

Mac Weekly

EXTRA

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Should President Michael Lee resign? Council will debate question today

by Charlotte Porter

Community Council (CC) may ask its president to resign today.

At 4:30, CC will meet to continue discussion on whether President Michael Lee is guilty of using CC funds for personal expenses.

The debate began Tuesday when members of the Student Finance Committee (SFC) revealed they had voted seven to one to recommend CC ask for Lee's resignation. If Lee refuses to resign, the recommendation asks that he be taken before Student Judicial Council.

The issue arose during routine audits by SFC of all organizations which receive CC funding, including Community Council itself. During the audits, said SFC acting chairman Mark Gwin, "a couple of things showed up" regarding phone calls made from Lee's Bigelow apartment and a travel expenditure paid to Delaney, Joyce and Odell, the travel agency used by Macalester.

The phone calls totaled \$102.20 from Aug. 25 to Nov. 25, about \$20 of which Lee claimed went for CC business calls. The rest, said Gwin, were personal calls made by Lee and his roommate, and all were charged to the Community Council account.

The travel expenditure was \$80.74 for a trip Lee made to the University of Chicago for a speaking engagement over fall break.

Lee was confronted by SFC members Monday night. He informed them reimbursements had been made.

At the CC meeting Tuesday afternoon, Lee claimed the travel expenditure was due to a book-keeping error. It should have been charged against his \$250 salary, he said, but instead was paid from CC's student travel budget.

Charging the phone calls to CC, Lee said, was an error of judgement. Lee said he was unable to pay the bill, which included the \$20 in business calls. According to Lee, when a phone representative informed him the company wanted payments from a single source, not checks from both Lee and CC, Lee charged the entire bill to the CC budget. He said he had intended to pay the bill as soon as he returned from his Christmas vacation. The return was delayed due to illness, he said.

Lee received his paycheck about a week before he went home. He said he realized an error had been made when the travel expenses had not been subtracted from the \$250 salary, but said he did not have time before the end of school to return the money. Instead, he stated Tuesday, he deposited "a little over \$100"

RESIGN continued on back

MACALESTER COLLEGE CHECK REQUISITION

Use Separate Requisition for Each Check

Date 12/3/74

PAYABLE TO:

Amount

\$250.00

Michael Lee

EXPLANATION OF PURPOSE:

Expenses incurred by OFFICER S'IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
MACS

ACCOUNT NO.

9572-24534200

ORGANIZATION OR DEPARTMENT

Community Council

Approved By:

[Signature]

Title:

CC Treasurer

When CC President Michael Lee went home for Christmas vacation, he took a full salary check for the amount shown in the check requisition above. Returning to campus last Friday,

Lee was called on the carpet by CC Student Finance Committee members for borrowing CC money to pay personal expenses, supposedly intending to have the borrowed money deducted from his salary check.

Council members mouth differing views on whether to ask that Lee resign

by Carolyn Keyes

Community Council members are split in their opinions regarding the demand for the resignation of their president, Michael Lee.

"It's plain and simple," said April Stoltz, sophomore Student Finance Committee member. "It makes me angry that he (Lee) didn't tell anybody, that nobody knew except James Hewitt, that the money was used, and that's why it's embezzlement."

"This mistake is not petty. I'm not out for any political crap. He said that he did take the money, that he's really sorry, but that money is embezzled money," April added.

"The whole issue is that the president feels he can use community funds for his own purpose without telling anybody," said sophomore CC member Joane Norikane. "I totally disagree with the people who say this is a petty issue. It's so big."

"My concern is that the proposal as it stands is an overreaction," said Jim McIntire, junior. McIntire said the CC is "not a CC anymore" but that it is becoming too parliamentary, that is, too impersonal and concerned with formalities.

"A small college, a small community, should be able to talk to one another," he said.

McIntire added that he was opposed to the politics involved in the CC's handling of the affair. "I don't think the CC should

entertain this kind of a motion, it's not a proper motion. The implications are that this could follow Michael for the rest of his life. His record here is as good as any other," McIntire said.

McIntire feels Lee should be censured, that "the values at Mac should allow a person to learn from such situations."

Mark Gwin, vice-chairman of the Student Finance Committee, said, "The issue is that it was a misuse of funds. We cannot judge, although we have our personal opinions. But the question is whether Michael was meaning to extort or whether he was borrowing."

Lee has admitted that he borrowed money from the Council's funds. This money has been paid back, but Gwin doesn't think that's enough.

"The decision was unanimous that we had to take a stand, that we had to pursue this case. We could not let it stand that financial retribution be the only action," said Gwin.

"My emotions are super-mixed," said Tim Reynolds, sophomore member of the Finance Committee. "I have spent a lot of time with this guy. But, on the other hand, what he's done is wrong. Something must be done. It's grit your teeth and get through it."

Alternatives to the resignation demand were discussed but it was the decision of the Financial Committee that Lee should be asked to resign. If CC agrees with that decision and Lee decides not to resign, the case will be brought to the Student Judicial Council.