Harmon Room - Library

October 19, 2023. 12:00 PM CST

Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgment (We are on Indigenous land) ~ Reagan Kimzey ~ 2 minutes

Acknowledgement of Last Week ~ Emma Kopplin ~ 3 minutes
  ● Last week, we did not meet quorum because ⅔ of our elected members were not present at the time that we called the meeting
  ● We all were elected to represent the student body, it is important to show up

Committee Updates ~ Committee Members ~ 3 minutes
  ● Eliora: FAC approved two requests, denied two, and sent back one with a condition
  ● Mikayla: SOC met with new three orgs, all of which are up for vote during this meeting
  ● Mathilda: CEC has been very successful with Legislation Week, preparing for Kagin on Friday
    ○ Reminder that it is important to show up for our own organization
  ● Tristan: AAC has put out the GSAT application, (graduate school application program), offering $100 to cover costs of this application
    ○ Working with Lorenzo to increase participation with this
    ○ Reformatting program to increase usage
    ○ Still waiting on answers about Barnes and Noble Contract
      ■ By next week, there will hopefully be more information to share

Presidential Updates ~ Mariah Loeffler-Kemp ~ 5 minutes
• Every meeting, Mariah will try to speak about meetings she has attended in the last week
  ○ Goes to a lot of separate meetings every week, attending faculty meetings, etc., wants to be transparent
• Faculty Meeting on Tuesday
  ○ Big issue right now is background checks
    ■ In 2016, Macalester made all new hires do background checks as a part of the hiring process
    ■ This year, the school announced that insurance is requiring all employees, new or returning, to complete background checks every five years
    ■ Everyone received emails saying that they will have to complete these checks or they will be put on leave and then fired
    ■ Staff and non-tenured profs have completed these because they don’t have the job security of tenured professors
      ● 30% of faculty has not completed the background check, largely for political reasons
        ○ Background checks harm a lot of people
    ■ This was a change in the faculty handbook without communicating with faculty
      ● Faculty and staff are frustrated with senior leadership
    ■ This doesn’t impact the students directly, but we want to be supporting our staff and faculty through these issues
    ■ Mariah can point us towards several faculty and staff who are passionate about this issue
    ■ Check out the Mac Weekly for more information about this
• Speaking to President Rivera and Kathryn Kay Coquemont about the C-House
  ○ Told that the plan will not be announced to the student body yet, seems to have been postponed indefinitely
  ○ Has been getting more headway recently, but still doesn’t know much
• Will update every week with what she finds out

Cabinet Updates ~ Cabinet Members ~ 5 minutes
• Cabinet just finished Cabinet Carnival for Legislation Week
  ○ Thank you Mathilda and Sylvia for organizing the carnival
• Made liaison pairs last week, will be collaborating on projects, making sure they are talking to one another
• Emma Rohrs: Health and Wellness Liaison
○ Talking with Title IX and Hamre Center about projects that can be implemented
○ Working towards voluntary trainings about mental health
○ If you have issues with the Hamre appointment system, they can’t change it unless you report this problem officially, they are working on it

● Jordan Galloway: Athletics & Recreation Liaison
  ○ Working with student leaders in athletics and NCAA
  ○ Planning Scot Ball in April
  ○ Met with Donny Brooks
    ■ Talked about issues with athletics
  ○ Let Jordan know if people are interested in better merch for Mac Pride

● Minori Kishi: Infrastructure & Sustainability Liaison
  ○ Get Macalester on certified habitat program
  ○ Working with Kate at CC to facilitate use of grant
  ○ Speaking with Megan from Sustainability about a tool library
    ■ Students check out tools to use and return
  ○ Working with Rola about infrastructure

● Yosephine Manihuruk: International Student Liaison
  ○ Identified issues that need to be addressed with freshman international roommates
  ○ Working with Philomena and Kyle Flowers, as well as Kathryn to make rule for next upcoming freshman
  ○ Setting up culture-oriented event

● Philomena Shuffleton-Sobe: Residential Life & Dining Liaison
  ○ Working with Kyle Flowers about housing
  ○ Housing issues for first-years
  ○ Conversations about increasing RA pay and compensation
    ■ Room and board rather than room plus stipend

● Rola Cao: Belonging and Accessibility Liaison
  ○ Identifying and meeting needs of trans students
  ○ Brainstorm good ways to reach out to the community
  ○ C-House
    ■ Announcement was promised at the end of September and was delayed, people are confused
    ■ Make sure that school is aware that students are expecting a replacement
  ○ Disability Service Office changed to CDR, Center for Disability Resources
Surveys about disabilities services, the priority of these surveys is much higher, and the school is working on it.
Office will have a new open house.
For disability office, the person who encountered the issue should directly reach out.
There is a lot that Rola can do, but personal privacy info makes this more difficult.
- Emma K: If I see an issue that doesn’t directly impact me, can I still report it?
- Rola: This is less about infrastructure, and more about faculty and issues in specific classes/settings.

Feedback for Sesquicentennial Merch ~ Mariah Loeffler-Kemp ~ 5 minutes
- Next year is Sesquicentennial, 150th birthday of the college
- Admin and communications/marketing are trying to do fun stuff for this
- We were asked for input on merch for the college
- Unofficial vote of interest in merch
  - Soccer scarves
    - 21
  - Embroidered patches
    - 2
  - Archival stickers (vintage)
    - 5
- We asked for t-shirts and sweatshirts, they said that would be more difficult because it would require different sizes.

Org Chartering ~ Mikayla Giehler ~ 10 minutes
- Links to each org’s charter are in the LB Agenda
- **Pagan+** (Mikayla)
  - The person starting the org couldn’t be here
  - This is a group for people who are pagan or want to discuss pagan ideas and events
  - Read for two minutes and then ask any questions
    - Jordan: Most orgs that charter have multiple people in leadership positions. Will this org recruit more leaders later?
      - Mikayla: This is difficult because only one person is starting the org, but SOC has made it clear that this will have to change next year.
Emma K: There is some contradictory wording here. The charter mentions that there will be at least two work days with a minimum of three. What does this mean?
  - Mikayla: the acolyte only has to attend two, but the organization will hold at least three
Emma K: Is there any direction for what the advisor will do?
  - Emi: The advisor will receive a handbook with this information
  - Mikayla: We are working with them to get an advisor when it is necessary
  - “If you want a good pagan community, you have to have an advisor”
Sean: Do they have ten people in the club?
  - Mikayla: yes

Vote:
  - Cooper: motion to approve the charter of Pagan+
  - Mariah: second
  - In Favor: 20
  - Opposition: 2
  - Abstaining: 0
  - Reagan: With that, Pagan+ has been chartered

Macalester the Gathering (Redding Sauter and Aidan Stekloff)
  - Started as a small play group of Magic players two years ago, but the group has quickly grown and has been working to create opportunities for play space through Mac at Night
  - Don’t have the financial resources or responsibility as an unchartered org to handle as many as 60 people for play spaces
    - Can’t reserve space for an evening
    - There are parts of the game that do cost money, and we want to be inclusive of members who can’t pay this
      - Now, when we play or take people to cons, we have needed to pay for gas and materials
      - With this charter and funding, we could be more inclusive to members
  - Questions:
    - Aditya: Are there opportunities for members who have never played before to learn?
      - Aidan: yes, we have a lot of playgroups and resources, try to be as accessible as possible
For people who don’t have decks, experienced players will bring as many as 5 decks to loan to people

- **Vote**
  - Jordan: motion to approve the charter of Macalester the Gathering
  - Willow: second
  - In favor: 22
  - Opposition: 0
  - Abstaining: 0
  - Reagan: with that, Macalester the Gathering is chartered

- **Voices in STEM** (Delilah Acosta and Liam Acosta)
  - Liam: Having attended a PWI for entire life, we want to create a space where POC can have support
    - Nurture community with study nights, mental health retreats
  - For those coming from non-PWI backgrounds, we also know that it is difficult to adjust to new, different environments
  - Since getting charter revised, the org has gotten over 15 members
  - Questions:
    - Mahkai: Would you guys try to work with faculty and departments if there are students that need a little bit more help?
      - Delilah: Will have preceptor work with the org, as well as Voices in Mental Health and Hamre Center
      - Networking with other STEM groups
  - **Vote**
    - Diarra: motion to approve the charter of Voices in STEM
    - Emma K: second
    - In favor: 22
    - Opposition: 0
    - Abstaining: 0
    - Reagan: with that, Voices in STEM has been chartered

- **Ava Buchanan Sesquicentennial Grant** ~ Mariah Loeffler-Kemp ~ 5 minutes
  - $10,000 grants handed out to orgs to put on events for the sesquicentennial
    - MCSG could get one
    - Looking for group of people interested in putting on an event, working with CEC
      - Does anyone feel excited about this? Make an ad-hoc committee with Mariah
    - Event could be serious or silly, could do another Kagin
    - Raise your hand if you are interested
- Eliora, Diarra, Reagan, Mikayla
- Send an email to Mariah
  - Reagan: Will this be Spring 2024 or the Fall?
  - Mariah: we were elected to serve this school year, things will change next year so it is better to do it this spring

**Working Groups ~ Emma Kopplin ~ 20 minutes**
- Last week, broke into three groups based on feedback from google form
- We will meet again this week, focusing on action steps
  - How will we collaborate with cabinet liaisons?
- Is there anything that doesn’t feel covered by these groups?
- There is a brainstorming document that Ryan will re-send to Google Space, write down your action steps
- Take ten minutes in these groups and report back at the end
- We want to keep people in the same groups throughout the semester, but if you weren’t here last week, join any group
- Mariah: since Mac Weekly couldn’t come into these sessions, we will report back
  - Campus Community Group
    - More groups for studying and sleeping on campus, card access to spaces like Sounds of Blackness for students that don’t live on campus
  - Residential Life and Dining
    - Spoke about issues of accessibility, Kirk laundry stairs
    - Talking more about Gluten Free options and other dietary restrictions
  - Mental Health/Hamre
    - Harm reduction is an ongoing conversation with Hamre
    - What has changed and what hasn’t
    - Appointment scheduling online, what works and what doesn’t

**Announcements ~ 2 minutes**
- Legi-Slay-Tion Week ~ Mathilda Barr
  - Everyone is expected to attend, everyone else is needed at 7 to set up
  - Tell your friends to come
  - Dress spooky
- Mariah: tomorrow, Pizza Palooza from 11:30-1:30
  - Every semester we put on a townhall for people to talk about the issues that they are facing
  - There will be Toppers!
- Mikayla: October 27 is deadline to reach out to SOC about starting a new org
  - Email by next Friday