

Harmon Room - Library

February 1, 2024 | 12:00 PM CST



MACALESTER COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Legislative Body Meeting Minutes

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

FAC Approval Voting ~ *Eliora Hansonbrook* ~ 10 minutes

- Three FAC items to vote on
 - Two requests from Mac Swing ([Request One](#), [Request Two](#))
 - \$5000 from Operating for Mac Swing
 - Org Representative: Mac Swing is a big organization that many people are a part of
 - Go every year to Chicago Classic or Swing City
 - Try to bring as many people as possible, as this is a great way to meet new people in the community
 - These events are the best way to do this
 - This request should be for the event passes specifically
 - It costs money to attend these events, and we want to make them as accessible as possible
 - Dance isn't always accessible, and we want to change that for swing
 - Questions?
 - Emma Kopplin: has FAC approved this request?
 - Eliora: yes, we wholeheartedly endorse this request
- Vote:

- Joel: Motion to approve the Macalester Swing Dance organization's request to attend Chicago Classic for \$5000 dollars
- Emma K: Second
- In Favor: 18
- Abstaining: 1
- Opposed: 0
- Reagan: With that, the request for \$5000 for West Coast Swing is approved
- \$7658.20 from Travel Fund for Mac Swing
 - Eliora: FAC initially had reservations for this, but voted to approve this on Tuesday
 - This is the other part of the same trip
 - Org Rep: We can't take the vans to Chicago because we won't get reimbursed for gas, and we want to make sure everyone can go
 - Eliora: You will notice that the tickets are somewhat expensive because these are refundable tickets, but if there is money leftover after the tickets are purchased, it will be returned to MCSG
- Vote:
 - Mariah Loeffler-Kemp: Motion to approve Mac Swing's request for \$7858.20 to purchase plane tickets for the Chicago Classic
 - Eliora: second
 - In Favor: 18
 - Abstaining: 2
 - Opposed: 0
 - Reagan: With that, Mac Swing's trip has been approved
- Eliora: Thanks Mac Swing, and have a wonderful trip to Chicago

FAC Financial Code Amendment ~ *Eliora Hansonbrook* ~ 10 minutes

- [Financial Code](#)
 - Eliora: Next is the Financial Code, which we can either push to next week or vote on today, but we will review the changes here first
 - In the last few years, there have been many changes to the Financial Code, but this year we have very few because previous years did such a great year

- Don't have a lot of changes this year, but we will quickly run through the suggestions in the doc
- Note that Financial Code is in effect for all additional allocations in 2023-2024 academic year, as well as for Budget Bonanza
- Made some mistakes in defining the Executive Board, so we fixed that
- Got rid of the name Presence, changed to Involve
- Changed OSLE to CSLE, noting that the department's name has changed
- Changed how we did food price maximum
 - In the past, we did \$10 limit per person for food for all events for non-culturally specific events
 - We are keeping \$10 in yearly allocations, but changing to a limit of \$12 for additional allocations
- Questions?
 - Emma K: Has this been run by the Mac Weekly of WMCN for what their costs will be the following year?
 - Emi: Last year, they had additional costs they submitted on the annual budget and then we just did a separate revision to update those numbers
 - Brady Thomas: Worth looking into making people book flights through Expedia because tickets are much cheaper
 - This would allow us to save money for more student orgs
 - Mariah: This is something we could allow FAC to advise to specific orgs in specific circumstances, but this might not always be the best way, so it shouldn't be mandated
 - Eliora: I hear what you are saying, Brady, but because we are not seeing an issue with the Travel Fund and because prices change so much, it is best to keep the Financial Code looking forward to future students and we don't want things to be too specific
 - Emi Menk: We have had a massive rollover in the past few years, so there are not concerns about running out of money
 - FAC's role is not to be a travel agent
 - We should assume positive intent when we get org's requests
 - There are a number of reasons that an org would select a specific flight at a specific time

- FAC should support orgs through the allocation of funds, rather than nickel and dining
- Brady: This was just to save money for other orgs
- Eliora: FAC doesn't have to try to make every line item as low as it can be because that would be a nightmare, but I do understand the impulse to save money
- Owen King: For the rollover money, I am wondering about the rationale of the distribution behind the Financial Code, like why are some funds excluded, like the GSAT program?
 - Eliora: it doesn't make sense to rollover for everything, especially things like Operating, and funds such as GSAT should ideally be exhausted by the end of the year
 - Any additional money comes back to be re-allocated
- Eliora: Do people want to take until next week to look over this and make suggestions, or shall we vote today?
- Vote:
 - Willow: Motion to approve the Financial Code
 - Eliora: Second
 - In Favor: 19
 - Abstaining: 0
 - Opposed: 0
 - Reagan: With that, the Financial Code is approved

Input for Board of Trustees ~ *Bobbie Pennington* ~ 20 minutes

- Bobbie: Board of Trustees only meets 3 times per year in October, February, and May
 - This February meeting is a little bit different than usual
 - Often, there are smaller meetings that occur in preparation for the big business meeting where voting happens
 - Every two years, the BoT does a retreat off campus
 - This month the retreat will be happening in Pasadena, CA
 - I will be traveling with them
 - Most students who generally go to these committee meetings, as well as the President of MCSG and the Mac Weekly cannot be there
 - For this reason, it is important that all student feedback is given to me in advance
 - This year, they are asking if a student report is actually necessary

- The liaisons are not giving reports, but we are here today to determine whether a student report is necessary
- Opening the floor
 - There are a few things that I have that I want to talk to the Board about, but I don't want to share them yet so that I do not influence your thoughts
 - The Board is the highest group on campus, so we don't need to bring the smaller challenges and issues to them
 - Eliora: The primary question is whether you should give a report to the board?
 - Bobbie: I will be able to give feedback to the Board, but potentially not through a report
 - Eliora: you are a representative of the student body, one of the key groups that the Board should represent
 - Not hearing from you would send the wrong message to the student body and the faculty, as well as other forms of shared governance
 - Bobbie: quick clarification that they are not refusing this report, but just determining whether or not this is necessary
 - Eliora: I apologize, I misunderstood
 - Andrew Snider: Is it within the scope of your position to communicate with them about the plans for the Cultural House and the issues with their communication?
 - Bobbie: I have written this down to talk to them about, particularly about the problems with communication
 - Alec Chen: How is the BoT going to integrate and govern AI technologies like ChatGPT?
 - Seems to be a lot of diversity from faculty about how to approach AI, so what will the Board do to approach this?
 - Bobbie: Thanks, I will approach this with them
 - Joel Sadofsky: I have not been accused of beating a dead horse, but I know it has been thought
 - I wonder about the decision of Mac to continue the relationship with Barnes and Noble as they transition to a more expensive model
 - There is also a growing trend of small liberal arts colleges about requiring all students to live on campus
 - This could be something to ask about

- Bobbie: I will say, that I am also one of two student reps on the residence committee, and the last time we met, this had not yet been decided, so I will ask
- Student: one of the things that I know a lot of people on campus are wondering right now is is Macalester invested in companies complicit or actively profiting off of the current genocide in Gaza?
 - And also, is there a way for students to see a comprehensive, transparent list of all of Macalester's investments? And if so, how?
 - If Mac is invested in funds related to the genocide in Gaza, would they consider divestment?
- Philomena Shuffleton-Sobe: Will the Board be able to be more transparent about the temporary measures that will occur during the implementation of the strategic plan, such as the temporary Culture House?
- Elizabeth Ekstrand: There has been a lot of news lately about other liberal arts college about free speech on campus, with students being barred from activities based on statements they've made
 - This has been discussed across the board, but particularly at small colleges
 - What are the Board's thoughts on the speech climate of Macalester going forward?
- Bobbie: Returning to a previous point, I know with previous work with student government, I know that investments are not generally shared with students, so would it be better to ask why?
 - Student: We want to know how we can promote things that do not support genocide?
 - Bobbie: I will try to get a statement about this
- Alec: I haven't heard much about this but, in light of the Supreme Court decision and conversations regarding Affirmative Action, I would like to know how Mac will approach these changes while remaining equitable
- Tor Olsson: Foster Employee Wellbeing group
 - Mac should commit to a living wage for Macalester's lowest-paid employees
 - I would like to know if the Board thinks that this is a possibility

- I would like to know if the Board would consider opening up meeting minutes to Faculty and Students
- Tristan Niedzielski: Making sure that no disciplinary actions are taken to faculty and staff that refuse the new background check policy
 - The Board needs to be aware that students are concerned about the tensions that have arisen between faculty and the SLT
- Student: I would like to know why from their perspective that Macalester is unwilling to end its study away programs in Israel
- Bobbie: Let me make a few comments
 - The opening meeting minutes to students topic has been refused in the past because “it is not general practice” and other colleges could view what we are doing
 - Do you have any suggestions to respond to this?
 - Tor: I will get back to you
 - Alec: a lot of data is blocked already, but could we have a freedom of information policy where students can request, but not share, information?
 - Emma K: some student information is physically available for people to view without taking pictures and then leave
 - Is this possible?
- Joel: we have a speaker talking about academic institutions as a part of the neoliberal process of perpetuating inequality in general
 - How will Mac work to continue granting opportunities to students who don’t always have them
 - Are we actually supporting the people who need it the most still?
 - Eliora: how are we going to keep our focus on having an economically diverse group of students, and how can we use the Strategic Plan to support this?
 - Many students feel like they’ve been left out of the Strategic Plan
 - Mikayla: students have been able to listen in on the planning of this, but have been left out of the implementation, and students are wondering why
 - Willow Albano: Presentations to MCSG, possibly once per month could allow MCSG to disseminate that

information and have it available through Mac Weekly and other avenues

- Bobbie: On the 13th of February, at 4:30 in Weyerhaeuser, Mariah, Kathryn, and I will host an event that will provide an overview of how we can be working with MCSG, SLT, and the BoT
 - There will be food and we will be able to talk more about these things
 - If you all have more ideas, please reach out to me and we can meet to discuss them
 - If there are next steps, that is important
- Reagan: once you return, please come back to MCSG to update us
 - Bobbie: I will
- Emma K: Is there anything on your list that no one brought up today that we should be aware of?
 - Bobbie: In these reports, I try to balance what has been great and what is not
 - I thought there would be more about the textbook model that I've written down, but that is the majority
- Reagan: We have to move on now, but thank you for coming, Bobbie!

Liaison Breakout Time ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp* ~ 10 minutes

- We did this activity last semester, but for those who don't know or remember, we had a liaison sit at each table, and you can choose which liaison you want to talk to
 - Swap in five minutes
 - Report what you think and what you have heard so that liaisons know what students are passionate or concerned about

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

- Eliora: FAC approved request, updated the Financial Code, and checked on our finances
- Joel: AAC met for our first regular meeting on Friday, January 26th at 1pm in the MCSG Office
 - We discussed our goals and ideas for the semester with some themes including expansion of the GSAT program and communications about textbook reserve and the Barnes & Noble contract

- We are in the processing of scheduling meetings with Tamo Lucero (Associate Director, Alumni & Parent Engagement for Career Exploration), Denise Tyburski (Library Specialist, Acquisitions), and Brian Lindeman (Assistant Vice President for Admissions and Financial Aid)
- We are meeting with Brian Lindeman tomorrow to discuss our various financial barrier related student support programs, mainly textbook reserve, the GSAT program, and some less-developed ideas
- If anyone has questions for me to take to Brian Lindeman, please reach out to me
- Additionally, I am happy to announce that we appointed two AAC members to the implementation committee for the Barnes & Noble Contract: Sophia Norha, and Tristan Niedzielski.
- LeSean Greer: CEC had first meeting this week
 - Lots of new ideas to raise awareness to MCSG
 - Introduce ourselves, start a TikTok
 - Please help us after this meeting to make a TikTok
- Willow: Cabinet wants to spread awareness of Community Chest
- Mikayla Giehler: SOC is working on org chartering
- Emma R: working on a new and better scheduling system for Hamre
 - Yosephine has more meetings
- Jordan: Inclusive lifting group happening tonight!
 - Met with SAC, meeting to talk about more stuff!
- Philomena: Mac is changing its cancellation policy for rooming where you would have to pay if you cancel in July, but there will hopefully be some leniency?

Announcements ~ 5 minutes

- Feb. 13 event with BoT ~ *Mariah Loeffler-Kemp*
 - Also have our elections soon, and filing ends tonight!
- [Focus groups](#) ~ *Emma Kopplin*
 - Residence Hall focus group [RSVP](#): 2/6, 11:30-1pm in Harmon Room and 4:45-6:15pm in Weyerhaeuser
 - Strategic Plan focus group [RSVP](#): 2/12, 11:45-1pm and 2/13, 3-4pm
- Attendance policy reminder ~ *Else Gerber*
- Stay late for a TikTok - *Reagan Kimzey*