

## Harmon Room - Library

February 15, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

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[Land Acknowledgment](#) (We are on Indigenous land) ~ *Reagan Kimzey* ~ 2 minutes

**Introducing New Members** ~ *Emma Kopplin* ~ 6 minutes

- Emma K: Hello and welcome! I will have our new members introduce themselves and tell us if you owned a boat, what you would name it
  - Norah Juzenas: she/her, first-year class rep, Boaty
  - Tristan Niedzielski: they/them, junior class rep
  - Eleanor Harden: she/her, senior class rep, Speedy Lady
  - Liv Peterson: she/her, first-year class rep, Titanic II
- Emma: We're so excited to have you!

**Visit from Dean of Students Dr. Javier Gutierrez** ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 25 minutes

- [Questions for Dean of Students](#)
- Reagan: Continuing our meetings with the senior leadership team, we have the new Dean of Students Dr. Javier Gutierrez with us today
  - Please define the role of Dean of Students and describe your vision for the role
  - Dr. Javier Gutierrez: This role can mean many different things in different ways
    - As an administrator I review policies and procedures to make sure that students, faculty and staff get consistent and equitable answers

- If I see policies that would not provide equity, I will point this out to leadership
  - Act as a voice of leadership to students and a voice of students to leadership
  - Be the eyes and ears of what is going on
  - If there are policy decisions going on, I try to figure out how to get the students involved
  - In my role, I work with Residential Life, the Hamre Center, and the Associate Dean of Dean of Students, which oversees ISP and Disability Services
- Mikayla: What are you most excited for in this role? And do you have any short or long term goals within this position?
  - Javier: I was at Hamline before here, I was an English major and communications minor in college
    - I love the diversity of athletics, theater, art, science at Macalester
    - Before here, I was at a health sciences campus, which was great, but I struggled to find my people
    - My previous campus was very spread out and in a mall, and I like that we have a campus center and dining hall just across campus
    - I am a big people watcher, and I like to watch people interact
    - I am excited to get to know what this community is about
    - Short term Goal: Kathryn and Angela have been in this role, and now I am
      - I want to find my niche and become my own person here
      - I am excited to find my own style and fit in here
    - Long term Goal: Seeing where inequities are
      - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice are important
      - Seeing where I can make a difference
      - We are a great campus, but we are not perfect
        - See where to fill these gaps
- Mena: Keeping in mind that you've only been here for 6 weeks, what are your first impressions of our college and our student body? What areas do you plan to focus on to improve our college?
  - Javier: It is week 8 now for me, and I have seen how much students care about making a difference
    - I am seeing where I can help and get involved
    - See where student voices can be and should be

- We are not a perfect campus, but I see fewer cliques here
      - People are involved with a lot of things and integrate with one another
      - Hamline used to have a lot of international students, but this stopped with COVID
      - The diversity of students here is great, and there is a potential for dialogue and difference in opinion
        - To have these kinds of conversations is important
    - There are some issues I have been told to focus on, with plans to change dining and buildings on campus
      - There are other policies I have been asked to keep in line
      - I don't know the history of alcohol policies
        - What are they? Have they changed?
      - I am about as much transparency as possible
      - I will try to do what I can and I will be truthful in getting you an answer, even if it is not what you want
      - There was an assault the other day, and that is on top of my mind and my heart
        - I want to do all that I can
- Eliora: Given the recent push for student worker unionization on campus, how do you plan on interacting with the Macalester Undergraduate Workers' Union? How can your role support student organizing in this way?
  - Javier: I don't know the history behind this, but I have been trying to learn the background
    - I am a part of the administration—what did they say when we came to them last time?
    - Find out how these students can work in line of policies to get their voices heard
    - Hear what is happening, what has been said, and work to ensure how your voice can be heard
    - I am also a supervisor, and I need to respect the process
      - I need to direct students to the departments that are meant to work with them such as HR
      - We can still talk about it
      - The role of student care and concern is still mine, and I can still hear you out
        - For example, I can't influence curriculum, but I can talk to faculty and ask if they know that students are struggling

- I can bring up concerns, and this is how I work with any group
    - How can I hear and listen?
  - Elicia: Do you have plans to advocate for the union to the rest of the administration?
    - Javier: I haven't met with them yet, but Kathryn has
      - If she brings me into the conversation, I am happy to join
- Tor: he/him, junior class rep
  - How can your role support student voices within our shared governance system?
  - Javier: With shared governance, there are multiple components
    - How can we make sure that student voices are being heard within faculty, staff, and administration?
    - If you make a decision to increase the student fee, for example, you should be taking these decisions to the whole student body
    - We are accountable to the whole student body, not just to this group
    - What are the long and short term impacts of decisions, and whose voices are being heard?
    - Faculty have one voice, controlling curriculum and classroom
      - They are not the only voice
    - Make sure that all voices are equally heard and considered
      - Consider impacts of these things
      - Consider sustainability for those who will come after
      - Future and broad impacts, think of our neighbors
- Norah: Do you have any questions for us?
  - Javier: Definitely
    - How do you ensure as the student government that you truly get the whole body's voice and opinion in here?
      - You all have your own circles and that is important, but that is not all there is
      - How do you ensure that the students who are not involved in many things or in your social world are being heard?
      - What is your process in collecting student voices?
      - Elicia: One thing that MCSG has done well at is creating open spaces for people to meet with us
        - Pizza Palooza, Class Nights
        - We bring people to us to give feedback

- People are good at talking to more than just immediate friends
    - This allows us to have a relatively good pulse on the student community
- Emma K: One of my strategies has been making sure that we are asking people like you and Kathryn if there are any things that students are bringing to you that should concern us
  - Collaborate so that even if students aren't bringing their concerns directly to us, we can connect with the people that students are bringing it to
- Joel: Reaching out to student orgs and other campus committees representatives has been important
  - AAC has been working on changing our grad school entrance exam subsidy program
    - We are checking in with various groups on campus that may be interested, and that is a big part of things
- Mariah: When student movements are happening on campus such as the Student Union or Mac for Palestine, we invite them to meetings, and we try to have them lead the way
  - Work directly with the students on the ground who are doing the work
- Javier: How do you all as a student body function?
  - Do you function from the belief that administration is working for the best interest of students, or the assumption that we don't care about students but about the business and the funds?
    - Tristan: There is a key difference between administration and staff
      - The staff are phenomenal and care about students, but the goals of admin and the board often diametrically oppose what students want
      - It really does depend on the issue and the topic, but this year highlights the topics in which the administration is failing to advocate for the interest of students and failing to include students in important conversations
    - Eleanor: I'm a new member so I haven't had an experience in this room, but coming from the perspective

of just another student, it varies based on the issue and who is handling it

- Students have very different ideas of some people in administration, with some people really supporting us and some not
- Willow: Administration is making decisions behind closed doors by themselves
  - You mentioned you want to take into consideration people from different backgrounds
  - When it comes to committees that do not even include students, it does feel like administration makes decisions from an ivory tower instead of working with students
- Sean: It is rather confusing because I see the visible discontent from students about the decisions that are being made, but then when you meet with people like Kathryn you can see that they care
- Javier: What peer expectations are in place for you all to pull each other up and support each other?
  - In the context of bullying and the attacking of each other, can people be truly unique and themselves here?
  - How do we hold each other accountable and create a community here?
  - A big philosophy of mine is that what affects one affects all
    - If I see someone hurt and I do nothing, my humanity is hurt by doing nothing
    - From your perspective, how do you hold each other up here, and how can we do better?
  - Mikayla: I think that we all went to Macalester knowing that this is a place for weird people and it is okay to be weird
    - I don't feel that we have as many of these issues
  - Reagan: I think that we are all fairly willing to converse and have conversations about things that are hard
  - Elizabeth: The majority of debates and inflammatory language, it is almost always on social media, not in person
    - When people share humanity in person, there is more connection than in a virtual space
  - Eliora: I really like all of the positivity, but I do have some negativity to add onn

- We struggle as a campus to acknowledge viewpoints that are different than ours
- We really struggle with political opinions that are not our own
- This is a serious problem for the college
- Joel: The student body is recovering from a pandemic-related inclination towards defensive judgementality
  - We are still learning to reconnect with each other
  - There is a lot of critical work to be done from CSLE and Residential Life to make sure that students are equipped to engage in the world
- Javier: Thank you, it is good to see where someone in my position can help make these things better

**Representative from [MUWU](#) ~ Mariah Loeffler-Kemp ~ 10 minutes**

- Reagan: Mariah is going to introduce our representatives from the new Student Union
- Mariah: Recently, there has been a push to unionize student workers
  - Introduce yourself and your goals
- Hannah S: Representative for the Macalester Undergraduate Workers' Union
  - Organizing for about 15 months now, and are very excited to finally be public
  - Starting our election process to ratify the formation of the union
  - Once we have over 50% of student workers signing that they wish to have a union, then we will send it in to the NLRB
    - Then administration can either voluntarily recognize those which is stating that those signatures are enough for the formation of the union or we can do the election again and send it in to the NLRB for a second time
    - Then start contract negotiations
    - Form a contract to represent all student workers with the input from the union and the workers we'd be governing
  - Right now we want admin to sign off on labor peace agreement or a neutrality agreement
    - This means that they will not obstruct the election proceedings
    - Also want voluntary recognition when we do send in the votes to NLRB so that we would not have to do a second election
      - More efficient
    - Ask that they agree to good faith bargaining and a speedy meeting for contract negotiation

- We would like for MCSG to help us along by relaying those three requests onto administration in formal meetings or resolutions
- Questions
  - Owen: I'm also a worker at Cafe Mac that signed the union card, and I am wondering why it is an undergraduate union instead of a group of smaller unions such as a Cafe Mac union, for example
    - Is this for bargaining power?
    - Hannah: We started as a Cafe Mac union, but a lot of the demands that we were looking at when it comes to Cafe Mac are mirrored across the entire student workforce
    - Cafe Mac is a large group, but not all workers work for large groups
      - We have distinct bargaining demands for each workplace, but we want to use collective bargaining power of all students to help this
  - Drew: What are you hoping to gain from contract negotiations in the future?
    - Hannah: A union as a whole is just a legally protected group of workers who can advocate for their rights in a contract
      - This could look like wage increases across all departments or in specific areas
      - Cafe Mac has a high turnover rate, and people don't want to apply
        - This puts a lot of strain on the workers who are there
        - There are a lot of issues with lack of training and food safety guidelines
      - Right now, we don't have specific demands because we are not yet a union and we don't represent all workers
      - When we do have a union, we will wait to have workers with specific goals, but we want wage increase, protected communication, and the protection of the rights that we have now
  - Eliora: I am excited that this is happening
    - How close are you guys to meeting your 50% goal?
    - Hannah: We are not currently sharing how many signatures that we have, but we have been getting a lot of student support
  - Elizabeth: Do you have any comments on union dues?
    - Hannah: Dues are something that are discussed in a contract



- Due go to whatever larger parent union that we choose to affiliate with
- We are currently unaffiliated, but are hoping to become affiliated in the future
- Dues are never going to be more than the wage increase that you are getting from the formation of the union
- Jordan: People are concerned about tuition increasing as a result of wage increase and that the additional funds for the union would just come from the students themselves
  - Hannah: This would be something that would be discussed in our contracts, and our contracts can have in it a stipulation that that money is not coming from a tuition increase, and that a contract will be not signed off on if it is coming from the tuition increase
  - We would be clear about not signing a tuition increase into our contract
- Drew: How would a wage increase function with people's work studies being federal aid?
  - Hannah: The college has the capability of functioning as a stipend and increasing work study based on money coming directly out of the college, not from the federal government
    - We have heard from students that they were promised a certain amount of money from work-study but have not been able to get enough hours
    - This is something that we directly wish to change
- Hannah: We are having a town hall tomorrow evening at 5pm in Carnegie
  - Tabling in front of the CC from 12-1 almost everyday
  - Please come sign a card and stay updated

### **Org Chartering** ~ *Mikayla Giehler* ~ 5 minutes

- [MacHoYo](#)
- [Harm Reduction at Mac](#)
- Reagan: Hopefully, you looked over the charters already
- Rep for MacHoYo: This is a new org based on certain games that are often stigmatized
  - We are looking to form an interest group and socializing circle discussing strategies and sharing experiences in gaming
  - These games tend to have some kinds of social stigma associated with them, making them hard to bring up in a social context

- This is why I wanted to start this organization for people to talk about them together
- Eliora: I am curious about your group on Discord
  - How will you transfer control of this year by year?
  - Rep: I believe that Discord has the ability to transfer ownership, and it will be the role of the current president to ensure that this occurs year by year
- Emma: How would this be distinct from Macalester Gaming Society?
  - Rep: They are based on board games, just playing and not talking
  - Emi: Yes, they just play board games
- Sean: I know that there are other games with social stigma that may not be in your org
  - Is it possible for you guys to expand or make space for these people and groups?
  - Rep: In terms of our size right now, it may be difficult to expand, but it would be a great idea to form a more general organization for people interested in stigmatized games
- Vote:
  - Joel: I motion to approve the charter of MacHoYo
  - Drew: Second
  - In favor: 23
  - Abstaining: 0
  - Opposed: 1
  - Reagan: With that, the charter of MacHoYo has been approved
- Tristan: Harm Reduction at Mac is mostly going to be looking at education as well as kit access for local harm reduction organizations
  - These kits have supplies to help people use substances more safely, as well as information for people
  - This would be an org in partnership with Hamre that would do a little more work outside of Hamre, but still in conversation with them
- Vote
  - Luke: Motion to approve the charter of Harm Reduction at Mac
  - Jordan: second
  - In Favor: 22
  - Abstaining: 2
  - Opposed: 0
  - Reagan: With that, the charter of Harm Reduction at Mac has been approved

### **FAC Approval** ~ *Eliora Hansonbrook* ~ 3 minutes

- \$6,967.68 from the Travel Fund and \$680.00 from the Operating Fund
  - [ydsa-wintercon-conference-request-2024-08-2-221459.pdf](#)
- We are just going to vote on these together
- YDSA rep: Winter Con
  - Event for many YDSA groups in Atlanta
  - Budget request is for plane tickets, meals, transportation to and from the conference
- Vote:
  - Emma R: Motion to approve \$6,967.68 from the Travel Fund and \$680.00 from the Operating Fund to YDSA
  - Elizabeth: Second
  - In favor: 18
  - Abstaining: 3
  - Opposed: 3
  - Reagan: With that, YDSA's request for \$6,967.68 from the Travel Fund and \$680.00 from the Operating Fund has been approved

### **Cabinet and Committee Updates** ~ *Committee Members* ~ 3 minutes

- Eliora: FAC spent a lot of money
  - Only about \$4000 left in travel fund, which is really exciting because it is supposed to run out
- Emma R: Emma K, Tristan, and I met with Hamre
  - Pushing forward the vending machine plan
- Luke: Last week AAC met with Board of Trustees Liaison Bobbie Pennington to discuss details of academic affairs issues such as competitive course registration, the textbook contract, and course feedback.
- VP Emma Kopplin also joined the meeting to check in and see what AAC is up to.
  - Joel met with Denise Tyburski in the Collection Development and Discovery department of the library to plan for course reserve acquisitions
  - Tomorrow AAC meets with Tamo Lucero about a meetaway alumni fair pilot, changes to MacConnect, and Graduate school test prep resources.

### **Announcements** ~ 3 minutes

- [Day at the capital](#) ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp*

- Minnesota Private Colleges will advocate for more funding for all of us
- Student Leadership Workshops ~ *Emi Menk*
  - Sexism Isn't Sexy - Implicit Gender Bias in Leadership - Feb. 15, 5-6 PM CC 215
  - "We *aren't* all in this together?" Navigating Conflict as Student Leaders - Feb. 20, 5-6 PM, CC 215
  - "We Want You!" Marketing and Promoting for Student Leaders - Feb. 27, 5-6 PM, CC 215
- Feb. 15 event with MCSG, BoT, Kathryn ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp*
  - 4:30pm, Weyerhaeuser
  - Come to Weyerhaeuser today, there will be Boca Chica
- Email Mariah to work on Union support
- *Unicorn picture*
- Seeking EPAG Representative ~ *Joel Sadofsky*
  - Seeking new rep! I will nominate someone to be approved by exec