

ED # 1
September 24, 2009

M E M O R A N D U M

September 21, 2009

TO: Education Committee
FROM: *CHS*
Charles H. Sherer, Legislative Analyst
SUBJECT: Briefing from Montgomery College

At the Chair's request, Montgomery College officials will brief the Committee on the recent changes in the College's leadership and their plans for the future. Dr. Michael Lin, Chair, Board of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. Hercules Pinkney, Interim President, will give the briefing. Other members of the Board may attend. Relevant communications follow.

From: Montgomery College Board of Trustees
To: MC Communications List
Sent: Thu Sep 03 22:12:55 2009
Subject: Board of Trustees Decision

We realize that you have been patiently waiting for us to conclude our deliberations.

I can tell you that we, as a Board, have decided to make a change in the leadership of the College. The Board voted not to renew Dr. Johnson's contract. We also voted to place Dr. Johnson on administrative leave, with pay, effective immediately so that the Board can consider further action.

With the new semester underway, we are determined to maintain leadership here at the College. To that end, we are appointing former provost Dr. Hercules Pinkney as interim president and he has agreed to serve starting tomorrow. We look forward to Dr. Pinkney's stewardship.

We arrived at these decisions after much discussion and deliberation. We take our responsibility of oversight of the College seriously and feel this action is in the best interest of the Montgomery College community.

We make this decision for the greater good of Montgomery College and for the entire community at large.

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This is what I can tell you at this time. We will keep you informed as we move forward in the best interests of the College.

Dr. Michael Lin
Chair, Board of Trustees
Montgomery College

From: The President
To: MC Communications List
Sent: Fri Sep 04 17:25:37 2009
Subject: Moving Forward
Dear friends,

I am humbled and honored to have been asked by the Board of Trustees to return to Montgomery College as the interim president. I give you my word that, from this day forward, we will work together to heal our beloved institution and reaffirm our commitment to our students and our mission as the community's college.

I appreciate your patience as I assess and prioritize the needs of the College and develop a timeline and plan for the future. I promise you that as we move forward I will be open, transparent, and visible. I welcome your input and constructive ideas as we move ahead.

Thanks to your dedication, as of this morning, more than 26,000 students are taking credit classes on our three campuses. This record enrollment is an increase of nearly seven percent over last fall. With the economy still in turmoil, even more students are turning to Montgomery College to pursue educational and training opportunities through our Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs. We must all work together to meet the increased demand, respond to the changing needs of our students, and retain access to an excellent educational experience.

Healing takes time and the challenges that lie ahead for our institution are real. I know that with your help we will see the College prosper and our students succeed. Many opportunities will soon become available to community colleges through President Obama's American Graduation Initiative. This will allow us to use our ingenuity to increase the impact of Montgomery College in our community by helping more students achieve their educational goals.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you again and I thank you for all that you do for Montgomery College. I stand ready to serve you and our students, as we all embark on this part of our collective Montgomery College journey.

Sincerely,

Herc

Dr. Hercules Pinkney
Interim President, Montgomery College