

Montgomery Community College

President's Cabinet

Agenda

August 25, 2026

Members Present:

Dr. Chad Bledsoe, Jeanette McBride, Dr. Hunter Smith, Dr. Natalie Winfree, Ricardo Romero, Cody Starling, Touger Vang, Korrie Ervin, Marcus Ervin, Kelly Morgan, Susanna Kornegay, Josh Hussie, Amy Frieary, and Rene Perryman

Guests Present:

Taylor Mitchell, Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. and welcomed Taylor Mitchell, Faculty Senate Chair for 2026-2027.

Amy Frieary requested Cabinet approval for the Art Department to conduct a Mental Health Awareness Button Design Contest for MCC students from September 1-30. The only anticipated cost is a prize for the winning design. Judges will be selected at a later date. Cabinet approved the request, pending information regarding who would be judging the contest. Dr. Bledsoe later approved.

Dr. Hunter Smith shared the AIM NPRM Synopsis regarding proposed accreditation changes and encouraged Cabinet members to review the document available in the meeting folder. Dr. Smith discussed significant changes affecting the accreditation process, including increased emphasis on student outcomes, retention and graduation rates, employment outcomes, and the economic return of higher education. He also discussed proposed changes related to accreditor requirements, substantive change procedures, and risk-based reviews. Dr. Smith noted that a new set of accreditation standards is expected and described the proposed changes as one of the most significant overhauls of accreditation in many years. He also shared that SACSCOC's name has changed to The Commission on Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Bledsoe reviewed items approved at the recent Board of Trustees meeting, including window replacements for Buildings 100 and 200 and renovations to the library to create additional classroom and office space. Touger Vang noted that the renovated library space will provide additional opportunities for tutoring and discussed the changing use of library space as reliance on physical textbooks decreases.

Dr. Bledsoe also shared that the Board approved two new positions: a Computer Technology Instructor and an Administrative Assistant for NCWorks and the Small Business Center.

Funding for current and upcoming projects was discussed. Flooring replacement in Building 500 is currently underway.

Jeanette McBride shared information regarding employee compensation approved by the State. State-approved bonuses will be included in September paychecks, and the 3% salary increase will be reflected in August payroll and will be retroactive to July. Ms. McBride also noted that the Montgomery County

Commissioners approved \$50,000 for bonuses for full-time and permanent part-time College employees.

Dr. Hunter Smith provided an enrollment update and reported that enrollment is currently down 4.9%, while FTE is down approximately 8%. He explained that a portion of the decline is attributable to the transfer of the BLET program to Continuing Education and that it will take time for the associated FTE to be reflected on the Continuing Education side. Jeanette McBride noted that lower FTE may affect funding for the next fiscal year. Dr. Winfree discussed the loss of second-year students and general trends affecting community college retention.

Dr. Winfree announced upcoming Title IX training for employees to file grievances. The College will also be responsible for providing students with training regarding the process.

Amy Friery announced that Southern Correctional Institution achieved 415% goal completion in the statewide Education Challenge, placing second among the top three institutions statewide and first in the South-Central Region.

Ricardo Romero shared information regarding an upcoming Montgomery County Business Meet-Up. Sara Holden and Krista Bowers recently attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new gym in Troy.

An update was provided regarding the Business Showdown. The Lantern presented its business idea several weeks ago, and preparations are underway to open voting.

Cody Starling reported that the Canvas update is progressing ahead of schedule and thanked Debby Douglas for her work on the project.

Touger Vang discussed textbook adoption and the costs associated with Cengage. He noted the benefits of open educational resources as a more affordable option for students.

Jeanette McBride reported that the State budget has been approved and that the Business Office is currently reviewing and implementing the applicable provisions.

Josh Hussey shared that Haywood Community College has invited MCC representatives to attend the John Palmer Woodsmen meet on its campus on September 26, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

End of minutes

Action Items

- The Arts Department would like to hold a Mental Health Awareness button design contest from September 1 – 30. (Proposal is in the 8-25-2026 cabinet folder)

Discussion Items

- UNC World View Programs (Flyer in 2026.08.25 Cabinet Folder)
- AIM NPRM Synopsis for Commission Membership (memo in cabinet folder)
- New construction projects
- New Positions
- Bonuses
- Enrollment

Announcements

- SACSCOC New Name- The Commission on Colleges and Universities (Previously Southern Associate of Colleges and Schools: Commission on Colleges)

Calendar of Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME
MCC Scholarship Awards Ceremony	Tuesday, August 25, 2026	5:30 pm

General Updates

President's Office

President

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Foundation

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Grants Update

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Marketing and Public Relations

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Instruction and Student Services

Vice President of Instruction and Student Services

- Title IX Training
- Reminder of Census certification

Arts and Sciences

- The Arts Department wants to do a Mental Health Awareness button contest. Students would submit hand-drawn designs depicting “You Matter”, and the winning design will be turned into a button that they want to distribute at a MCC event. (Proposal is in the 8-25-2026 cabinet folder)
- Stephanie did two camps over the summer for a Stanly County Girl Scout troop, K-5th grade and 6th through 12th. During the camp she helped the girls explore how to build a video game. They were able to get a coding badge. They have already requested a Cybersecurity camp for summer 2027.
- Stephanie met with Scott Neil from Durham Tech to establish four articulation agreements in Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Computer Programming Development and Simulation and Game Development. More to come on this partnership.
- Monette Ayers is coordinating an EDU Meet & Greet event for the Fall semester.
- Southern Correctional Institution achieved 415% goal completion in the statewide Education Challenge, earning:
 - #2 in the Top 3 statewide
 - #1 in the South Central Region

This is an accomplishment of the dedication and collaborative efforts of our CTE, Arts & Sciences and Continuing Education teams serving our correctional education programs.

Career and Technical Services

- Amy Friery met with Lynn Epps, Keri Myrick, Casey Galloway and Angela Rice-Tucker to discuss the needs of the CTE programs for CCP and early college students. We were also able to make

some changes to Nathan Ussery, Facilities Maintenance Instructor, and Rick Heptig, Automotive Instructor's fall schedule, and accommodate CCP students' schedules.

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Continuing Education

Public Safety Department Update

-  **Paramedic Program:** The Paramedic Program has received **tentative approval from NCOEMS**, representing a significant milestone toward launching the program and expanding advanced EMS education opportunities within our service area.
-  **EMS Operations:** EMS programming continues to move forward with ongoing accreditation and program development efforts. A virtual **CoAEMSP site visit is currently planned for December** as part of the accreditation process.
-  **Law Enforcement:** Law Enforcement programming remains active, with planning underway for multiple **in-service training classes next month** to support local agency training needs.
-  **Fire Services:** Fire classes and continuing education offerings continue to progress well. Enrollment and participation remain strong, and the Fire Academy continues to build momentum.

Business & Industry Updates:

- First Budget 365 classes for this FY are scheduled to begin September 11th
- Mohawk will be attending training in September, October and November with their NCEdge Customized Training Project.
- Working on designing some open enrollment style Budget 365 Classes to offer multiple manufacturing companies that do not qualify for individual Customized Training Projects.
- Preliminary planning for the Made in Montgomery event on October 2, 2026.
- Starting conversations for apprenticeship within Allied Health.

Highlights from Success Navigator Role

- Student Registration: Assisted 103 students with registration for CE3 Continuing Education courses.
- Scholarship Impact: Awarded \$14,500 in SECU scholarships to Continuing Education students, helping reduce financial barriers.
- Pharmacy Technician Growth: Supported a record enrollment of 26 students in Pharmacy Technician, with 16 students receiving scholarships.
- Nurse Aide Demand: Identified the need for an additional Nurse Aide course due to strong demand and a growing waitlist.
- Program Transition: Supported the transition of BLET from Curriculum to Continuing Education - registration for students.
- Upcoming Event: SECU Scholarship Awards Ceremony on August 25 for scholarship recipients.

Small Business Center Director

- Met with leaders from Rockingham County on August 19, 2026, to learn from their successful CORE implementation and identify the most efficient and effective strategies for Montgomery County.
- The Small Business Center is now represented on the Troy Main Street Board. This has allowed for real-time communication regarding local small business needs, ongoing projects, and opportunities to add value to downtown revitalization efforts.
- Building the Masterminds business cohort. Representatives from each of Montgomery County's five townships have been identified, and confirmations are currently being finalized prior to launching registration in the statewide CMS. Additional recommendations from MCC leadership are welcome.
- Developing a Small Business Center Advisory Board that aligns with both college and state system goals while also reflecting the demographics, industries, and geographic diversity of Montgomery County.
- SBC at MCC collaboration with Montgomery County TDA made front page paper today with the release of the news of the first in years Montgomery County Small Business Meet Up

HRD&Prisons Director

- Coordinating the Fall testing calendar
- Registering students for upcoming testing sessions as needed
- Coordinated PREA training for faculty and staff to ensure compliance with Southern Correctional Institution (SCI)
- Worked closely with Southern Correctional Institution (SCI) to prepare for the Fall semester and support instructional planning.
- Currently developing a Basic Computer Skills course for late Fall and Spring semester offerings to expand workforce and digital literacy training opportunities.
- Planning and supporting an MCC Class Offering Awareness Night at the Brutonville Employability Skills class to increase community engagement and enrollment awareness

CCR Director

- Spent time shadowing the CCR Director at Randolph Community College to gain a better understanding of their workflow along with building a partnership with a sister college.
- Combining HSE Day & HSE Continuum fall classes into one, 4-day per week class to better utilize our instructor's time and institutional resources.
- Attended New Directors meeting held at Forsyth Community College, which provided an opportunity to connect with peers, learn about available resources, and share feedback that will help inform state support throughout the year.
- Attended PREA training.
- Currently overseeing class close-outs for all our CCR Summer classes.

Health and Human Services

- Tammy Hussey has worked hard to reorganize the Nursing lab with the help of nursing faculty and students.
- Due to the lab renovation, NA was able to acquire one of the nursing manikins for the NA lab.

Student Services

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Administrative Services

Administration/Finance

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Facilities

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Technology

- Canvas- ILP fully integrated
- Canvas- Theme is implemented
- Core Switch cutover ready
- Learning Resources
- Fall 2026 – textbooks and Cengage codes – distributed to students – few still left to pick up their textbooks. Emails have been sent out.
- Spring 2027 – Textbook Adoption – start September 15, 2026 – will send email to faculty. Reminder – cost of Cengage – faculty must get approval from department head, dean, and Dr. Winfree. Please encourage faculty to reach out for Open Educational Resources materials.
- Updates: Integrated Library System – ExLibris – mapping databases in progress
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Human Resources

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