absent:** Susan Clough (Director of Development); Jane Fries (Assistant to the President)

- 1) **Call to Order/Welcome:** Curt Freed called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.
- 2) **Updates:**
  - a) **Faculty Senate:** Desryan Jenson reported that the Faculty Senate will meet on March 22, 2024. Agenda items include an election of a new Faculty Senate President and discussion about Faculty Handbook revisions. Curt Freed noted that a morale survey (a System-wide survey initiated by SFAC) has been distributed to MCC Faculty. Curt expressed his interest in having MLT and faculty meet after the survey results are in.
  - b) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):** Ewan Magie was unable to attend due to his attendance at the AHSIE conference.
  - c) **Student Government Association (SGA):** Yarley Uribe shared that they are trying to recruit new SGA participants. SGA officer elections will be held in the fall. SGA helped with the spring break kick-off event. The food pantry needs restocking. Curt Freed suggested providing staff with a list of most needed items for the pantry. Gary Dukes noted that a refrigerator is needed for the pantry (there is a freezer). Deb Coates and Becky Watson will be meeting to discuss how grant funds can be used to purchase items for the pantry.
  - d) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** There is currently no representative.
  - e) **Colorado Online @/Rural College Consortium:**
    - i) **Colorado Online:**
      - (1) Deb Coates reported:
        - (a) Challenges continue with CO Online. She praised Vanessa Pursley and Lynelle Phillips for the great job they are doing with scheduling courses. The issues are primarily originating from the System side of the equation.

- (b) MCC has been assigned significantly more CO Online courses (64) for Fall Semester 2024. Deb thanked Christiane Olivo for her work finding Instructors.
  - ii) **Rural College Consortium (RCC):** Deb Coates noted that she has requested courses that MCC students need, as well as the courses MCC can offer as part of the Rural College Consortium. The rural college vice presidents meet weekly and are collaborating well together to increase efficiencies and expand opportunities for students.
  - f) **ACCESS:** Christiane Olivo shared that there are two teams within the ACCESS Committee, one focusing on culture and one focusing on resources. The “Culture Team” has coordinated a “Dash Around the World” community event to celebrate the diverse cultures in the region. The event is happening on campus Saturday, March 23 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed. The “Resources Team” is working on compiling a list of resources to help support students.
  - g) **Construction:**
    - i) The Dahms-Talton building is on schedule to be completed in early November. Eighth Avenue will need to be closed for a few days in early April for utility work.
    - ii) The curb and sidewalk project along Barlow Road is nearing completion.
    - iii) HVAC rooftop units will be replaced on Cottonwood and at 300 Main between graduation and the start of summer semester.
    - iv) The safety and security project (updating fire alarm panels, security alarms, camera systems, door locks, etc.) is in the planning phase. The project will need to be scaled back a bit to meet the budget.
    - v) **Wray Building:**
      - (1) The canopy that used to cover the gas pumps will be removed, as well as one sign.
      - (2) An RFQ will be created to obtain an architect to do design work on the building.
    - vi) Planning is underway to create a STEM Lab and perform upgrades to other science labs (funded through MCC’s Title III STEM grant).
    - vii) Planning is also underway to develop a Career Services Center in the Student Services area. This is funded through the Title V MI CASA grant.
    - viii) A concrete pad has been laid and electrical work is being done behind Cedar Hall in preparation for the Farm Box.
    - ix) Curt Freed shared that controlled maintenance funding from the State is being used for the sidewalk project, the HVAC unit replacements, and the safety and security project. The college submits controlled maintenance proposal requests to the state each year. Tracy noted that MCC has requested funding to replace the roof on Elm Hall but noted that it may not be selected for funding this year.
  - h) **Budget:** Tracy Schneider noted that the Management Leadership Team will be reviewing budget requests. Projections on State funding are expected soon. Tracy noted that an increase in FTE helped the budget this year. There have also been budget savings due to vacant positions.
- 3) **College Term Expirations:**
- a) Su Wright, Gen Ed Instructor (10/31/23) – Su will continue a second two-year term.
  - b) Michelle Uhrick, APT Admin & Finance Staff (3/14/24) – Michelle will continue a second two-year term.
  - c) Robbin Schincke, Regional Center Staff (2/14/2024) – Robbin has schedule conflicts, and Holly Haman-Marcum has expressed interest in filling the position.

- 4) **Commencement:** Ariella Gonzales-Vondy shared that the May 4<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony will be held in Glenn Miller Park in downtown Fort Morgan. The United Methodist Church will be the staging area for students and stage party members. There will be two food trucks and a DJ. The ceremony will be streamed live. Ariella noted that the graduation/regalia application this year included an opportunity to express interest in or nominate someone to sing the national anthem or give a speech during the ceremony. Members of the commencement ceremony will select two speakers and a vocalist to sing the anthem. March 29 is the final deadline for students to order and pay for regalia. Thus far, 379 students have applied for graduation, with 243 students planning to walk in the commencement ceremony.
- 5) **College Council Member comments:**
  - a) Gary Dukes noted that the Community College Survey on Student Engagement (CCSSE) is underway at the Fort Morgan Campus. He asked that faculty/staff encourage students to complete the survey.
  - b) Sally Shawcroft shared that FAFSA information from the Department of Education has been delayed due to changes at the federal level. Student financial aid information will not be available to load until late April. They are communicating to students about the delay and awards may not be available until mid-May to June. The MCC scholarship application deadline has been extended in response to this delay. She noted that due to the FAFSA changes, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is changing to a Student Aid Index (SAI) number, which may impact some students' aid over the summer semester. There will not be drops for non-payment this summer, which will allow more time to work with students on their financial aid. A "summer intent to enroll" form will also be reinstated to help provide more advance time to assist students. Sally shared that MCC will be offering Opportunity Next state funding to 2024 Colorado high school students. The funds will provide 75 students with \$1500 scholarships.
- 6) **Audience Comments (non-College Council member participants):** None
- 7) **Other:**
  - a) Curt Freed reported that the CCCS Strategic Planning Listening Tour is scheduled at MCC on March 20 at 3:30 p.m. There will be separate in-person breakout sessions for community members and staff/students. Those participating virtually will be in their own breakout session. MCC also needs to work on updating its strategic plan.
- 8) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2024.

Minutes by Jane Fries, College Council Recorder/Assistant to the President (Minutes derived from WebEx recording)