



College Council

Minutes

November 19, 2024, 3:30 p.m. via Webex

Voting Members

Present: Dr. Gary Dukes (VP of Student Services); Angela Gomez (SSAC); Maria Gomez (SGA); Holly Haman-Marcum (Centers); Marsha Jesse (Classified Staff); Ewan Magie (SFAC Representative); Bill Miller (Faculty Division Chair – CTE); Connie Mitchell (Faculty Division Chair – Gen Ed); George O’Clair (Faculty Senate); Sally Shawcroft (APT Student Services Staff); Michael Swank (VP of Administration); Dr. Jennifer Thistle (Dean of Health Sciences); Su Wright (Gen Ed Instructor)

Voting Members Absent: Dr. Deborah Coates (VP of Instruction); Troy McKie (APT Instructional Staff)

Non-Voting Members

Present: Amanda Dunn (Director of Human Resources); Dr. Curt Freed (President); Jane Fries (Assistant to the 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)

1) **Call to Order/Welcome:** Curt Freed called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

2) **Standing Reports:**

a) **Faculty Senate:** George O’Clair shared that the Faculty Senate is working on several initiatives that will be presented as proposals when they are ready.

b) **State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC):** Ewan Magie shared the following highlights from the November 1, 2024, SFAC meeting.

- i) Revisions that occurred over the summer to BP 9-30 (Approval of Academic Programs) and SP 9-30a (Associate Degrees) were reviewed.
- ii) SFAC has been invited to participate in reviews of BP/SP 9-80 (Academic Standards and Practices), BP/SP 9-72 (Transfer Credits from Area Technical Colleges), and SP 9-71 (Community College Course Numbering System).
- iii) SFAC learned about how Chancellor Garcia develops college president evaluations. Components that factor into the evaluation include 360-degree surveys, along with other formal and informal feedback. Presidential evaluations are based on a coaching model. SFAC recommended that an increased number of faculty be included in the 360-degree survey.
- iv) The AI Summit received positive feedback.
- v) Updates to the CCCS Strategic Plan were reviewed. The Board will vote on the new Strategic Plan at their December meeting.
- vi) The Colorado Online simple syllabus will be deployed on a small scale this summer and more fully during Fall 2024 (it was originally scheduled for full deployment this summer).
- vii) Some CO Online staff transitions will occur over the next year.
- viii) The System is reviewing BP and SP 3-31 (Evaluation of Faculty Performance). These were originally scheduled to be reviewed in 2027, but since SP 3-31a (Evaluation of Administrators and Professional/Technical Staff Job Performance) is already under review, all will be reviewed during the same timeframe. The System is considering removing evaluation rating tiers and moving toward a coaching model that facilitates regular conversations between employees and supervisors. This has not been finalized yet. The

System is looking at possibly using NEOED to facilitate the performance plans. Curt Freed and Ewan Magie noted the importance of transparent communication about any proposed changes to the faculty Annual Work Plan (AWP) process, as well as incorporating faculty feedback.

- c) **Student Government Association (SGA):** Maria Gomez shared that she is the new President of SGA. They are currently preparing to offer a “Friendsgiving” activity for students this month. They are also planning activities for Spring Semester. Maria listed the names of other SGA members: Vice President, Raeanne Swab; Treasurer, Andrew Caravella; Media Specialist, George Hernandez; Secretary: Conchita Ochoa
 - d) **State Student Advisory Council (SSAC):** Angela Gomez serves as MCC’s new SSAC representative. She noted that SSAC meets on the second Friday of the month. She was unable to attend the last meeting due to technical issues but plans to attend the next meeting.
 - e) **Colorado Online:** Christiane Olivo shared that the Colorado Online process is getting smoother. Automated spreadsheets have been incorporated into the Sectionizer for Spring 2025. Student Success Liaisons at CCCS have been responsive to student needs. Christiane is working with Connie Mitchell to determine which Colorado Online courses MCC will teach for Summer and Fall Semesters. The deadline to make these decisions is December 5.
 - f) **Rural College Consortium:** Christiane Olivo shared that the RRC has implemented an automated system which makes it easier to review enrollments and see which classes are being offered at each rural college. During Fall 2024, MCC offered eight courses with 39 students. In the spring, MCC will offer 22 courses with 92 students currently enrolled. The rural colleges will continue to collaborate regarding programs the consortium could offer. Ewan Magie noted that the Rural College Summit was a positive experience to further collaboration. Becky Geltz requested that Christiane share the CRNs of RCC courses taught through MCC this fall.
 - g) **ACCESS:** Christiane Olivo shared there are three subcommittees, focusing on students, staff, and the larger community. The larger community team is planning a cultural festival on Saturday, April 26, and will extend the event from three to four hours in length. Many volunteers will be needed.
- 3) **Governor’s Budget and MCC Implications:** Curt Freed noted that the Governor’s budget was released November 1 and is not as favorable for higher education as last year. It includes a \$12.1M increase for higher education, in comparison to a \$114.3M increase allocated by the legislature to higher education last year. Curt noted that last year, the legislature gave more to higher education than was proposed in the Governor’s budget, so the same could happen this year. The current Governor’s budget includes \$2.3M for state financial aid and \$7.8M to provide a 2.5% salary increase for classified staff per their union contract with the Governor’s office. The Governor is also proposing a 2.3% tuition increase for in-state tuition and a 2.4% increase for out-of-state tuition. Tuition decisions will be made in March or April. Curt noted that MCC may need to spend cautiously and increase efficiencies based on the revenue projections for the coming legislative season. More information will be shared as it becomes available in February/March 2025.
- 4) **Other:**
- a) Gary Dukes shared that a new advising model is being piloted this fall with ninety students in AA, AS, and AAS programs. Each student was assigned an academic advisor, success coach, and

faculty mentor (when possible). The model includes regular touch points with the students to see how they are doing and build relationships with them. Gary noted that it has been a challenge to implement the model with concurrent enrollment students. Staff will continue to refine the advising model.

- b) Gary Dukes shared that a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) team has started meeting regularly again. The group is analyzing data to identify demographics where numbers are lower and will strategize how to increase enrollment in those areas. Curt Freed noted that enrollment intensity (the number of credits a student is taking in a semester) is declining, which increases the risk of these students not completing. He is hoping that SEM efforts and new advising initiatives will increase enrollment intensity.
- c) Curt Freed noted that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved MCC's second bachelor's degree, a BAS in Business Administration and Management this fall. The HLC recently approved the college's third bachelor's degree, a BAS in Technology Education. This approval came about six months earlier than expected, because the HLC did not require a substantive change submission or visit. Behind-the-scenes work (e.g., advising materials, financial aid readiness, program entry into Banner, creating a program webpage, etc.) is underway. When these pieces are in place, a press release will be distributed. The program will be advertised in several ways, including digital and radio ads. Ariella Gonzales-Vondy noted that ads will launch in December, if possible, but may not go out until after the first of the year. Curt Freed congratulated Taylor Schneider for her work designing the program.
- d) A BAS in Teacher Education with an Early Childhood Education emphasis is currently going through the Peer Review process with universities. Once reviewed, it will go to the Colorado State Board of Education for approval, then to the HLC for final approval. Jamie Hochanadel is the lead on developing this program.
- e) The Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades and Technology building construction is progressing. There are supply chain issues with the front doors and siding that goes around the top of the building. The inside of the building is close to being finished. A ribbon cutting event is tentatively scheduled for January 14.
- f) The System is considering purchasing a product that would reduce the number of fraudulent applications. The product would cost around \$450K, with the cost being split among System colleges.

5) College Council Member Comments:

- a) Gary Dukes shared that a Race and Ethnicity Survey (an add-on to the Community College Survey on Student Engagement conducted last spring) was administered to students this fall and will wrap up soon. Survey questions center around their sense of belonging at the college and the barriers they may face. Data from the survey will be available in the spring.
- b) Ariella Gonzales-Vondy shared that communication will be going out soon regarding the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges and the National Endowment for Financial Education's partnership to offer a financial education micro credential. It is open to MCC employees and students and involves eight self-paced courses. There is no cost to participate, and course completion can count as prior learning credit. Courses will be 60-90 minutes long and will be open until June 2025. Erik Richter will be the point of contact.
- c) Sally Shawcroft noted that on November 24, the Department of Education announced that the 2025-2026 FAFSA is open for applications (previously it was not going to open until December 1).

6) Audience Comments (non-College Council member participants): None

- 7) **Welcome to Michael Swank:** Curt Freed welcomed Michael Swank, who is in week two as Vice President of Administration. He most recently worked as the Deputy Director and Chief Financial Officer for the Wyoming Community College Commission. Prior to that he worked with the Wyoming legislature. Michael thanked everyone for their warm welcome.
- 8) **Adjournment/Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m. The December meeting will be canceled. The next meeting will be January 21, 2025.

Minutes by Jane Fries, College Council Recorder/Assistant to the President