

Harmon Room - Library

November 16, 2023. 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

[Land Acknowledgment](#) (We are on Indigenous land) ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 2 minutes

Org Chartering ~ *Mikayla Giehler* ~ 5 minutes

- Two representatives here to speak and answer any questions
- [Central Americans for Empowerment](#)
 - Co-chairs, here to showcase the charter called Central Americans for Empowerment
 - CEC has started this first with an identity club collective, but now they are jump starting an org
 - Promoting education through fun activities and events
 - Education on indigeneity and Central American communities
 - Underrepresented as a minority, want to increase this representation and awareness
 - If there are any questions, please ask
- Mariah: Are there any questions?
 - What is an event or something that you are really excited about for the year?
 - Rep: discovered an artist that is passionate about raising awareness of indigenous issues through art
 - Focus on storytelling through art
 - Story has been erased through genocide in the 1980s
 - Eliora: how many people do you have now, and how many do you expect?

- Rep: there are already twelve, but it is open to all who want to learn about Central America
 - It doesn't matter if you aren't Central American, as long as you are willing to listen
- Vote:
 - Eliora: motion to approve the charter of Central Americans for Empowerment
 - Tristan: second
 - In Favor: 19
 - Opposition: 0
 - Abstaining: 0
 - Mariah: With that, the org is chartered

Committee Updates ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- Eliora: FAC approved another few requests this week
 - Split over a request over chicken, conducting a vote over email to see if this is appropriate
- Mikayla: SOC is planning an org check-in day, have $\frac{2}{3}$ of spots filled
- Mathilda: CEC is working on end-of-semester yearbook
 - Please fill out Lorenzo's form
- Tristan: AAC is looking forward to conversation with Patricia Langer about the textbook contract
 - Looking forward to answers that hopefully will stay consistent
 - Course reserve requests for Spring semester closed yesterday
- Willow: Cabinet visited by Emma Kopplin
 - Talked about liaison roles and communications

Cabinet Updates ~ *Cabinet Members* ~ 5 minutes

- Rola: Belonging and Accessibility Liaison
 - EPC circle, pushing for new mentorship system with CSLE and other departments
 - Announcing on behalf of Emma R, Health and Wellness Liaison
 - Hamre Center having COVID and flu booster walk-in clinic today and tomorrow from 11-4:15
 - Ordered vaccines a long time ago, took a long time to arrive
 - If they are not used, they will expire
- Jordan: Athletics & Recreation Liaison
 - Started a lifting group
 - Thinking of a POC or Queer takeover of the LC

- Segway into making this every week
 - QR code to see calendar
- Philomena: Residential Life & Dining Liaison
 - Dining advisory committee
 - Met with Res Life about housing and feedback
 - Survey sent out a few weeks ago
- Yosephine: International Student Liaison
 - Agreed to work on international freshman roommate situation
 - Meeting with Priscilla and three of the four staff of ISP tomorrow
- Minori: Infrastructure & Sustainability Liaison
 - Still waiting to hear back about certification
 - In conversation with Idea Lab about tool advisory

Mac for Palestine ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 15 minutes

- A few words before we invite Gabe to speak
 - First, right now we are in a small microcosm of what is happening all over the world
 - Most people are choosing to not have these conversations or speak up about their opinions
 - Macalester and governments are not having these conversations, but we will have real talks that matter to real people
 - Approach each other with kindness, love, and care
- Expectations
 - Assume the best intent of everyone in the room
 - Make sure that we are thinking from each other's perspective
 - Don't change your relationships based on what people say or how they decide to vote
 - We will use a speakers list
 - This ensures that people aren't speaking over one another and are waiting to be called on
 - List of who is raising their hands, call on them in that order
 - People who haven't gotten to speak yet will get the floor over people who have spoken a lot
- Today, we have invited representatives from Mac for Palestine to speak
 - This is something that MCSG does whenever there is a student movement
 - Using MCSG as a platform to uplift other students' voices
- Gabe Karsh
 - Mac for Palestine collective is a group of students concerned about the genocide in Gaza

- Doesn't speak for the entire group, it is a collective of individuals
- The movement will not be successful if it includes anti-Semitism or Islamophobia
 - Hoping to do this work in a way that does not endanger Jewish students here at Macalester
- Hope that this room honors the fact that we all care about each other
- Resolution R0014
 - It would be good if MCSG spoke up against anti-Semitism at Macalester
 - There have been very real moments of anti-Semitism here
 - Disagrees with this resolution's presentations of the violence that has occurred
 - Civilians have not been caught in the crossfire here
 - There have been quotes from Israeli military leaders and presidents and IDF directly hat this is a battle between the children of light and the children of darkness
- While Israel has made an effort to recruit international students from wealthy counties across the world, but has made it increasingly difficult for Palestinian students to attend or universities to succeed
 - It is important that students have the opportunity to speak to people on both sides, but Macalester sends people to Israel and only gains one side
 - Arab students' speech is repressed at Hebrew University and University of Haifa
 - There are Arab students there, but they may not be heard
 - Macalester calls itself a place for global citizenship and it has obligations
 - Staying silent and doing nothing is failing at these obligations
 - There is a risk to all within this meeting as public members of MCSG who are listed on a public website
 - In a moment of heightened tension, please honor everyone's reasons for voting in the way that they do

Resolution R0013 ~ *Tristan Niedzielski & Mikayla Giehler* ~ 10 minutes

- Tristan: hope that everyone has had a chance to look over Resolution R0013
 - Look over, discuss, motion, and vote
 - There will be a motion, and second, and a motion to add an amendment

- As elected members, it is MCSG's responsibility to draw awareness to the matters that students at Mac believe it
 - A petition circulated around Macalester, signed by more than 400 Mac students
 - The petition asks that Macalester no longer officially supports study away programs in an apartheid state, which is actively committing genocide
 - This directly contradicts the values of internationalism, multiculturalism, and social justice that brought so many of us here
- Mikayla: This resolution also protects the student body's efforts to organize without the involvement of authorities
 - This resolution, if passed, will be sent to Macalester Senior Leadership Team because they are the same people that the petition was sent to, and we want to confirm support
- Tristan: I motion to pass Resolution R0013
 - Mikayla: second the motion
 - Tristan: I motion to amend Resolution R0013 by adding "Whereas MCSG condemns anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in all forms" immediately following, "in addition"
 - Mikayla: I second the motion to amend Resolution R0013 by adding "Whereas MCSG condemns anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in all forms" immediately following, "in addition"
- Mariah: it was been introduced and Mikayla and Tristan introduced an amendment
 - We will now vote on this amendment
 - After amendment, we will talk about whole resolution, then move to vote
- Tristan: Want to reiterate that this discussion will be on the amendment and the first vote will be about the amendment, then discussion of the entire resolution will occur
- Philomena: Why is it important for this to be included as an amendment, rather than a separate resolution?
 - Mikayla: we want to make it abundantly clear that MCSG condemns Islamophobia and anti-Semitism
 - Tristan: MCSG has passed resolutions about hate speech on campus
 - There have been moments of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia on campus, and it is important to make it clear that we condemn this

- Eliora: If you think that this is so important to add, why wasn't it included in the original resolution?
 - Mikayla: when we wrote this resolution, we thought that it was a given because we believe it so strongly, but we want to make sure it is in writing here, too
 - Tristan: especially because Macalester has already stated that they believe this
- Guest: How do we define anti-Semitism?
 - Gabe: we have redefined this in recent years, but it has been changed so that anti-Zionism is no longer anti-Semitism
 - Mariah: more specifics can be found in MCSG's resolution on this matter
- Vote on amendment
 - Emma: I move to vote on the proposed amendment
 - Ellen: Second
 - In favor: 23
 - Opposition: 0
 - Abstaining: 0
- Mariah: now that this has passed, we will open discussion on entire resolution
 - Eliora:
 - Irregardless of one's predispositions towards Israel, one must surely admit that the proposal before us has the serious and significant result of stifling academic freedom, silencing dissent upon this most contentious of issues, and saluting a vision of the future not yet settled upon as the objective of this body.
 - Legislative Body would be endorsing an anti-intellectual maneuver with all the moral authority of a book burning: students should have the right, just as faculty do, to engage in free inquiry and exploration, to form their own opinions on contentious issues, to examine and experiment, to be the builders of their own educations.
 - Students should be able to hold decision making capabilities over their lives
 - I fear the benefactors of this revolution are moving to privilege their political opinions over individual decision making. And thus, with malice towards none, I call on each and every one of you to vote against this resolution and the intellectual desolation it would engender.

- Mariah: didn't say this earlier, but please try to keep words under two minutes
- Cooper: I am speaking in support of the resolution
 - Understand the concerns about telling people where they can or can't study
 - This is about Macalester having a direct relationship with institutions directly involved in genocide
 - This resolution would not stop students from going abroad at all, it would just be in Group C
 - It is true that other countries we go to have problems, and we should end relationships with all institutions that are directly involved in genocide
 - It is a strong signal within Macalester to maintain relationships with nations that are committing genocide, and it is not a good one
 - We should single out any institution or nation that supports genocide, it is not just Israel
- Rachel: junior at Mac
 - Grew up in a Zionist youth group, told that Israel was a safe place to go
 - After senior year of high school, took a gap year during COVID
 - The typical thing to do is attend a religious program in Israel
 - Spent a year studying in Israel
 - While there, had the opportunity to go to East Jerusalem
 - Experience as a religious Jew of seeing Jewish values
 - Always told to remember that Jewish people were once enslaved
 - Seeing this forgotten was intensely impactful
 - Have faith in Mac students that they can engage with these conversations too
 - Family lives in Israel, several have died, and some are being held hostage
 - Some of the most important work about the occupation is happening through these institutions
 - Students need to be able to have these conversations in these institutions
- Reagan: nothing exists in a vacuum
 - Your money goes through these institutions, which go towards apartheid

- We do believe in academic freedom here
 - Amara: I want to start by stating that I condemn violence against Palestinians and Israelis
 - Using words like genocide and apartheid is dangerous
 - Jews need to defend themselves when they are attacked
 - Hamas wants to kill all of the Jews
 - This resolution is based on the idea that there is a genocide and apartheid—disagrees with this
 - Believes that there should be free student protests on campus
 - Anti-Semitism on campus has grown and is harmful
 - Stopping study abroad programs goes against values of institutions
 - Alec: would like to take a step back
 - This issue is much more nuanced than the resolution shows
 - Rather than promoting peace and understanding, ending study abroad programs would isolate the nation further
 - More constructive to address issues through dialogue
 - Consider more of the nuance, more complicated that resolution shows
 - Tristan: We want to recognize the complication of this issue
 - With legal occupation since 1967, there will be complexities
 - There is history put in this resolution, but it can't encompass everything
 - It is important that some history is put in
 - The fact that Israel is an apartheid state has been declared by the UN and numerous human rights organizations
 - Genocide as a term has also been used
 - Ending of study abroad has been suggested by Palestinian organizers
 - When you are advocating for a group, you should be using the same calls that the groups themselves advocate for
 - Macalester itself has an institutional stake here
 - There is still an opportunity for students to study abroad, but it will be less supported
 - Palestinian people often don't even have the right to return to Israel or attend these institutions,
- Mariah: motion to extend meeting by ten minutes
 - Meeting will be extended until 1:10
 - Two more speakers on this resolution, will either vote or table

- Guest: it is important to recognize that thousands of Palestinians have died
 - Whether we used the term genocide or not, we need to understand that Palestinians are hurting
 - Sending students to universities that support the Israeli military and supporting Israel in this way makes sure that the future leaders of countries are pro-Israel
 - Israel is important, but Palestine is too
 - Need to take a stand
- Rabbi Emma: working at Mac makes transformation of the world the work of students' lives
 - Disagrees with current campaign to end study abroad programs
 - To build a world where everyone can have human rights requires engagement
 - There is no way forward without talking to one another and understanding each other's pain
 - Studying at an Israeli university doesn't mean that one follows policy of the university
 - It is an opportunity to meet and work alongside Palestinian and Israeli people who are working and speaking with one another
 - Stopping these conversations will not make things better
 - Knowing one another leads to empathy and change
 - Work is not to advocate for further separation, but bring further connection
 - Guest: as someone organizing with Mac for Palestine, will say that they released a statement for the Mac Weekly
 - Have over 950 signatures on the petition
 - When you consider that that is the proportion of response from the Mac community in such a short time, want representatives from Mac to listen to those voices and their support
 - Consider the amount of people who want this change
- Mariah: I will ask someone to make a motion
 - Tristan: I make a motion to vote on Resolution R0013
 - Ellen: second
 - In favor: 14
 - Opposition: 8
 - Abstaining: 1
 - Mariah: With that, Resolution R0013 passes

Resolution R0014 ~ *Eliora Hansonbrook* ~ 10 minutes

- Resolution has already been sent out, but will just summarize

- With the move to mourn the deaths of all that has died since Hamas' attacks and settler violence in the West Bank, want to give the student body the chance to speak out against oppression and hate speech
- Make compassion clear
- We condemn those that will celebrate atrocity, and we want to speak out for human life
- Tristan: motion to replace "leaving civilians caught in the crossfire and resulting in over 10,000 civilian deaths" with "killing over 11,000 civilians, including 4700 children, and displacing over 1.5 million people."
 - Mikayla: I second the motion
 - Gabe: It is important on a moral level and public image level that MCSG include something that states that all human lives lost are tragic
 - Good to pass something that does not say "genocide"
 - Hope that this is a compromise between those who feel that this is not the case and those who feel that this is happening
 - Amara: if you would like to have the amendment include the death toll of the people in Gaza, I would also add that it would be beneficial to have the death toll of the people killed in Israel, as well
 - Tristan: It's already there.
- Vote
 - Jordan: motion to approve the amendment as Tristan read aloud
 - Emma: second
 - In favor: 23
 - Opposition: 0
 - Abstaining: 0
 - Mariah: with that, the motion passes
- Mariah: opening the floor for discussion on the entirety of the resolution again
 - Reagan: I agree that all lives lost are a tragedy, but the resolution stating that things began on October 7, 2023 does not encapsulate the long history of this conflict, and this is why I don't believe that this resolution shows the entirety of what is happening in this area
 - Jordan: definitely hear that point, the previous resolution's claim that things started in 1967 doesn't capture the entirety of the conflict either
 - It is important that this resolution passes today
 - We just passed a resolution today that makes some strong claims and people will have questions and will be scared

- It is important that we note that every life lost is a tragedy
- Tristan: motion to add the following clause after the first clause, “Whereas Israel has been engaging in collective punishment of the Palestinians in the form of military invasion, bombardment, and the near-total blockade of Gaza since October 7, and has been illegally occupying Palestinian territory since 1967, which was preceded by the violence and displacement and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during the Nakba in 1948.”
 - Mikayla: second
- Eliora: Just to clarify, did you say that Israel has been illegally occupying since 1967?
 - Tristan: I believe I misspoke. I would argue that it was before that, but 1967 is what is internationally recognized
- Mariah: Any more discussion on this amendment?
- Alec: I feel like that is a predominant narrative that we are proposing here
 - I think we should question a lot of these narratives, state the facts as is, and say that every life lost is a tragedy
 - We need to be more partial
 - Tristan: When we speak about facts here, we are getting this information from UN declarations, what has been recognized by the international community and recognized by national human rights organizations. It is not like we are coming up with facts here, like these dates are coming from UN information
 - I take issue with the argument that we are creating an alternative version of history and not recognizing history
- Willow: I agree that all lives lost are a tragedy, but I feel like we need to rework the resolution as a whole to reflect the general history behind this conflict
 - We are making amendments as they come, but it would be good to come together as a whole and rework that part of the statement
 - I agree that each and every loss is a tragedy, but this needs further discussion
- Mariah: motion to extend the meeting by seven minutes so that we can get to class on time
 - Emma: second
 - It passes by a majority
 - We will vote on amendment first, before we can speak on the resolution as a whole, but we can also table, discuss more, and come back the week after Thanksgiving

- Eliora: I think that what Tristan is proposing here fundamentally changes the nature of this resolution
 - We can go back thousands of years in the origins of this conflict, but there is little point in doing this
 - There is a remarkable amount of debate on this subject
 - I believe that without Tristan's amendment, we would have a near unanimous vote
 - It would be beneficial to MCSG as a whole to pass a resolution that can have some unanimity in this moment
 - We need to be united in this moment
- Reagan: I want to say that there is no impartiality in history, it is all situated
 - This is not the right way to discuss this conflict
- Jordan: as a poli-sci student, I agree with Tristan that there is a time and place to look at the facts of this conflict
 - This is important in figuring out how to solve this conflict and to find our own stances on this conflict
 - This resolution is about bemoaning the loss of those in the Middle East
 - This is a recognition of tragedy and death
 - October 7 is not the beginning, but this may not matter here
 - This history is included in the previous resolution
 - This is where the facts and history matter
 - This resolution is a statement of mourning, and may not need to include the entire history
- Guest: Palestinians have the right to mourn their martyrs since the beginning of the occupation
 - Mourning is not a mutually exclusive position to take
 - There is room for mourning martyrs from before October 7 and the victims of the crimes of Israel from before October 7
 - It is important recognize this in this resolution
- Mariah: two more minutes
- Ikran: also from Mac for Palestine, one of the co-writers of this petition
 - Disagree with the points that have been made that this is only for mourning
 - Neutrality is not apolitical
- Luke: can we motion to dismiss the amendment?
 - We will either vote it up or down?
- Vote on amendment of "Whereas Israel has been engaging in collective punishment of the Palestinians in the form of military invasion, bombardment, and the near-total blockade of Gaza since October 7, and has

been illegally occupying Palestinian territory since 1967, which was preceded by the violence and displacement and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during the Nakba in 1948.”:

- Luke: motion to vote on this amendment
- Jordan: Second
- In favor: 13
- Opposition: 6
- Abstaining: 3
- Mariah: With that, it passes
- Mariah: We have one minute, we can take it to further discuss the resolution or vote on it
- Elicora: motion to table the resolution until two weeks from today on the 28th of November 2023 at 12:00.
 - Luke: second
 - All in favor: 10
 - Opposition: 8
 - Abstaining: 1
 - Mariah: with that it is tabled, we will discuss this in two weeks.
 - Thank you for participating in this conversation

Announcements ~ 2 minutes

- [Student Leadership Challenge](#) ~ Emi Menk